

BLOXHAM SCHOOL
Oxfordshire
HMC – Woodard
420 pupils – 11–18 – 140 in Sixth Form
boarding and day, co-educational

Required for September 2009, a well-qualified graduate to teach:

Biology

Willingness to be fully involved in the life of a boarding school essential

Application forms and job details may be downloaded from the school website or obtained from: The Headmaster, Bloxham School, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4PE
Tel: 01295 724341, Fax: 01295 722962, e-mail helen@bloxhamschool.com
Closing date for applications –Thursday 20th November

*Bloxham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.
The person appointed will be subject to the obligatory checks by the Criminal Records Bureau.*

The Post

A well qualified graduate is required to teach Biology throughout the school. The position would suit someone looking for a second post or a more experienced teacher, although a well qualified and highly motivated NQT would be considered.

The successful candidate will be expected to undertake a teaching timetable of some thirty one periods a week, and become fully involved in the life of a busy boarding school, including an involvement in extracurricular activities.

Salary will be on the Bloxham scale according to the qualifications and experience of the successful applicant. All applicants invited for interview will be required to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

The Department

The Biology Department comprises the Head of Department and two further full time Biology staff undertaking teaching over the full range of ages from 11 to 18. Biology is a popular subject beyond GCSE. Currently 24 students in two sets take OCR AS Level; most students stay on to take A2. Examination results are consistently very good. Biological, Medical and Veterinary Sciences are a popular choice for students to study at University. At GCSE we follow the AQA Specification. From 2010 all candidates will take separate

sciences; in order to facilitate this we teach the GCSE course over three years which enables us to combine academic rigour with a strong emphasis on practical work. In the Lower School (Years 7 & 8) we follow an in-house course in Foundation Biology which aims to inspire students with a genuine love of and interest in the subject.

The Department is housed in the Science and Maths building which is undergoing a continuing programme of refurbishment and modernisation; the Biology department will benefit from these improvements during the summer of 2009 and ambitious plans for this are already in place, although the successful applicant will have the opportunity for input into the project. The department already has three well equipped laboratories and a biology preparation room which is run by a very experienced full time Biology Technician. The Department is very well resourced and practical work in all year groups is performed individually whenever possible. All laboratories have data projectors, DVD players and video recorders. Teaching staff at Bloxham are issued with a PC laptop, as are all pupils when they reach the 4th Form (Year 10), which offers wireless connectivity to the school's network. This gives Internet and email access throughout the school. PCs are regularly used to receive and send work to pupils via the Intranet.

The Bloxham biology staff have a great love of the subject which we share with our pupils. We aim to make the subject interesting, relevant and fun. An already extensive but expanding collection of living organisms are kept within the department. These are used not only for teaching the curriculum but attract a level of student interest that requires us to run four Wildlife Clubs weekly. Significant areas of the school site are also starting to be managed as Biology Nature Reserves and the planting of a new wildflower meadow is due to take place next spring. The Department places great emphasis on making use of facilities outside Bloxham and students in all year groups regularly go on visits to the University Museums, Botanic Gardens and Arboretum in Oxford, Bristol Zoo and various lectures in London. The lower sixth form students all attend a compulsory four-day field course at Dale Fort FSC Centre in Pembrokeshire in June, which is taught by resident staff. The department is also leading a group of 21 sixth form students on a Biology Research Expedition to Honduras in July 2009. This will involve assisting Oxford University scientists with biodiversity sampling in tropical cloud forest for one week, followed by a week's scuba diving on the world's second biggest barrier reef. We look forward to welcoming a new member of staff to the Biology Department who is able and willing to contribute fully to all these areas.