



Teacher of Geography

Fixed term for one year

Part-Time: 0.6

Closing date: 17 June 2019



Dear Candidate

I am delighted that you have requested further information regarding the position of **Teacher of Geography** at The Spires College. This is a part time, temporary appointment for one year (until 31 August 2020), teaching three days a week. However our roll is increasing rapidly and a permanent position may well arise in the future.

The Spires College has a very positive, friendly atmosphere. The staff care passionately about the well-being of the children and our students are vibrant, enthusiastic and affable. The concept of community is something that I believe is essential for a successful school and we all strive

to ensure that every member of our community feels valued, but also contributes positively to College life. Our primary focus is, and will always be, developing superb teaching and learning across all areas of the College. Pedagogy underpins all we do and all staff at The Spires College are committed to their own learning as well as their teaching. At our most recent inspection, the college was graded 'good' in all areas. The report offers a good balance between celebrating our students' successes and academic progress, with praising the College's ethos of care and inclusivity: "A good and rapidly improving school with a culture of respect and aspiration". We are, of course, determined to continue this improvement journey because we want the very best for our students.

The Geography Department is a great team. They are forward thinking, collaborative and supportive. The successful applicant to this post will be ambitious to play a role in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in Geography, ensuring that all of our students receive the excellent education that they deserve. This may be as a NQT, bringing a wealth of innovation and energy, or as an experienced teacher, bringing a highly developed understanding of pedagogy and practice.

Working at The Spires College is tremendously rewarding and this role is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference to young people's lives as well as offering abundant prospects for professional development. As a College we are firmly committed to continuous professional development for all and we invest heavily in developing our staff at all levels.

You are very welcome to visit The Spires College to help you decide if this is the role for you; we'd be delighted to meet you. Please contact my PA for an appointment. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Newton', written in a cursive style.

Alex Newton
Principal





The College

The Spires College is a co-educational, 11-18 college with a bilateral stream. It is situated in the Plainmoor district of Torquay, within the Local Authority of Torbay. There are currently around 1000 students on roll. We are a friendly, caring college which puts the needs of our children at the heart of all we do. Academic progress is obviously vital but we also place a high value on the provision of enrichment opportunities that help our students to grow into responsible, confident and considerate young adults. Underpinning all of this are excellent standards of pastoral support and care that allow children to feel safe and valued.

Torbay is an area with a Selective Grammar School system: parents can choose for their child to take the '11+' test if they wish for them to apply for a place at one of the selective schools in the area. The Spires College is one of very few schools in the country with bilateral streams. This allows us to take up to 60 students each year into a selective stream (out of a 220 PAN). Students who have reached a designated pass mark in the '11+' test can apply to our selective stream to access a challenging academic curriculum.

We have a modern, purpose-built building offering fantastic facilities for both students and staff alike. All full time teachers have their own classroom. We are committed to the professional learning of our teachers to ensure classroom practice is as good as it can possibly be. Every teacher follows a personalised professional learning programme based on individual needs and interests, and every teacher is involved in research and professional reading.

The Department

The Geography Department at The Spires College is comprised of a small team of specialist teachers who are committed to bringing out the best in themselves and others. The Department aims to support students in gaining knowledge and understanding of the subject areas whilst at the same time teaching students to take responsibility for their own learning through developing an interest in the world around them. Fieldwork, visitors and enrichment activities are an integral part of the curriculum. The department is based in modern, fully equipped classrooms.

At KS3 Geography is taught in discrete lessons. Students follow a wide and balanced curriculum, with a focus on developing key geographical knowledge and skills needed for achievement at the highest levels. At KS4 Geography is a popular option. The course is taught over three years following the AQA specification, including the topics of Desert Environments, Coasts and Water Resources. Our post-16 offer is dependent on student interests each year. We currently deliver A level Geography and follow the EDEXCEL specification, covering the option topics of Coastal Landscapes and Change, Regenerating Places, Migration, Identity and Sovereignty, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security.

Fieldwork is an integral component of our Geography curriculum and out-of-classroom opportunities are provided for all year groups. At KS3, students complete fieldwork investigations around their local area, including visits to Plainmoor, Plymouth and Babbacombe. At KS4 students complete three geographical enquires which include studying changes along the River Teign, urban change in Bristol and coastal management at Dawlish Warren. At KS5 the course includes completion of an independent investigation. Students currently undertake their investigations in Plymouth, Totnes and at Slapton Sands.

In addition to fieldwork, the Geography Department offer a biennial overseas residential trip, open to all students.





Job Description

Teacher of Geography: 0.6

Dates:	Apply by: 17 June 2019 To start: 1 September 2019
Accountable to:	Head of Geography
Salary:	MPS/UPS
Contract Type:	Temporary for one year to 31 August 2020

Introduction

This Job Description outlines the purpose and key tasks required to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list and duties / specific tasks may be varied from time to time, without changing the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed. This will allow flexibility for the college to respond to changing priorities and also support and enhance individual professional development. It is the practice of the college to examine job descriptions periodically, update them and ensure that they relate to the job performed, or incorporate any proposed changes. This procedure will be conducted by the Principal/Line Manager in consultation with the post holder.

