



Graduate Gap Student

September 2023



Sutton Valence School: one school, many journeys



The School Introduction

Sutton Valence is an independent, HMC co-educational day and boarding school situated in the heart of Kent for pupils aged 2-18.

At the Senior School, whilst not fiercely selective on entry, its value added statistics are impressive. For those subjects Sutton Valence offers at A Level, the School aims to be in the top 10% nationally for adding value, managing to bring out the academic potential in every pupil. Equally impressive is the breadth of education on offer, which at GCSE is tailored to each pupil's strengths, recognising that academic achievement is only one measure of success.

From Year 7 (First Form), all our pupils work on laptops using Microsoft OneNote which acts as repository for class notes, prep and online textbooks. Pupils also make notes on their devices and store them in OneNote so teachers can mark online using digital ink or recording. It is expected that most lessons will use the device at some point although many will use a combination of paper work and device.

Individuality, confidence without arrogance and the strength of character to meet the complexities of modern living with equanimity are the hallmarks of a Sutton Valence pupil.

The Senior School's roll is currently 575 of which 113 are boarders. Class sizes are small and the overall pupil-staff ratio of 9:1 enables Sutton Valence pupils to benefit from the close guidance and individual attention of teachers. The academic staff are all highly-qualified subject specialists with a commitment to continuing professional development.

Contained within the 100-acre site, there are dedicated games pitches, an all-weather playing surface, a sports centre, which contains a fitness suite, an all-weather athletics track and field sports arena and an indoor six-lane swimming pool.

Sutton Valence Preparatory School occupies its own site in the neighbouring village of Chart Sutton and currently has 285 pupils between the ages of 2 and 11.

The Department

Sutton Valence School has a strong sporting tradition and enviable facilities. These include a sports hall, cardiovascular suite, strength and conditioning suite, a superb floodlit Astroturf pitch on-site and a second Astroturf pitch at the Preparatory School site which is a short distance away. There are also netball courts, tennis courts, indoor swimming pool, an eight-lane floodlit athletics track and forty acres of playing fields that house rugby and football pitches, as well as a dedicated cricket ground.

Our games programme is built around our major sports, which are Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Cricket and Tennis. There are also numerous opportunities for pupils to participate in minor sports. Teams are offered in every sport for each age group and many girls and boys have represented county and regional teams in various sports, some going on to national squads.

The Seniors (16-18), specific year groups within the Middle School (14-16) and Juniors (11-13) have games on different days of the week, allowing the heads of individual sports to work with all of them.

Fixtures are played each Saturday, as well as midweek. Hockey fixtures are played in the Michaelmas Term (girls) and Lent Term (boys). There is a very competitive fixture list. Representative honours in Hockey have seen girls and boys gain county, regional and national recognition in recent years; our U16 girls team are national finalists.

We are proud to be the only official Saracens Rugby Academy partner school in Kent and one of only four throughout the Saracens Academy Region of Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire. The partnership started in 2017, with the aim of better aligning our Rugby programme, and will introduce students to the possibility of having a professional rugby career.

Cricket, lead by Vince Wells an English former professional cricketer, is the major sport in the Summer Term for boys and girls with tennis and athletics as alternatives.

Games and Physical Education are taught by a dedicated sports department within a weekly timetable. In curriculum Physical Education we offer activities such as Badminton, Handball, Basketball, Athletics, Health-Related Fitness and a Fitness Testing programme.

The Post

We are looking for an enthusiastic graduate to initially spend a year in this stimulating and exciting school. The ideal candidate will be energetic, have a passion for working with children, and be able to work effectively as a team member with the ability to show initiative when required. The ideal candidate will hold coaching qualifications and have the ability to coach sport throughout the year. A sense of humour is a distinct advantage.

We expect our graduate to take a full and active part in all aspects of School life and so the post holder will be someone who is completely flexible, have a can do attitude, prepared to be role models for our young people and adopt high standards of personal conduct in order to maintain the respect of parents, pupils and colleagues. The graduate will be considered as a member of the academic staff. There is a requirement to live on site during term time.

Outside the classroom and sports fields there is a great deal of scope for involvement in the School's varied programme of extra-curricular activities and the graduate will be expected to assist in School activities on a weekly basis, supervise the Sports Hall with some evenings on a rota basis and potentially have responsibility for some evening boarding duties. The School operates for six days during term time, including Saturday afternoons for fixtures.

The graduate will be given an opportunity to provide support within the classroom, on the sports field and work closely alongside the academic staff in the teaching and learning of a varied age group of children. The graduate will be required to take an active role in the pastoral care of our pupils which is based on a house system, with vertical tutor groups.

Our graduate will work closely with the Deputy Headmaster and the Director of Sport who take responsibility for allocating the duties throughout the year. These duties include:

- Supporting the teaching and learning in the classroom and on the sports field;
- Assisting in the preparation and maintenance of the classroom as a learning environment;
- Working under the instruction and supervision of the relevant staff in a practical session;
- Preparing equipment for the sessions;
- Supervising sports facilities as part of a rota during term time;
- Accompanying away fixtures and supporting the wellbeing of players during home matches;
- Supervising pupils in the Senior School Sports Hall;
- Assisting in the Boarding Houses.



Information

This is a fixed term post starting in September 2023 and ending in July 2024. This post paid circa £17,000pa comes with single accommodation which consists of an individual study bedroom at the School with bathroom, kitchen and washing facilities shared with other staff. During term time, School meals are available, at no charge, as provided for boarders and other residential staff. Staff may use the excellent sports facilities in the evening and during the day, if not being used. The School runs on a three-term basis. There are approximately 16 weeks when the School is not in session, two weeks at Christmas, three weeks at Easter and about eight weeks in the summer, with Half Term breaks in between. There is a requirement for all weeks during term time, plus a maximum of ten days during the School holidays. There is also in-service training at the start of each term and attendance is welcome at all relevant sessions.

Letters of application, together with a completed application form and monitoring form, should be sent as soon as possible to Deborah van Leeuwen at hadmin@svs.org.uk or posted to Sutton Valence School, North Street, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL. Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the application form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed application forms.

Letters of application should state what particular skills and attributes you can bring to Sutton Valence School, brief details of how you fit the position, including specific details of skills, experience and achievements, and details of any interests and hobbies.

Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and a declaration of medical fitness. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A copy of the School's Child Protection policy may be found on the School's website, which all applicants are expected to read prior to interview.

Closing date: Monday 13th March 2023

Please note: we reserve the right to appoint prior to the closing date.

The School's Vision, Mission and Ethos

Vision

Through membership of our community and the academic and co-curricular opportunities it provides, we believe that all young people in our School will be enabled to fulfil their true potential. We want our students to be confident civilised, tolerant and open-minded individuals who possess a love of learning and a strong set of values reflecting our principles as a Christian Foundation.

Our Mission is to provide:

- A caring, supportive and inclusive community for the education of children aged two to 18, day and boarding;
- A challenging, relevant and broad curriculum delivered in ways that allow all to achieve;
- An outstanding range of sporting, artistic, cultural and social activities, and opportunities so that children can develop skills such as self-discipline, commitment, leadership and teamwork;
- A safe, secure and stimulating environment which promotes excellence, independence and high standards whilst providing support to all who need it;
- A grounding in moral and spiritual understanding which will promote respect for others, along with self-respect.

Ethos

A community where each cares for all and individuality is cherished.

Further information about Sutton Valence School can be found on our [website](#). We also have very active accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.





Sutton Valence School

North Street
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www.svs.org.uk

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A member of The United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation.
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