



SHIPLAKE COLLEGE  
HENLEY-ON-THAMES



**Teacher of Politics and History  
Maternity Cover (up to one year)**

Candidate Information Pack

Starting October 2025

## Welcome from the Headmaster

Dear Applicant,

The word I hear mentioned most regularly when speaking to the pupils, parents, and staff of Shiplake College is 'community'. So, thank you for taking the time to consider the role of maternity cover **Teacher of Politics and History**, as it represents a wonderful opportunity to join our very special Shiplake community.

Shiplake College is an HMC co-educational boarding and day school offering a holistic education for around 540 pupils from Year 7 to Sixth Form. There has been a co-educational Sixth Form since 1998 and since September 2023 girls have been welcomed into Year 7, as we look to the future as a fully co-educational place of learning. We are nestled in leafy South Oxfordshire, five minutes from Henley, and sit right on the River Thames. It is a beautiful place to work.

As well as providing a fantastic learning and living environment for young people, Shiplake offers an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding working environment.

We strive to recruit the best possible teaching and support staff to drive the College forwards and ensure we continue to provide the best possible rounded education for our pupils.

Above all, Shiplake is a school where we try to live out authentically our three core values – the Three Is – **Inclusive, Individual, and Inspirational**.

'Inclusive' is our cornerstone with our strong sense of community in which everyone has value and where the prevailing culture is one of kindness.

'Individual' represents our all-ability school in which we not only recognise but also celebrate that everyone is different - thank goodness for that! This is a personal best school. And finally, 'inspirational' - the pre-requisite at Shiplake is that everyone – students and staff alike - turn up each day with a smile, a positive attitude, and a willingness to engage with all aspects of school life.

Shiplake College is a school where academic rigour is non-negotiable, but character development is just as important. We strive to help students develop broad interests across a wide range of co-curricular areas, bolster self-esteem, and give a sense of our place in the wider world with the aim to make a positive difference to society.

Embracing the lifestyle at a busy and vibrant boarding school is paramount for anyone wishing to work at Shiplake. Knowing our pupils well enables us to ensure that they get the best from their education here, and this is a pivotal part of any role at the College. This is a great opportunity for the right candidate and 'fit' is very important to us.

Thank you for your interest in working at Shiplake College and, as we look to an exciting future, I hope that you will consider being part of that story.

Tyrone Howe

“ Success comes in many guises at this school, and pupils grasp the opportunities offered and work hard to achieve their goals, be it as a professional athlete, entrepreneur, doctor, or artist.

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*

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## The College

Shiplake College is a thriving and relatively young HMC school. It caters for around 540 boarding and day pupils aged 11-18 (anticipated to rise to over 570 in September 2025). There has been a co-educational Sixth Form since 1998 and since September 2023 girls have joined in Year 7 (now making up 42% of the Lower School cohort) as the College goes fully co-educational.

Overlooking the River Thames, two miles upstream of the famous Henley Royal Regatta stretch, pupils enjoy a beautiful and inspiring 63-acre rural site. The College is conveniently located near major air, railway and motorway networks, close to Reading, London and Oxford and just 40 minutes from Heathrow. Full, weekly and flexi-boarding is available from Year 9, with ad hoc 'overnight stays' also an option for day pupils.

Every pupil is placed at the heart of Shiplake life and the College's ethos is underpinned by the Three Is – **Inclusive, Individual** and **Inspirational**.

Shiplake provides a friendly, supportive and structured environment to bring out the best in each and every pupil. Renowned for outstanding pastoral care and personal development, the College welcomes pupils with wide-ranging skills and talents, who will make the most of the many opportunities offered to them. The College provides an education that is tailored to the individual, achieved through engaging and inspirational teaching, delivered in small classes where the teachers can know and understand each pupil's method of learning.

The College continues to see year-on-year improvements in examination results. In August 2024, Shiplake leavers achieved Sixth Form and GCSE grades well above that of the pre-pandemic 2019 examinations. At Sixth Form, the percentage of A\*-C grades has risen from 88% (2023) to 97%, and at A\*-B from 62% to 72%. The percentage of top A\*-A grades has also increased from 32% to 39%. Pupils are heading to top third (66%) and Russell Group (39%) universities. At GCSE, pupils achieved 17% of 9-8 grades, an increase from 14% in 2023. Overall, 93% of GCSE grades were marked 9-4 and 58% of grades 9-6 (88% and 42% respectively in 2019).

