



Head of Science

Information for Applicants

September 2024



Independent boarding and day school for boys aged 4 - 13 years.

HEAD OF SCIENCE

Required for September 2024

Summer Fields is one of the premier boys' prep and pre-prep schools in the country, situated in 70 acres of superb grounds in North Oxford. The school has an excellent academic reputation and is extremely well resourced.

We seek an outstanding full-time Head of Science who will also play a full role in the pastoral and sporting life of the school. The successful candidate will lead the department in developing and delivering schemes of work that inspire passion for the subject and develop knowledge and understanding. The Head of Science will oversee the curriculum in Years 4 to 8, liaising with the Head of Pre-prep regarding the Science curriculum in Reception through to Year 3. The successful applicant will lead the department in ultimately preparing pupils to sit Common Entrance examinations at the end of Year 8 or senior school scholarship examinations, as appropriate. They will lead the department in creating a happy, stimulating environment in Science lessons, and requiring high expectations of both effort and attainment. The Head of Science will also play a full and active part in the pastoral life of the school; contribute to the daily games programme in which all boys are active; and participate in the daily activities and duties which are an important characteristic of life in a flourishing boarding school.

The successful candidate will have;

- A passion for teaching Science at this age.
- A strong understanding of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- A strong understanding of pedagogy.
- The skills required to lead and manage teaching staff within the department.
- The capacity to contribute to the wider life of the school from a position of middle management.
- The capability to participate in the daily, evening and weekend activities and duties.
- The ability to contribute to boarding life through weekly evening boarding house duties.
- The aptitude to contribute to the daily games programme.

The successful candidate should be familiar with the requirements of teaching Common Entrance Science. The role is suitable for a teacher with experience of teaching seeking professional development.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please apply by submitting a fully completed application form with a cover letter addressed to Mr David Faber, Headmaster. To satisfy the requirements for safer recruitment, we need to ask you for your full employment record. Details of any gaps between jobs or between finishing education and employment must be provided. Applications should be emailed to recruitment@summerfields.com by the closing date of Friday 19th January 2024.

Summer Fields is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The school is fully committed to the principles of equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion. Summer Fields does not discriminate on the grounds of race or colour, nationality or national or ethnic origins, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, age, and disability. Applications are welcome from a diverse range of backgrounds.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER, DAVID FABER MA

Thank you for your interest in Summer Fields and, in particular, in the role of Head of Science. I am delighted that you are considering our school and I hope that you will wish to apply for this position once you have found out more about us.

Summer Fields was founded in 1864 by Archibald and Gertrude Maclaren at their home in north Oxford. Mrs Maclaren was a gifted classical scholar and Mr Maclaren was a fencing master and owner of an Oxford gymnasium, with a passionate belief in the importance of physical fitness. It is from these roots that our school motto was born: *Mens sana in corpore sano*, A healthy mind in a healthy body. The Maclarens established the importance of a breadth of education inside and outside the classroom, values which remain central to the education we offer today.

Summer Fields is a full-boarding and day school for boys aged 4 to 13. There are currently approximately 340 boys on the roll and the school is generally over-subscribed; indeed, numbers continue to rise since the opening of a new Pre-prep school in 2018. We offer excellent teaching, traditional values and exceptional pastoral care. We continue to build on a strong academic legacy with an individual focus on strengthening each boy's confidence and abilities.



Summer Fields is a special place and pastoral care is very strong. The school is a vibrant, extended family of staff and boys, living side-by-side in a busy, caring and friendly boarding community. We aim to ensure that each boy is happy, academically challenged and is taking full advantage of life at Summer Fields, with its many possibilities and opportunities. Our most recent ISI inspection, in June 2022, was glowing in all respects and is easily available online.

Summer Fields celebrated its 150th birthday in 2014 and, as well as hosting many events to celebrate this anniversary, a major redevelopment of parts of the school was completed. In particular, a spectacular new £3m building, the Salata Pavilion, providing new sport changing and other facilities, was opened in January 2016. A further recent redevelopment provides a state-of-the-art new school library, including an archive room, a periodicals room and associated teaching rooms in what is the oldest and largest teaching space in the school. The £2.5m project, completed during lockdown, included a major refurbishment of the school Chapel, as well as the DT and Learning Support areas.

