



ST GABRIEL'S

NEWBURY



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

HEAD OF PHYSICS



A welcome from the Principal

Thank you for the interest you have shown in joining St Gabriel's. I am delighted that you are considering becoming part of our community.

At St Gabriel's, we believe that every member of staff plays a pivotal role in shaping the educational journey of our pupils. Whether in the classroom, behind the scenes, or in pastoral care, your contribution helps us deliver an exceptional learning experience and create a lifelong love of learning.

St Gabriel's is a welcoming and supportive school where staff work together with a shared purpose: to help every pupil flourish. Whatever your role, you'll be part of a dedicated team that contributes to the life and success of our school.

RICKI SMITH



About St Gabriels

Founded in 1929, St Gabriel's is a vibrant and thriving co-educational independent day school for children from 6 months to 18 years. With a strong sense of community, our pupils, teaching staff, operational teams and nursery staff together create a warm and purposeful environment where every individual is known and valued.

Our Mission

To provide an education that is both balanced in its approach and inspirational in its content, within a community built on mutual respect and collaboration. We aim to create an environment where pupils are confident, engaged and happy.

We are proud to be a school where the strength of personal relationships is at the heart of everything we do. Our size enables us to focus on each individual — a school where every pupil is noticed for all the right reasons, and where a genuine sense of community flourishes. From this foundation, we work in partnership with families to help every child achieve the success they deserve.

St Gabriel's: a school founded on community, inspiration, understanding and balance.

Located on the edge of Newbury, the school sits within historic parkland landscaped by Capability Brown. At its heart stands an 18th-century, Grade I listed building, complemented by extensive modern development in recent years.

Providing an exceptional educational experience for families in and around Newbury has always been our focus. Over the past decade, we have successfully established St Gabriel's Nursery and extended our co-educational provision throughout the whole school, from Juniors to Sixth Form, ensuring that every stage of a child's journey benefits from the same ethos and excellence.



Our History

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- 2026:** St Gabriel's becomes a fully co-educational nursery, junior and senior school
- 2024:** Year 9 and Year 12 co-educational entry points
- 2022:** Start of the Senior School's co-educational journey with boys welcomed in to Year 7
- 2019:** 90th Birthday and restoration of Oval Room and Library
- 2018:** Garland Science Laboratories and Theatre refurbished
- 2017:** Opening of Sandleford Farmhouse as the new Sixth Form Centre
- 2014:** The Junior School became fully co-educational; The nursery opened its doors to children from the age of six months
- 2012:** Dance Studio opened
- 2011:** Opening of the North Block (MFL & Technology Rooms)
- 2002:** Opening of the Sports Hall
- 1989:** Dining Room and Technology building opened
- 1984:** Science Block built
- 1983:** The Junior School, Falkland St Gabriel's, previously sited at Wash Common moved to Sandleford Priory
- 1974:** A Board of Governors became responsible for the school after the Sisters left
- 1948:** The Community of the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd (CJGS), an order of Anglican nuns, bought Sandleford Priory and moved the school to its current site
- c1946:** To accommodate growing numbers following the war the Junior School moved to Falkland Lodge, Wash Common, Newbury and was known as Falkland St Gabriel's
- 1943:** St Gabriel's relocated to Ormonde House, Newbury in January 1943. A house on Donnington Square was also used to accommodate the growing school community
- 1939:** The school (80 pupils and staff) evacuated to West Ogdwell Manor in Devon
- 1938:** From September to December the school evacuated to Wantage, utilising facilities at the former St Katharine's School site
- 1929:** St Gabriel's was founded in Mill Hill, London
- 18th Century:** Sandleford Priory acquired by the Montagu family. Mrs Elizabeth Montagu, the founder of the Blue Stocking Society, employed James Wyatt, to make the 13th Century chapel into a dining room, which was then joined to the house by Wyatt's remarkable Oval Room. The grounds were landscaped by Capability Brown
- 12th Century:** Sandleford Priory founded for the Austin Canons by Count Geoffrey de Perche and his wife, Matilda, niece of King Richard I

About The Department: Science

The Science Department is a professional group of teaching and technical practitioners. There are six members of teaching staff and three friendly and competent technicians.

The department is housed in a single building with all practical science lessons being taught in laboratories. There are three smartly refurbished laboratories and one smaller Sixth Form laboratory. There is also a large characterful laboratory space in the style of a Victorian orangery. Teaching rooms generally have interactive whiteboards and a range of plain whiteboards.