In addition to a strong academic foundation, the College offers excellent sporting, artistic and co-curricular opportunities. Two afternoons are reserved for an array of clubs and activities, including a comprehensive outdoor education programme, with pupils encouraged to extend their horizons and experience new challenges and responsibilities.

Academic lessons take place Monday to Friday and each day ends with an hour of academic support during which pupils undertake independent study or seek help with homework from teachers. Sports training takes place on three days a week, with the majority of fixtures scheduled for Saturday mornings.

130 weekly and full boarders become fully integrated into Shiplake's inclusive and welcoming environment. International pupils join us from all over the world, currently from 17 different countries, and represent approximately 4% of the school population. Full boarders take part in a vibrant weekend programme of trips and activities on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, with day pupils and weekly boarders able to enjoy additional family and down time at home.

Shiplake has a formidable reputation for sports, particularly in rowing and rugby, and offers excellent music, art and drama opportunities and an exciting and varied co-curricular programme.



## School Development

The stunning grounds are a remarkable combination of old and new; of the traditional and the up-to-date. Although only founded in 1959, Shiplake occupies a site which includes an original late-nineteenth century mansion, still dominating the main school buildings.

The school is equipped with modern amenities, including a contemporary Thinking Space, multi-purpose Lecture Theatre, a multi-activity centre with climbing wall, fitness suite and indoor archery/rifle range, and Marjorie's, a café where Sixth Form students can socialise and work independently.

1959: College Founded  
1990: Goodwin Building (Classrooms)  
1998: Sixth Form Became Co-educational  
2002: College House (Year 13 Boys)  
2008: First Year 7 (Lower School) Joined  
2009: Gilson (Girls) House  
2014: John Turner Building  
2020: Davies Centre and Marjorie White Building  
2023: First Year 7 Girls Joined  
2024: Bevan (Science) and Jubilee Classrooms  
2024: Phillimore Fields  
2025: Paddocks Artificial Pitches  
Further investment and development will help to ensure that the College's future is even brighter than its past.

## Inspection

In Shiplake's most recent full ISI inspection in 2022 we achieved full compliance and the top category of **EXCELLENT** in both "the quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements" and "the quality of the pupils' personal development". The report reflects the importance the school places on learning in its broadest sense and recruiting and developing outstanding staff.

[www.shiplake.org.uk/inspection](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/inspection)

## Admissions

Entry points are normally at Year 7 (11+), Year 9 (13+) and Year 12 (16+). Prospective families are encouraged to arrange an individual visit or attend an open morning. Academic, Art, Music, Drama and Sport Scholarships, and means-tested bursaries, are available.

The College embraces pupils from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds as well as diverse intellectual and physical talents. As a Church of England school, pupils at Shiplake are gently encouraged to lead an active spiritual life throughout their time at the College.

## Governance

Shiplake College is a charitable company and is privileged to be supported by a highly experienced, knowledgeable and diverse board of governors. This helps to shape future strategies and inform key decisions to ensure the College continues to maintain the highest possible standards.

## Community

There are strong links with the local community and pupils are given every opportunity to get involved in local events and to offer service wherever appropriate.

Fundraising for charities takes place year on year.

The Shiplake Connected platform helps maintain and develop the links between the College, parents, alumni (known as Old Vikings) and former staff.

“Pupils exhibit a mature sense of self-understanding and self-esteem, without any hint of arrogance.”

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*





## Job Description

The Headmaster is seeking to appoint a dynamic and enthusiastic **Teacher of Politics and History** to join our successful and busy department to cover a period of maternity leave.

This is an excellent opportunity for a well-qualified educator to teach Key Stage 5 Politics, along with some History across all Key Stages. The role would suit an energetic teacher committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning; a teacher who can inspire and challenge all our pupils.

Applications are welcomed from teachers who will strive for excellence in all aspects of their practice, from both experienced practitioners and early career teachers. Applicants should also be able to instil a passion for their subject and create a rigorous environment for our pupils' learning to thrive.

### Essential Requirements

- A degree in Politics or History (or a closely related field)
- Excellent subject knowledge of the Sixth Form Politics and KS3 and KS4 History specifications

“Pupils say that they enjoy coming to school, and participating in all the school has to offer, both academically and through co-curricular endeavours.