The school is thriving at all levels and we have recently entered an exciting new phase in our history. In September 2018 we opened a brand new Summer Fields Pre-prep school, catering for boys from Reception to Year 3. The school is housed in a stand-alone building: Newton,

one of the oldest and most historic buildings on the school's 70-acre site. The building has undergone a complete re-development, including the addition of a striking, modernist new extension; it now provides purpose-built facilities for up to 80 boys aged 4 to 8.

I recognise that a great deal of thought and time goes into preparing such an application and I assure you that I will, in turn, give your application serious consideration.

ACADEMIC RECORD

Academic standards and outcomes are high. The principal entry point to the prep school is currently in Year 4, although a few boys join in Years 5 and 6 depending on places being available; these places continue to be available following the establishment of the Pre-prep. Some 25 boys will join the prep school from the Pre-prep each year, in addition to those joining directly (both boarders and day boys) in Year 4. Admission is by selection. The aspirations of boys and parents are high and the school prides itself on the outstanding exam results achieved by our leavers. The school's greatest academic strength is excellent teaching at all levels and we are proud of the academic achievements of boys of all abilities. Each year boys pass Common Entrance and regularly win scholarships to the top public schools in the country.

BOARDING

The boarding structure is horizontal, according to age, in six lodges (boarding houses), where the boys are usually looked after by two lodge parents. Every boy has a personal tutor, responsible for overseeing all aspects of his life at school and with whom he meets regularly, one-to one. In addition, a boy can seek help from lodge parents, form takers, the Head Sister, and, of course, the Headmaster.

The school is set within 70 acres of grounds and is extremely well resourced with many outstanding and modern facilities, which are continually enhanced. In addition to the academic curriculum, sport plays an important part in the life of the school, as does music, art, design and technology, and drama; recent results in music scholarship exams, in particular, have been outstanding. All these activities, and many others, are extremely well provided for. The Chapel is at the heart of the school, both literally and figuratively.



TEACHING AT SUMMER FIELDS

The school recognises that its teachers are its most valuable asset and seeks to recruit and retain the very best qualified and most enthusiastic academic staff, who can communicate their knowledge and passion for a subject to the boys. Our teachers' primary aim is to develop the boys' intellectual curiosity, interest and enjoyment in an atmosphere of mutual respect and discipline. The supportive boarding community is particularly conducive to developing these qualities.

All members of staff are expected to show a willingness to play a full part in the life of a busy boarding and day school and to assist with, and contribute to, games, the boarding routine and other duties and activities within the wider school community.



The vast majority of staff live on site and it is possible that accommodation may be available for the successful applicant. However, it is not essential to live on site and applications are warmly welcomed from candidates who live in or close to Oxford.

The school has its own salary scheme and the salary offered will depend on ability and experience. Members of staff who have children attending the school will be eligible to receive a significant discount on the fees. Other benefits include a generous flexible pension scheme with salary exchange options, life assurance and income protection. There are also extensive continuing professional development opportunities, access to an Employee Assistance Programme, annual flu vaccination, a contributory private healthcare scheme; onsite parking, and discount on holiday activity clubs run on site.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department at Summer Fields has three teaching laboratories, which we use to teach Science from Year 6 to Year 8. Currently Years 4 and 5 have most of their science lessons in their classrooms, although there are often visits to the labs when required.

Science is treated as a single subject with aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught to all the boys every term. Experimentation and sceptical thinking about the world around us are both highly prized. The boys are also encouraged to pursue their interests online using blogs and specific science software packages. Several sets of iPads are available to promote independent learning and to allow for extended study outside lesson time. The department is an active and fun place where we do our best to amuse, entertain and inspire our pupils.

All pupils take final Science examinations in Year 8 - the majority in all three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics – at either Common Entrance or scholarship level.

TEACHING JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Head of Science

Reporting to: Deputy Directors of Studies, Deputy Headmaster, Headmaster

Purpose of the Job

To lead, inspire and manage the department so that all pupils have the best possible care, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and achieve the highest standards, in line with the ethos of the school. As part of a team of Heads of Departments, to contribute to whole school management.

Strategic Direction and Development

- Create and communicate a shared vision within the Department, which expresses the core values of the whole school, is responsive to local factors, and which motivates and inspires others.
- Chair regular departmental meetings, where minutes are taken, and to ensure the follow up of all action points.
- Attend Heads of Department meetings and represent the Department in this academic forum.
- Maintain a high profile for the subject in the school with colleagues, pupils and parents.

