



Candidate Information

Biology Teacher
Maternity Cover

September 2024



Sutton Valence one school, many journeys



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 300 pupils between the ages of 2 and 11.

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 2-18, 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.



The Science Department

The Science Department consists of 9 teaching staff: three Biology, three Physics, and three Chemistry teachers. In each department there is one Head of Subject as well as a Head of Science. Together we make up a highly committed and hard-working team, who not only strive to achieve the very best for our pupils, both academically and pastorally, but also work hard to support one another. Each member of teaching staff has their own laboratory and within each of the three Departments, there is a dedicated laboratory technician to support the excellent standard of teaching. A full range of apparatus and equipment required for teaching up to A Level is also available. As a fully digital school, all teachers are provided with their own laptop and all teaching resources and provisions are provided online. Therefore, candidates should have a good level of IT skills, and be able to use Microsoft Teams and OneNote effectively. Each lab is also equipped with an interactive whiteboard.

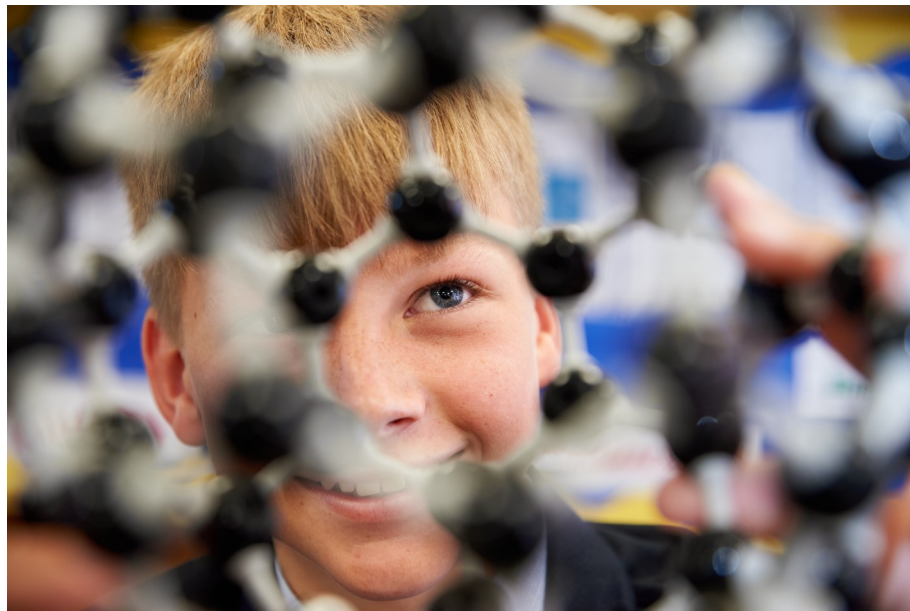
At Sutton Valence School, we believe that students learn Science most effectively through the aid of stimulating and engaging practical activities, ranging from organ dissections to practising ecology-based sampling techniques out in the field. Scientific practical skills are carefully nurtured from the First Form (Year 7), where we have implemented a primarily skills-based curriculum to develop a solid foundation for A Level science, enabling the use of more sophisticated laboratory techniques such as colorimetry, serial dilutions, and chromatography. Our curriculum is designed to inspire and equip independent thinking and problem-solving; students should not only acquire skills in collecting data, but also in effectively analysing and evaluating it, investigating facts, and using deduction. We believe that these skills not only help to shape young scientists, but also enable all students to become confident and independent learners.

Further information is available [here](#).

The Post

Sutton Valence school are looking for a dedicated, dynamic, and inspirational teacher to join their Biology Department from September 2024 as a maternity cover for at least one full term. The candidate must promote the highest standards of teaching and learning in the classroom, be innovative and invested in contributing to the development of the Department, all whilst ensuring an outstanding level of pupil pastoral care.

The candidate should be able to teach Biology to an excellent standard up to A Level, as well as deliver an engaging Junior Science curriculum, which includes biology, chemistry, and physics up to Second Form (Year 8). The School currently offers the Edexcel Biology Separate GCSE, as well as the Combined Science GCSE. At A Level, the Biology Department follows the OCR A specification. All pupils in the Third Form (Year 9) take two periods each of the three sciences, all taught by subject specialists. In the Fourth and Fifth Forms (Years 10 and 11), pupils select one, two or three science subjects. Therefore, adaptability and effective differentiation is critical to cater for a broad ability range.





Application Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the application form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed application forms.

Supporting statements 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.

Do not meet every single requirement? Studies have shown that women and people of colour are less likely to apply to jobs unless they meet every single qualification. At SVS we are dedicated to building a diverse and inclusive workplace, so if you're excited about this role but your past experience does not align perfectly with every qualification or experience in the information provided, we encourage you to apply anyway. You may be just the right candidate for this or other roles.

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

To apply, please click on the 'Quick Apply' button on our TES listing and complete an application form. Alternatively, an application form can be found on our School [vacancies](#) page, or via email at hradmin@svs.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 17th May 2024

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.

Sutton Valence School is an equal opportunities employer.

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

Benefits to Working at SVS

Salary and Pension

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Sutton Valence School pay scale.

Academic staff are offered membership to the TPS or to the APTIS DC scheme. The teacher's gross salary will be dependent on the pension scheme and contribution level chosen.

Fee Remission

All staff with a contract for at least one full term and have children who attend either the Senior or Preparatory School will be eligible to receive a discount in respect of School fees (excluding the Nursery). The current rate of discount is 65 per cent for full-time staff, and for part-time staff the relevant percentage will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

School Meals

All staff are provided with excellent lunches with no charge.



Community and Environment

We are very proud of the positive and supportive community we have and staff often comment on this being one of the best aspects of working at SVS. This, coupled with a beautiful physical environment both at School and in the immediate vicinity, make it a highly desirable place to work.

Benenden Healthcare Membership

All staff are welcome to join the Benenden Healthcare Scheme. The cost of joining Benenden is currently £11.90 per month; the School pays up to 80 per cent of contributions, based upon length of service. Further Information is available from the Bursary.

Fitness Facilities

All staff may use the Senior School's fitness facilities at designated times. These facilities include an indoor, heated, six-lane swimming pool, a fully equipped air-conditioned Strength and Conditioning Suite, and a Cardiovascular Suite, as well as a large sports hall available for a multitude of sports.

Free Parking

Both the Senior and Preparatory School sites have free, ample parking available for staff. Both sites have allocated accessible bays.

Electric Vehicle Scheme

All staff are offered the opportunity to purchase an Electric Vehicle (EV) as part of an HMRC approved Salary Sacrifice scheme; Octopus Electric Vehicle. Basically this is much like a cycle-to-work, but for electric vehicles. You give up some of your gross monthly pay for a new EV, and can save up to 40% on the monthly cost thanks to saving on National Insurance and Income Tax.

Press Reader

The School has a subscription to Press Reader which allows anyone on the SVS networks access to over 7,000 news publications from across the world in different languages.



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