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*

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- Excellent communication skills with pupils, parents and staff
- Prepared to attend internal and external training days
- Ability to review and implement effective programmes of study in line with the syllabi and examination specification requirements
- Keep abreast of relevant curricular and educational developments
- Contribute to the development of teaching and learning materials across the College
- Enthusiastic and able to motivate and inspire pupils
- Ensure continuity, progression and cohesiveness in all teaching
- Use a variety of methods and approaches which differentiate and stimulate, which match curricular objectives and the range of pupil needs, and ensure equal opportunity for all pupils
- Set and mark prep regularly (in accordance with the College's Assessment and Feedback Policy), to consolidate and extend learning and to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning
- Work with the Learning Development staff to identify and support any pupils with specific learning needs
- Work effectively and collaboratively as a member of the Politics and History departments to improve the quality of teaching and learning



- Set high expectations for all pupils, to deepen their knowledge and understanding and to maximise their achievement
- Work in an enthusiastic manner, sharing new ideas and suggestions
- Positively manage behaviour in an environment of mutual respect that allows pupils to feel safe and secure and promotes their learning
- Planning and accompanying trips
- Attend special school events as reasonably directed by the Headmaster, including whole College and House assemblies

### **Monitoring, Assessment, Recording, Reporting and Accountability**

- Responsible for monitoring pupil progress
- Assessing pupils' work frequently in line with departmental and school policies and use the results to inform future planning, teaching and curricular development
- Be familiar with school assessment and reporting procedures and to prepare and present informative, helpful and accurate reports to parents
- Monitor unexplained absences or patterns of absence; which should be reported immediately to the academic tutor or House staff

### **Subject Knowledge and Understanding**

- Essential to keep up-to-date with research and developments in pedagogy, Politics and History in particular
- Professional Standards and Development
- Be a role model to pupils through personal presentation, dress and professional conduct
- Arrive in class, on or before the start of the lesson, and to begin and end lessons on time
- Cover for absent colleagues and assist with examination invigilation as requested
- Cooperate with the employer in all matters concerning health and safety and specifically to take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and that of any other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work
- Be familiar with the College, Politics and History department handbooks and support all the College's policies
- Establish effective working relationships with professional colleagues and support staff
- Strive for personal and professional development through active involvement in the school's appraisal system and performance management procedures
- Liaise effectively with parents and with other agencies who have responsibility for pupils' education and welfare
- Be familiar with and implement the relevant requirements of the current SEN Code of Practice
- Consider the needs of all pupils within lessons (and to implement specialist advice) especially those who: have SEN; are gifted and talented; are not yet fluent in English

Any other duties as reasonably required by your Head of Department or member of the Senior Management Team. In addition to teaching their subject(s), members of Senior Common Room are expected to act as tutors, be attached to day or boarding Houses and will contribute to the College's rich co-curricular programme. This







job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the School in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.

## **Person Specification**

Candidates must empathise with, and be committed to, independent education generally, and to the personal best education provided by Shiplake College.

### **Educational Attainment**

- Degree in Politics or History (or a closely related field)

### **Knowledge and Experience**

- Ability to motivate and inspire pupils and colleagues
- Ability to review and implement effective programmes of study in line with examination specification requirements
- Good knowledge of current pedagogy
- Ability to teach Politics at A-level and History at Key Stage 3 and 4

### **Skills and Abilities**

- Highly effective communicator
- Good ICT skills
- Ability and enthusiasm for using technology in the classroom
- Good time management
- Experience with using Windows and Office 365 (desirable)

### **Personal Qualities and Interests**

- Passion for teaching and learning
- A love of Politics and History
- Motivation and interest in further personal development
- Organised
- Enthusiastic
- Commitment to become involved with varied co-curricular programme
- Reliable
- Self-reliant and self-motivated
- Empathy
- Ability to drive a minibus (desirable)
- First aid qualification

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Shiplake College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Shiplake College is also committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged from suitably qualified candidates regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships. There is no typical Shiplake member of staff, we live our core values of individual, inclusive and inspirational and value the contribution that each member of our community makes to life at the College.

## Staff Benefits at a Glance

A competitive salary will be offered commensurate with the role and the experience of the successful candidate. Full details and terms and conditions will be outlined in a contract issued with an offer of employment.



### PARKING

Free onsite car parking is available. A valid school parking permit must be displayed. Bike storage is also available (and shower/changing facilities provided).



### SUBSIDISED ACCOMMODATION

Subsidised accommodation may be available onsite subject to availability.



