

IN FIDE
VADE

Teacher of Geography

April 2022 until August 2023

Welcome from the Headmistress



Wycombe Abbey is an exceptional place; it operates as a modern full boarding school for around 660 girls and we are committed to the development of each one. This year we celebrate 125 years of educating young women and our vision remains to provide our pupils with a world class education. We are excited about encouraging curiosity, bold ideas, innovation, leadership and delight in learning - inside and outside the classroom.

Superb academic outcomes are the hallmark of a Wycombe Abbey education and girls regularly secure places at the most prestigious universities globally. However, we understand the importance of looking beyond the narrow confines of excellent examination results to define success. Our rich co-curricular programme includes an array of activities and opportunities, ensuring that every girl develops her passions and explores new possibilities. These experiences, in turn, help to build the skills, discipline and character that will support her future life.

Last year's UVI girls were awarded 63.3% at A* and 93.9% A*-A grades at A Level. Most importantly, the vast majority of the UVI secured places at their first choice universities including the London School of Economics and Political Science, Durham University, University of St Andrews and the University of Bristol, to study a broad range of courses. Sixteen girls took up places at Oxford and Cambridge, and a number of girls secured their chosen places at US universities including Columbia, Stanford, Georgetown, University of Chicago and University of California, Berkeley. At GCSE, 95.2% were awarded A* grades and 99.6% A*-A grades. The vast majority of last year's UV have continued into our Sixth Form.

Ultimately, schools are about people and at the heart of Wycombe Abbey's success is our total commitment to pastoral care through boarding. The core values of mutual respect, encouragement and trust underpin everything we do; in this happy and close-knit community everyone is known as an individual, friendships flourish and girls enjoy each other's company, all within the wonderful surroundings of 170 acres of magnificent parkland.

We offer superb modern facilities, including a sports centre with a heated indoor 25-metre pool, a performing arts centre with its own theatre and recital hall, a wide range of teaching facilities and our Courtyard Cafe. We are constantly improving and evolving our estate and through the development of our site masterplan, we will see the creation of a truly world class campus. You can read more about Wycombe Abbey's Strategic Direction here.

Wycombe Abbey's outstanding reputation for excellence is built on the dedication and skills of our staff. Every member of staff at Wycombe Abbey contributes towards the School's thriving community and works to continually strengthen our ambition for excellence. We seek to recruit well-qualified and enthusiastic staff who demonstrate knowledge of, and passion for their area of expertise and contribute to the wider life of the School. In return, the School provides staff with a wide variety of opportunities to develop professionally within a supportive team and wonderful working environment.

Thank you for your interest in joining Wycombe Abbey; if you would like to discover more about the School, please refer to our website here. We hope that you will find the information in this pack useful and we look forward to hearing from you if you feel that this post may suit your skills and experience.



Mrs Jo Duncan
Headmistress

Teaching at Wycombe Abbey

The pupils at Wycombe Abbey are highly motivated with a strong work ethic. They are inquisitive, creative and eager to learn. Both pupils and teachers benefit from the small classes (typically no larger than 20 in Key Stages 3-4 and no larger than12 in the Sixth Form), as well as well-resourced classrooms, libraries, laboratories and other facilities.

There is a wide range of ages and experience amongst the 115 teaching staff. Each year a number of newly qualified, and in some cases unqualified recent graduates, join the staff body. Wycombe offers statutory induction for Early Career Teachers and also offers teacher training/teaching apprenticeships to those without a PGCE. There is proactive support for all new members of staff, who are guided through their first year at School by a variety of colleagues, with the line manager and an individually-appointed mentor taking the lead.

The School prides itself on the many opportunities for continuing professional development. We organise regular whole staff in-service training and have a generous budget for training outside School. In addition, academic departments commit to sharing good practice. There are opportunities to take part in peer observation, peer coaching, learning reviews and working parties.

A Wycombe teacher typically teaches 30 35-minute periods per week. In addition, they are attached to a boarding house and are responsible for a tutor group of around 10 pupils from the house. Teachers give freely of their time outside timetabled lessons, with many committing to co-curricular activities and helping individual pupils with their academic progress. Teachers are also expected to commit to other (supervisory) duties, such as accompanying house outings.