In Year 7 and Year 8, pupils follow the AQA Activate course which prepares them with skills in Science and Mathematics for entrance to the AQA Core GCSE Science in Year 9.

We run the Separate and Trilogy AQA courses at GCSE using both the Higher and Foundation papers for Combined Science across our ability range.

We have a proportionately high number of pupils who have chosen to embark on A level Science subjects from Year 11. At St Gabriel's, Chemistry and Biology follow OCR A level and we teach to the Edexcel Physics A level specification.



The Position: Head of Physics

Contract Type: Full Time, Permanent

Start Date: September 2026

Salary: St Gabriel's has its own generous salary scales and the APTIS Superannuation Scheme applies.

Benefits: In addition to a competitive salary, staff enjoy a range of benefits (see page 7).

Reporting to: The Principal

Location: St Gabriel's School, Newbury, RG20 9BD

THE POST

St Gabriel's wishes to appoint an inspiring and committed Head of Physics to lead our Physics provision and teach through to GCSE and A Level. This is an exciting opportunity for a passionate specialist who brings energy, curiosity and a genuine love of the subject, and who can motivate pupils of all abilities to achieve their very best.

The successful candidate will play a key role within a vibrant and forward-thinking Science Department, contributing to its strategic development and championing Physics across the school.

KEY TASKS

Teaching and Learning:

- To teach Physics KS3 - KS5 as appropriate, or as required by the Principal.
- Deliver engaging, challenging and safe lessons that inspire pupils and foster a love of Physics.
- Prepare, set and mark classwork and homework in line with the School's Assessment for Learning Policy.
- Mark internal examinations and contribute to the assessment and tracking of pupil progress.
- Maintain high standards of achievement through regular, informative assessment and feedback.
- Attend parents' evenings and communicate effectively with parents as required

Leadership

- Lead Physics within the Science Department, contributing to curriculum planning and schemes of work.
- Support colleagues in delivering high-quality Physics teaching across all key stages.
- Promote enrichment such as clubs, clinics, competitions and trips.
- Work closely with the Head of Science to drive standards, innovation and pupil outcomes.

PERSONAL & ACADEMIC QUALITIES

The Head of Science will:

- Hold a good relevant degree and PGCE (or equivalent).
- Be an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher with a strong subject knowledge in Physics.
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to lead, motivate and support colleagues.
- Show initiative, creativity and a commitment to continuous professional development.
- Keep up to date with curriculum developments, examination requirements and effective teaching strategies.
- Be confident with technology and able to integrate digital tools into teaching and learning.
- Be willing to contribute fully to the wider life of the school

Employee Benefits



LOCATION

Well connected, within easy reach of A34, M4 & A339



CLUB DISCOUNTS

Ultimate Activity Holiday Club discounts for children



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

Access to confidential advice & support



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Regular social events for staff



CONCESSION DAYS

Concession days throughout the year, including Dame Betty Day



PERKBOX

Access to Perkbox Discount scheme



FEE REMISSION

Generous Discounted Fees



CPD

Opportunities for Professional Development



PENSION

Enrolment in outstanding pension scheme and options to upgrade



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Range of health benefits incl. 24/7 online GP and Nurse Practitioner Support



FLU VACCINATIONS

Annual on-site free vaccinations



TEAM

Working as part of a highly regarded & committed team



FREE EYE TESTS

Annual free eye-test & contribution towards glasses for regular VDU users



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

33 acres of 'Capability' Brown parkland, including lake and easy access to Greenham Common



COMPLIMENTARY MEALS

Daily nutritious & delicious meals during term time



PARKING

Plenty of free onsite parking

“The benefits at St Gabriel’s go far beyond the great pension scheme and staff discounts. There’s a real focus on wellbeing and work–life balance, and the setting is genuinely beautiful — it’s a lovely place to come to work each day. Staff turnover is low for a reason — people genuinely enjoy being part of this community.”





How to apply

Please complete the School's Application Form and send this to HR@stgabriels.co.uk.

Closing Date: 9am Monday 11 May 2026

Applications will be reviewed as they are received and interviews may be arranged before the closing date, so early application is encouraged.

St Gabriel's School values diversity, promotes equality, and is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

For further details please contact HR on 01635 555680 or via email HR@stgabriels.co.uk.

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NEWBURY

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