### DOG FRIENDLY

The 'Dogs of Shiplake' form an important part of our community and some staff bring dogs to work (please see Dogs and Pets Policy).



### PENSION SCHEMES

Teachers are offered the opportunity to join the Aviva APTIS pension scheme.



### CATERING

Complimentary lunches during term time (and supper if a school commitment or duty). Snacks at break time and hot drinks throughout the day.



### TECHNOLOGY

All teaching staff and eligible support staff are loaned a school device (Microsoft Surface) to enable flexibility in achieving their roles.



### OUTDOOR POOL

Free access to the outdoor swimming pool for staff and their families, at agreed times when the pool is open during the summer months.



### SPORTS CENTRE

Free access to the onsite weights rooms and fitness suites for staff (and partners living onsite).



### DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is nurtured and encouraged. In addition to the INSET programme, individual requests are supported.



### FLU VACCINATION

The College covers the cost of the annual flu vaccination for colleagues not eligible for a free NHS vaccination.



### COMMON ROOM

The Shiplake staff form a vibrant common room with regular social and sporting events.



### DISCOUNTS

Generous staff discount can be applied to day fees for children of employees. Also eligible for discounted school holiday camps (subject to availability).





# SHIPLAKE COLLEGE

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

INCLUSIVE • INDIVIDUAL • INSPIRATIONAL

## The School Day

7.00am • Boarders' Breakfast  
 8.00am • Buses Arrive/Registration  
 8.20am • Assembly/Chapel/Tutor  
 8.40am • Lessons Begin  
 3.30pm • Games/Co-Curricular Activities  
 4.45pm • Prep/Academic Clinics  
 5.00pm • Supper  
 6.15pm • Buses Depart  
 7.00pm • Boarders Activities Programme



**9** Daily Bus Routes

**1** Weekly West London Route



**2:1** applications for each place



**10%** discount for most scholarships



**Academic, Art, Drama, Music** and **Sport** Scholarships available



**Means-Tested Bursaries** available



Fees include **snacks** at break, **lunch** and **dinner**

## Fees 2025-2026

### Registration Fee

**£150** inc. VAT (non-refundable)

### Acceptance Deposit

**£1,750** (UK and EU), with £500 credited to the second term's bill.

### Lower School (Years 7 and 8)

**£8,875** per term inc. VAT

### Years 9-13

Day

**£11,250** per term inc. VAT

*Flexi-Boarding* (up to 2 nights a week)

**£13,775** per term inc. VAT

*Weekly Boarding* (up to 6 nights a week)

**£15,750** per term inc. VAT

*Full Boarding*

**£17,500** per term inc. VAT

## Headline Figures



**535**

school roll (summer 2025)



**30%**

flexi, weekly and full boarding



**42%**

girls in Years 7 and 8



**1:6.5**

teacher:pupil ratio

## Sport and Co-Curricular



**50+**

sports and co-curricular activities available



Success in **rowing** for girls and boys at Schools' Head, NSR, HRR, and at international level



Active **Outdoor Education Programme** and **CCF** (Army, Royal Navy and Air Force)



**150**

pupils completing **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award**



**30**

pupils completing **Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

## Destinations and Careers



**91%**

secured places at first or second choice university



**66%**

progressed to top third UK universities



**39%**

progressed to Russell Group universities



Top UK destinations 2024: York, Nottingham, Loughborough, Trent, Exeter, Cardiff, Royal Holloway



Top degree subjects 2024: Business, Marketing, Sport, Engineering, Criminology



USA university destinations 2024: Harvard, Boston, Iowa and Washington



Microsoft Surface unified **device policy**



All **mobile phones** handed in at the start of each day

## Exam Results



**93%**

of GCSE results were **9-4 grades** (2024)



**97%**

of Sixth Form results were **A\*-C** (or equivalent)

## Teaching and Learning



**27**

subject options at Sixth Form



**5**

options for additional Year 12 qualification with UCAS points



**21**

subjects offered at GCSE



**1**

bespoke Key Stage 3 curriculum



**16**

average class size



**8**

average tutor group size



**40**

pupils are children of Old Vikings (former pupils) and staff

## Creative Arts



**204**

pupils receiving tuition in at least one instrument



**17**

different instruments taught



**8**

core ensembles and choirs



**7**

drama productions and showcases a year



**52**

pupils involved in whole school musical 2025



**37**

pupils taking LAMDA lessons



**3**

whole school art and photography competitions and **1** golden easel



Up to **30** staff dogs on site each day

# Applications

## To Apply

- Please go to [www.shiplake.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/vacancies) and download the Teaching Staff Application Form
- Email the completed form, along with a covering letter addressed to the Headmaster, Mr Tyrone Howe, to [jobs@shiplake.org.uk](mailto:jobs@shiplake.org.uk)

**The closing date for this role is 10.00am on Monday 23 June 2025. Interviews will be held as soon as possible.**

“Older pupils and leavers say that they feel well prepared for their future lives, having been given confidence and the feeling that they could ‘change the world’.