Teaching and Learning

- Promote excellence and innovation in teaching and learning in the Department, ensuring a continuous and consistent focus on pupils' achievement and development.
- Oversee, in consultation with the Deputy Directors of Studies, the schemes of work for your Department, ensuring they are regularly reviewed and updated. To ensure the curriculum is creative, appropriate to the age of the pupils, and acknowledges the need to show differentiation to allow all pupils to be challenged and stimulated.
- Ensure that assessment procedures are in place and that there is an effective method of recording assessment/progress.
- Lead by example in the department, planning and preparing short and medium term plans, and establishing creative and effective approaches to learning and teaching, with high expectations of yourself and others.
- Ensure that individual pupil progress is regularly assessed, recorded, reported to parents and utilised effectively to inform teaching and learning.
- Ensure all termly pupil reports are of a high quality, that they are specific to the pupil and are on schedule.
- Prepare from time to time relevant documentation for parental information, explaining what is being taught and how the department functions.
- Make sure that wall displays are changed regularly in department rooms.

Leadership and Management of Self and Others

- Inspire and lead staff in the Department.
- Provide guidance to staff in the Department through annual review of the Departmental Handbook; scheme of work creation; chairing regular departmental meetings; and on-to-one support.

- Celebrate and promote excellence in the Department, and to challenge under-performance and ensure appropriate action (in consultation with the Headmaster).
- Contribute to performance review and/or appraisal for all staff in the Department on an annual basis.

Management of Resources

- Submit an annual budget and run it efficiently once it has been agreed by the bursary staff, Bursar, Deputy Headmaster and Headmaster.
- Maintain an up to date list of departmental resources, both hardware and books.
- Identify future resourcing needs and aspirations for the Department for consideration in the school budget planning process.
- Assist the Headmaster and senior staff in appointing new staff to the Department.
- Ensure that all resources are fit for purpose and used in accordance with health and safety guidelines; to work with the Domestic Bursar to carry out Risk Assessments for the safe and efficient operation of the Department.

Training and Development of Self and Others

- Develop and maintain a culture of high expectation for yourself and others within the Department.
- Regularly review your own practice, set personal targets and take responsibility for your own continuous professional development.
- Ensure that training needs within the Department are identified, appropriately met (with due regard to whole school initiatives) and that all members of the Department are active in their own personal and continuous professional development.
- Ensure that new staff are made to feel welcomed and appropriately briefed to undertake their responsibilities.
- Produce a formal departmental induction procedure and checklist for new staff.
- Be responsible for conducting and recording the departmental induction of new staff.
- Attend Health and Safety training, including First Aid, Fire Safety and any department specific safety training.
- Update knowledge of health and safety guidance legislation for the Department and to apply any such changes to the schemes of work/policies and procedures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitor, evaluate and review classroom practice throughout the Department.
- Ensure that members of the department mark accurately and efficiently to allow teacher assessment to inform future planning.
- Ensure all staff in the department prepare medium and short-term teaching plans.
- Be responsible for organising mutual observation within the department.

All Teachers are also expected to:

- Undertake supervisory duties as required by the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Head of Boarding, as they may reasonably direct.
- Undertake at least one evening duty in a boarding Lodge each week.
- Participate in all relevant meetings in the school.
- Support school functions and activities whenever possible.
- When necessary, supervise boys and cover for absent colleagues as directed.
- Attend school before the start of term and after the end of term (up to three days before or after) to make necessary preparations as required by the Head of Department, Deputy Headmaster and the Headmaster.

- Attend school lunch and help promote good manners and civilised behaviour in the dining room.
- Enforce all school rules (which may be summarised as “Do as you would be done by”).
- Attend weekday Chapel or Assembly and also the Sunday Service.

General Requirements

- Summer Fields is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. All staff must adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the school’s safeguarding policies and procedures in the context of their role.
- Be responsible for the promoting and safeguarding the welfare of pupils.
- Comply with all aspects of the school’s Staff Code of Conduct.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance and conduct.
- Maintain positive, courteous relations with students, parents and colleagues.
- Regularly contribute to the school’s programme of extra-curricular activities.
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils and to support and contribute to the school’s responsibility for safeguarding their students.
- Attend major school events.
- Support and promote the ethos of the school.
- Adhere to school policies and procedures.
- Comply with all health and safety procedures as required by the school, including the completion of Risk Assessments as and when required.
- Carry out any other task or duty as reasonably required by the by the Headmaster or Deputy Headmaster.

APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS GUIDANCE NOTES

Summer Fields is committed to ensuring the best possible environment for the children and young people in its care. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is our highest priority. The school aims to recruit staff that share and understand our commitment and to ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly by reason of a protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

APPLICATION

- Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the relevant Application Form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed Application Forms but are permitted to be submitted alongside a completed Application Form.
- Candidates should be aware that all posts in the school involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post. Please see the job description for the post. If you are invited to attend a formal interview your suitability to work with children will be assessed.
- As the job for which you are applying involves substantial opportunity for access to children, it is important that you provide us with legally accurate answers.
- The successful applicant will be required to complete a Disclosure Form from the Disclosure and Barring Service ("DBS") for the post and, where appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS will be made. Any offers of appointment will be made conditional on obtaining such satisfactory checks. Additionally, successful applicants should be aware that they are required to notify the school immediately if there are any reasons why they should not be working with children.
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 apply to those providing early years childcare or later years childcare, including before school and after school clubs, to children who have not attained the age of 8 and to those who are directly concerned in the management of that childcare.
- The school takes its responsibility to safeguard children very seriously and any staff member and/or successful candidate who is aware of anything that may affect his/her suitability to work with children must notify the school/their manager immediately. This will include notification of any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands or warnings he/she may receive.
- Staff and/or successful candidates who are disqualified from childcare or registration may apply to Ofsted for a waiver of disqualification. Such individuals may not be employed in the areas from which they are disqualified, or involved in the management of those settings, unless and until such waiver is confirmed. Please speak to the HR Manager for more details.
- The school has a legal duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is known as the Prevent duty. Schools are required to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. Accordingly, as part of the recruitment process, when an offer is made the offer will be subject to a Prevent duty risk assessment.
- If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences relating to children or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. Any information about past

disciplinary action or substantiated allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual.

- If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about those issues. Where neither your current nor previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with children. Where you have no previous employment history, we may request character references which may include references from your school or university.
- You should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if you have been appointed, and a possible referral to the police and/or DBS.

CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon the following criteria:

- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received), including for internal appointments. All references should be provided by a senior person with appropriate authority, subject to the satisfaction of the school. All referees will be asked if the candidate is suitable to work with children. The school will compare any information provided by the referee with that provided by the candidate on the application form. Any inconsistencies will be discussed with the candidate.
- Verification of identity and qualifications including evidence of the right to work in the UK.
- A satisfactory enhanced DBS check and if appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS.
- For a candidate to be employed as a teacher, a check that the candidate is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State or any sanction or restriction imposed (that remains current) by the historic General Teaching Council for England before its abolition in March 2012.
- Verification of professional qualifications, including, where applicable, any award of Qualified Teacher Status.
- Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas, such checks and confirmations as the school may consider appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. This shall include the candidate providing the school with proof of his/her past conduct as a teacher in the form of a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which he/she has worked.
- Verification of medical fitness for the role in accordance with DfE Circular 4/99 Physical and Mental Fitness to Teach.
- Where the role involves providing care for pupils under eight, receipt of a signed Self-Declaration form showing the candidate is not disqualified from providing childcare as set out in the statutory guidance "Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (July 2018)".
- For a candidate to be employed into a senior management position as set out within the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy and Procedure, receipt of a signed "senior charity manager positions: automatic disqualification declaration" confirming that the candidate is not disqualified from acting in a senior management position for a charity in accordance with the automatic disqualification rules for charities;
- If you are undertaking a management role, a check that you have not been prohibited from participating in the management of independent schools.

It is the school's practice that a successful candidate must complete a pre-employment health questionnaire. The information contained in the questionnaire will then be held by the school in strictest confidence and used as set out in the school's Staff Privacy Notice and Staff Information Security Policy. This information will be reviewed against the Job Description and the Person Specification for the particular role, together with details of any other physical or mental requirements of the role i.e. proposed workload, extra-curricular activities, and layout of the school. The school is aware of its duties under the Equality Act 2010. No job offer will be withdrawn without first consulting with the applicant, considering medical evidence and considering reasonable adjustments.