



The Edinburgh Academy

Head of Physics

From August 2019

Independent Co-educational Day School

Senior School: 625 pupils aged 11 -18

Junior School: 396 pupils aged 5 -11

Nursery: 93 pupils aged 2 - 5

The Edinburgh Academy Introduction

The Edinburgh Academy is an academically selective, independent, co-educational day school for pupils aged 5 - 18 years with a reputation for being caring and friendly. The Edinburgh Academy aims to be forward-looking and progressive but also greatly values its long held traditions. The School has a strong reputation for individual attention and excellence in its pastoral care and co-curricular provision. The School consists of a Senior School containing approximately 625 pupils and a Junior School containing approximately 396 pupils, and we have a Nursery department of around 100 pupils. The School is a member of HMC.

The School's Place in Edinburgh

The School was founded in 1824 and has been regarded as a leading educational establishment within the City of Edinburgh and across Scotland ever since. Original Directors included the leading literary names of their age such as Sir Walter Scott. Robert Louis Stevenson and James Clerk Maxwell were also pupils at the School. The Senior School occupies a site in Henderson Row, less than a mile from Princes Street and at the northern limits of the Georgian 'New Town', of which it was designed to be a part.

Further details about the School and its resources can be found on the School website - www.edinburghacademy.org.uk

Classes and Assembly

7ths (S6) and 6ths (S5) classes are organised by tutor groups studying either Highers, Advanced Highers or GCE A-level. A School Assembly is held at 8.45am each morning, and is attended by the whole school. School Services for the whole school are held on several occasions during the session.

Exam Results

The Edinburgh Academy uses both English and Scottish examination boards. Nearly all subjects now present SQA National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations. Each year, a significant number of our 7ths (S6) hold unconditional and conditional offers at very competitively sought universities on the basis of their Higher results and their Advanced Higher/A-level predictions. Yearly academic results can be found on the School website.

Games and Activities

At the Edinburgh Academy, sport offers opportunities at all levels. The PE curriculum is varied, encompassing a wide variety of team games and individual sports. The School runs teams in a large number of major and minor sports and encourages pupils to represent the School at one or more sports at any age group.

In Music, there are about 20 performing groups including orchestras, choirs, wind bands, a big band and several chamber groups.

In Drama, there are usually three or four main productions each year. There is a fully active LAMDA qualification schedule in acting, reading for performance, mime, public speaking and Musical Theatre in place.

Job Description - Head of Physics

The Department

There are four members of teaching staff within the Department who are assisted by a full time Physics technician. Staff are encouraged to continue developing their subject knowledge and skills through both internal training and outside courses.

Pupils move to the Senior School in P7 (Geits) and are taught general science in this year. All three science departments have an input to this course. Over the next 2 years, in S1 and in S2, all pupils are taught Physics as a separate science for 2 periods per week. These courses generally follow the principles of the Curriculum for Excellence and are also designed to prepare pupils for Physics courses in later years. In S3 pupils can opt to take Physics to National 5 level which is taught over 2 years. In S5 and S6 Physics is an optional subject at SQA Higher and Advanced Higher levels. In recent years, Physics has been a popular option in the upper years of the senior school, resulting in a significant number of pupils moving on to study Physics or one of the engineering disciplines at university.

The Physics Department has three dedicated laboratories and a very well-resourced prep room. These are housed in the James Clerk Maxwell Science Centre. The Department's approach to teaching Physics is very practical in nature with IT increasingly playing a large part in this. The School has bookable IT rooms, the Science Department has bookable laptops for class use and increasingly pupils are supplied with tablet devices to aid their learning. The teaching of Physics (and science in general) is enhanced with co-curricular activities such as a science club, robotics club and an electronics club. The school has plans to extend the Science Centre soon, as well as place a focus on STEAM subject development going forward.