Terms and conditions for staff employed on teaching contracts are detailed in the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.

Overall Purpose and Accountability

- ▲ To meet the requirements of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and to support students in attaining at the highest levels.
- ▲ To support and uphold the ethos, principles, policies and rules of the college in all respects and at all times.
- ▲ To provide high quality learning experiences that support students in achieving at the highest level possible and in developing their own capacity as independent and reflective learners.
- ▲ To support the Head of Department to develop an inclusive approach to Geography so that all students are stimulated to accomplish their optimum performance.
- ▲ To assist the Head of Department to maintain standards of teaching and learning across the Geography curriculum.
- ▲ To teach across all key stages.

Key Accountabilities

Teaching and Learning

- ▲ Meticulously plan and teach engaging and challenging lessons.
- ▲ Meet the needs of all learners by consistently planning and teaching carefully differentiated lessons.
- ▲ Set and mark appropriate homework.
- ▲ Use regular, measurable and significant assessments of teaching.
- ▲ Complete all reporting on time.
- ▲ Closely monitor progress and attainment of their students and use it to inform planning and teaching.
- ▲ Provide content for and where necessary deliver high quality student interventions.
- ▲ Ensure that all students achieve college targets.
- ▲ Work alongside the Head of Department on self-evaluation, department improvement planning and Quality Assurance processes.
- ▲ Support the Head of Department in the implementation of high quality Schemes of Learning.
- ▲ Maintain regular and productive communication with parents about students' progress.
- ▲ Organise and participate in exciting and motivating trips and events.

School Culture

- ▲ Help create a strong college community, characterised by consistent, orderly, caring and respectful relationships.
- ▲ Help develop a college culture and ethos that is utterly committed to achievement.
- ▲ To become an effective Form Tutor (teachers will usually be required to perform the role of form tutor).
- ▲ Create and sustain a positive learning culture.

Health and safety

You will:

- ▲ Adhere to school health and safety policies/procedures and current statutory health and safety requirements.
- ▲ Attend training as and when required for the purposes of safeguarding children and corporate safety.
- ▲ Ensure the college is immediately notified of any issues that may affect your right to maintain enhanced clearance to work on the school site (DBS).

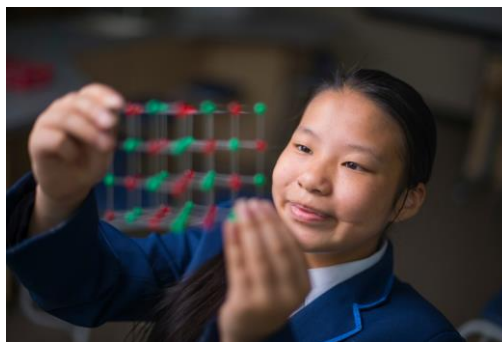
Person Specification

The following list is indicative of the kind of person we are looking for but **not all of these criteria are essential**. However, please do try to give evidence of how you fulfil the majority of these requirements in your application.

Beliefs	You hold a belief that the students of The Spires College must have access to the best educational experience possible.
	You are committed to raising standards in the school and believe in the potential of all young people to achieve highly.
	You are passionate about your subject and want to share this enthusiasm with others.
Qualifications	A good honours degree in Geography or a related subject.
	A teaching qualification.
	QTS.
	Qualification in an additional or related subject area.
	An up to date knowledge of the emerging issues in education and record of appropriate CPD.
Skills and Attributes	You are a good practitioner in the classroom and keen to continue learning.
	You are capable of planning and delivering innovative lessons and Schemes of Learning.
	You have the ability to inspire high levels of student performance.
	You can work under pressure and prioritise according to need.
	You have good communication skills.
	You can use data effectively.
	You have good behaviour management skills.
	You have the ability to think creatively to solve problems, pioneering new approaches as well as understanding which prior methods have been effective.
	You have a sense of humour and good interpersonal skills.
	You have high levels of energy and enthusiasm.
	You are ambitious and keen to prove yourself.
	You are a committed, highly competent, reflective and resilient individual.
Experience	You have experience of teaching Geography through Key Stages 3 to 5.
	You have experience of using data to inform actions.
	You have experience of the role and responsibilities of a form tutor.



How to apply



Please complete an application form, which includes space for a supporting statement (please use font size 11 or 12 and double spacing for this). Your supporting statement should include how your experience and skills make you a strong candidate for this role

The application form can be downloaded from our website and should be returned to Nadine Osborne, the Principal's PA, **by 3pm on Monday 17 June 2019** preferably by email to: nosborne@thespirescollege.com.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your application by the end of the deadline day, please contact the college.

Interviews will be held in the week beginning 17 June 2019.

If you would like to arrange a visit or have an informal, confidential discussion, please contact the Principal's PA via the email above or telephone number below.

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