

PHYSICS TEACHER – BEDALES SCHOOL
FULL TIME SABBATICAL COVER ONE TERM
REQUIRED SEPTEMBER 2012

Thank you for your enquiry about this post.

Bedales School

Bedales was founded in 1893 as a reaction to the more regimented boarding schools of the day. The founder, John Badley, established Bedales as one of the first coeducational boarding schools with the introduction of girls in 1898.

Nowadays Bedales is a boarding school of 444 students aged 13 – 18, fully co-educational, and with 30% day students. It is situated in a beautiful rural estate of 120 acres which it shares with its Junior School (Dunhurst) and Dunannie, the pre-prep day school. Petersfield, about 2 miles from the school, is an attractive market town, with easy rail and road links to London (55 miles, 1 hour by train), Portsmouth (18 miles), Chichester, Winchester and the south coast.

Bedales staff – there are about 50 full-time teachers, and 10 part-time – can enjoy a good student/staff ratio (just over 7:1); a collegiate and open structure of management and a well formulated appraisal programme. ICT facilities, including laptop computers for trained staff, reflect the importance the school places on best practice in the classroom and in management.

A £7.4 million classroom and administration building was opened in the autumn of 2005. New science laboratories and sports facilities are already in place; the school also enjoys excellent library, theatre, recreational and concert facilities. Boarding accommodation is characteristically different from many schools, eschewing inter-house rivalry and forming, instead, strong social links across the year-groups.

The ISI Inspection in April 2008 and the OFSTED Boarding Inspection of May 2011 were most favourable, stressing the school's high academic achievements, its strong relationships amongst the student body and between students and staff, its willingness to value the unconventional, and recognise individualism, its range of activities and its fine boarding provision.

What Makes Bedales Distinctive?

The whole staff has recently redefined, for the new century, the founder's original, radical aims (please see the 'Development Plan' document on our website www.bedales.org.uk for further information).

There is a school rule book, but it is applied with a light touch; self-discipline, achieved through discussion and persuasion, is preferred to the imposition of arbitrary conformity.

There is a timetable, but students are given a high degree of responsibility from an early age for organising their private study.

Students take GCSEs and A-levels, but we want students to develop an enquiring mind, not just the ability to pass tests. Bedales has replaced several GCSEs with

courses of its own making (Bedales Assessed Course or BACs) that encourage independent thinking and enquiry, and that allow students to develop and pursue their own intellectual interests.

There is competitive sport, but competitiveness is not prized for its own sake: rather, competition is the opportunity for individuals to test and stretch themselves. Non-sporting students do not lose status; they may, for instance, be equally enthusiastic or adept at Outdoor Work.

We are perceived to be strong in the creative and performing arts, and we have many families from those professions; but we also continue to gain good results in the sciences.

Bedales has a non-denominational foundation. There is, however, a full and thoughtful programme of activity related to spiritual, moral and ethical development. Hierarchy is necessary but minimal. We work on the basis of mutual respect, symbolised by using first-name terms for everyone, and by the shaking of hands after every assembly.

The quality of relationships – between staff and students, and among students – is a hallmark of Bedales. Students are encouraged to enquire, and to state an opinion, about anything and everything. This leads to an open, lively and sometimes challenging discourse.

One outcome is that our students do not suffer culture shock when they go on to university (from Oxbridge to art school). Bedales has prepared them for the outside world academically, socially and personally.

The Students

Bedalians are an idiosyncratic bunch. By the time they leave, they are typically extremely warm, personable, cosmopolitan and highly self-confident. Some start like that; others of course need to be drawn out somewhat. Students are fully supportive of what is done for them: they are proud of their school and are excellent ambassadors for it. Day students integrate well with the boarders.

The Parents

The parents, who pay high fees for places for their son or daughter, are very supportive of the staff but expect to be kept well informed. Full subject reports are written termly and all tutors keep in touch with the parents of their tutees by telephone or e-mail. Each year group has a parents' meeting on a Friday or Saturday afternoon for subject staff – there are five of these per year.

The Subject

Bedales students all study Edexcel IGCSE Double Award Science in specialist subject areas from Year 9 to 11, with a select group taking three separate sciences in Year 11. Physics is a very popular subject at all levels of the school and achieves excellent results with a strong uptake at A Level. The Science department has 13 members of staff, well supported by three technicians. The Physics department has three experienced members of the teaching staff, one of whom is taking sabbatical leave in the autumn term. Teaching takes place in specialist labs with class sizes of between 12-22 students at IGCSE and up to 12 at A level.

The Role

We wish to appoint an outstanding and well-qualified person to join our team for the Autumn Term 2012. They will teach a full timetable up to and including A level (a total of up to 32 lessons per week, of 35 minutes duration each).

We are looking for someone with enthusiasm and commitment who can maintain high academic standards and pupil interest throughout this important term. Clear schemes of work are in place for all years and guidance on the delivery of the course and assessment procedures will be given.

Further Responsibilities

Although the term is, relatively speaking, short (13 weeks), the days are long (lessons go on until 5.25pm), and teaching continues on Saturday mornings. Candidates should be enthusiastic about the full-time nature of the commitment at Bedales and may like to take advantage of the evening program of lectures, plays and concerts or become involved in the sports and extra-curricular options that are on offer.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful applicant will be a successful teacher with experience in teaching physics.

- A specialist in Physics.
- Ability to teach Physics to 6th form level.
- Ability to use a variety of teaching and learning styles.
- Ability to convey infectious enthusiasm for the subject.
- Ability to manage practical classes effectively and safely.
- A commitment to the philosophy of personalised learning through experimentation and craftsmanship.
- Can demonstrate the ability to inspire and motivate.
- Ability to take responsibility and show initiative.
- Good organisational skills.
- Experience in leading a whole school initiative either individually or as part of a group.
- Experience in the use of ICT to support the teaching of Physics.

Essential Knowledge

- Knowledge of Health and Safety issues relating to teaching and learning in a science classroom.
- Suitable level of proficiency in ICT and understanding of its application to teaching and learning.

Essential Experience

- Evidence of good examination results achieved by pupils taught.
- Positive working relationships with colleagues.
- Experience of teaching Physics to A2 Level standard.

Essential Qualifications

- Good honours degree in Physics or other science related subject.
- A Level (or equivalent) in Physics or science.

Essential Other

- Able to work as part of a team.
- To promote equality and diversity in working practices and maintain positive working relationships.
- Evidence of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people.
- Successful candidate must be willing to play a part in the life of a busy boarding school.
- Will consider applicants from both secondary and tertiary sectors.

The Application

Please use the standard application form and attach a supporting statement for this particular post.

The closing date is 12 noon on Wednesday 7 March 2012. Interviews will be held week commencing 19 March 2012.

The successful applicant must be prepared to undergo child protection screening including an enhanced CRB check with the Criminal Records Bureau.

Keith Budge
Headmaster
February 2012