The Post

We are looking for an excellent, committed and dynamic teacher who will lead this important area of the curriculum. This is a senior professional position and, in common with other such positions, cannot be precisely defined. The successful candidate will develop the Physics' Department, be a central figure in STEAM subject development and have the skills and passion to ignite the enthusiasm and creative thinking of our students. The School operates a 40 period week and this post is likely to teach approximately 29-30 periods of Physics, plus a contribution to the school's co-curriculum.

The Responsibilities of the Head of Physics also include:

1. All matters relating to the teaching and examining of subject areas administered by the Physics Department, including working with the Exams Officer and Head of SFL.
2. Contributions to and leading the highest quality teaching and learning of Physics up to and including Advanced Higher, throughout the Senior School.
3. All aspects of the fabric and resources of the Department.
4. Matters relating to the recruitment, welfare, and performance of those staff members whose timetable lies wholly or partly within the Department.
5. Contribute to and promote the collegiate philosophy, which underpins departmental activities at the Edinburgh Academy, delegating responsibilities as appropriate.
6. Support colleagues in their professional development and contribute to the School Professional Review process.
7. Matters relating to the administration of the Department's share of the academic budget, and any other departmental finance which may be required.
8. Matters of inter-departmental or whole school concern, including Health and Safety issues, the internal ethos and external image of the School.
9. Promote and protect children's welfare in all aspects of their contribution to school life and follow school Health and Safety guidelines.
10. Contribute to the Department's co-curricular activities and participate in the wider school programme of co-curricular activities.
11. Work closely with the Junior School in developing suitable continuity in science studies by pupils and their transition between Schools.

12. Contribute to the overall marketing and development of the School's reputation and promote the profile of the Physics Department within the extended Academy community. This currently includes organising pupils' attendance at outside lectures and arranging a biennial trip to CERN (Geneva).

Also included are those duties and responsibilities associated with all teachers at the Edinburgh Academy:

1. To plan, prepare and teach lessons to all assigned pupils according to their educational needs.
2. To assess, record and report on the progress of the pupils within the guidelines written in the Staff Handbook.
3. To engage with the wider School Curriculum in a manner which is consistent with the ethos of the School.
4. To carry out such administrative and other routine tasks as are outlined in the Staff Handbook.
5. To demonstrate a commitment to both individual professional development.
6. To carry out any other duties and to assume any other responsibilities as the Rector shall from time to time reasonably request.

Reporting

The Head of Physics will report to the Rector on all aspects of Department operation, examination performance and staffing. The Head of Physics will work closely with the Deputy Rector (Learning and Teaching) on matters of daily running and Department operation and with the Senior Deputy Rector on curriculum development and timetabling.

Remuneration Package

The Academy pay scale shadows the national scale for teachers and promoted posts, but also offers a special supplement in recognition of the extra contributions made by teachers outwith their classroom duties. The Academy supplement, in common with all teaching positions, currently runs at an 8% addition to national scale points. The successful candidate will be entitled to join the Scottish Public Pension's Agency's teachers' superannuation scheme. The terms and conditions may be discussed at interview.

Applications

Applications are welcome from well-qualified graduates for this post of Head of Physics. Candidates should complete all sections of the application form, which should be emailed to rectoroffice@edinburghacademy.org.uk

Candidates are welcome, if they wish, to send a copy of their curriculum vitae, including full details of qualifications and experience, and/or a covering letter explaining why they think they are particularly suited to the role and how it may fit in with future aspirations. However, please note that this is entirely optional and the short listing for interview will be based on the application form. The appointment will be made without regard to gender or ethnic origin. Further details are available from the Rector's Office - 0131 624 4911 rectoroffice@edinburghacademy.org.uk

The closing date for application is Monday 25th February 2019.

Conditions of Appointment

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, verification of identity and proof of qualifications, and to a satisfactory medical screening. **Short-listed candidates will be asked to plan and teach a lesson.** The Edinburgh Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and PVG Disclosure Scotland.

Equal Opportunities

The School is an Equal Opportunities employer, and welcomes applications for this post from appropriately qualified persons regardless of age, disability, gender, race or sexual orientation.

Barry Welsh
Rector
January 2019