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*

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## Application Process

- All applications will be acknowledged by email
- Please read all of the information provided before completing your application
- Within the application form there is the opportunity to demonstrate, using examples, your suitability for the role and the qualities you would bring to Shiplake College. This is where you can bring your application form to life. Please do not send testimonials, certificates or examples of work etc., unless specifically requested to during the recruitment process

## References

All offers of employment are subject to the receipt of a minimum of two references which are satisfactory to the College. One of the references must be from your current or most recent employer. If your current/most recent employment does/did not involve working with children, then the second referee should be from the employer with whom you most recently worked with children. If you are or have been employed within a school, then one reference must be from the Head of your current school, or the last school at which you worked. In all circumstances the information given should be for the Head or HR Department. Neither referee should be a relative or someone known to you solely as a friend.

Shortlisted applicants are advised that references will be taken up prior to interview unless you ask us not to. We will assume it is acceptable to contact your references at any time unless advised otherwise using the appropriate section on the application form. Please ensure that any referees who you are happy for us to contact before interview are aware that they may be asked to provide a reference with a relatively short deadline.

## Online Searches

In line with the updated KCSIE 2022, we will carry out an online search for all shortlisted candidates. Any relevant incidents or issues involving candidates that are publicly available online (including information contained in social media accounts) and identified during the search may be explored at interview. The purpose of carrying out online checks is to comply with the KCSIE recommendation that Schools review information to assist any decision as to the candidate's suitability to work with children and young people. Shiplake College is an Equal Opportunities Employer and seeks at all times to ensure that its processes do not unlawfully discriminate against any prospective employee.





## Interview Process

If you are shortlisted and invited for interview we will ask you to bring in evidence of the following:

- Identity – passport or photocard driving licence
- Address – document from Group 2b of the [DBS List of Valid Identity Documents](#) with current address
- Proof of right to work in the UK – passport or UK birth certificate and proof of National Insurance Number issued by a government agency or a previous employer
- Qualifications - original documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications you refer to in your application
- If you have changed your name by deed poll or any other mechanism (e.g. marriage, adoption, statutory declaration) you will be asked to provide documentary evidence of the change

During your visit if you have not done so already, you will be required to sign your application form in order to declare that the information you have given is accurate and true.

In the event that you are unsuccessful please be assured that certified photocopies of documents taken will be destroyed.

Interviews are conducted in person and will explore your suitability for the role and to work with children. On occasion, applicants will be invited to participate in a preliminary online video interview.

As well as a face-to-face interview, if relevant to the role, the selection process may include some other form of assessment e.g. administrative test, demonstration of practical skill, a presentation etc.

All adults working at Shiplake College should be aware of their responsibility to safeguard and

promote the welfare of every pupil, both physical and emotional, inside and outside school. This involves ensuring that pupils are protected from significant physical or emotional harm and that there is a positive commitment to ensure the satisfactory development and growth of the individual. Everyone working at Shiplake College should be aware of and, when necessary, follow the school's Safeguarding Guidelines, which are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, Prevent 2015, Working Together 2018 and the Department of Education's (DfE) and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's (OSCB) practice and procedures (these are available online at [www.oscb.org.uk](http://www.oscb.org.uk) and also refer to <http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding>).

## Warning

You should be aware that it is an offence to apply for the role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children. Provision of false information is also an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if you have been selected, and possible referral to the police and/or DBS, and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

## Queries

If you have any queries at all about the recruitment process please contact the HR Department on 01189 405218 or [jobs@shiplake.org.uk](mailto:jobs@shiplake.org.uk).

“Pupils show creative flair and talent developed to a high standard through art and photography, design and technology and performance opportunities.”

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*

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Go to [www.shiplake.org.uk](http://www.shiplake.org.uk) to find out more about our school and see our latest news and photos  
or follow us on our social media channels



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