As a boarding school, Wycombe has lessons on Saturday mornings. There is time off during the week in lieu of Saturday teaching. Teachers are expected to be in school by 8.15am on weekdays and 8.45am on a Saturday. The teaching day finishes at 5.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 4.15pm on Wednesday and 11.50am on Saturday. Co-curricular and enrichment activities typically extend beyond these hours.



The Geography Department

Geography is a successful department at Wycombe Abbey. It has an excellent academic record at IGCSE, A Level and university entrance. The majority of lessons are taught in our two dedicated Geography classrooms which are well equipped. The department comprises four members of staff.

Girls in the UIII to UIV (Years 7 to 9) have two 35-minute Geography periods per week, with four per week in the Fifth Form (Years 10 and 11), and eight per week in the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13). Our GCSE pupils follow the Edexcel IGCSE specification, our results in 2020 were fantastic with 98% of pupils gaining grades 9-7.

Geography is a strong and rapidly growing subject at A Level, with 22 currently studying in the Sixth Form. We follow the OCR A Level Specification which offers a range of interesting and exciting content as well as fieldwork opportunities. The A Level pupils perform at a very high level, in 2020 83% of pupils gained A*/A grades. Each year, many girls choose to continue with Geography at university with offers from Cambridge, Oxford and top Russell Group universities.

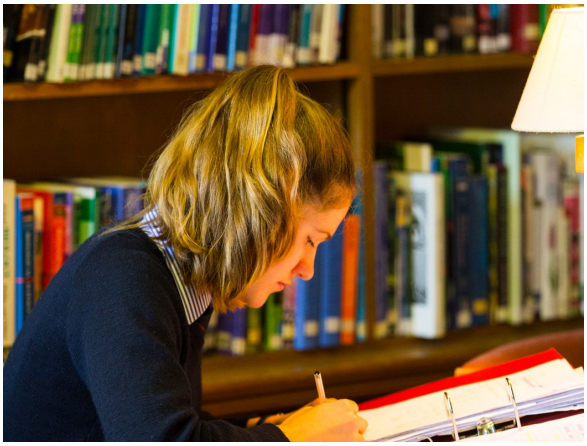
The Geography Department currently offers residential fieldwork opportunities at GCSE in Devon and A Level in the Brecon Beacons, as well as international trips to a range of locations including Iceland. We run a number of day trips to London and High Wycombe and carry out virtual fieldwork with the FSC at A Level.

Aims and Objectives

The Geography Department aims to:

- Develop, maintain and stimulate pupils' curiosity, interest and enjoyment in Geography
- Develop pupils' familiarity with appropriate geographical concepts, skills and vocabulary
- Develop pupils' understanding of Geography in its widest context, and to see how it relates to them outside school and throughout their lives
- Encourage pupils to develop high quality fieldwork skills through the running of field trips
- Encourage pupils to develop personal qualities such as perseverance, initiative, empathy, self-confidence and independence
- Enable independent and group work for all pupils
- Promote sustainability in lessons, in the wider school community and in everyday life.





Person Specification

Wycombe Abbey provides a modern and innovative education within a traditional boarding setting, and we therefore seek to employ teachers who will bring outstanding talent, intellect, enthusiasm and innovation to our classrooms.

The successful applicant is likely to possess:

- A good degree in Geography or a related subject
- Excellent subject knowledge and the ability to teach Human and Physical Geography to A level
- A teaching qualification (e.g, PGCE) is desirable although we are happy to consider good graduates who are committed to teaching and boarding life
- The ability to stimulate and foster enthusiasm for Geography at a high level, whilst encouraging all pupils to achieve their very best
- An understanding of the importance of monitoring, assessing and reporting on pupil progress, encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their learning
- A willingness to contribute to the wider objectives of the department through sharing resources, contributing to schemes of work and organising and attending department events
- An interest in developing links with other subjects across the curriculum
- The highest level of communication skills for dealing with pupils, parents and staff
- The ability to build a positive and collaborative rapport with pupils and staff alike
- A willingness to be involved in the wider life of the School through commitment to the co-curricular programme and/or boarding
- A willingness to contribute to the organisation and running of field trips in order to assist pupils to develop high quality fieldwork skills
- An appreciation of the aims and ethos of Wycombe Abbey.







Belonging to the Wycombe Abbey Community

Wycombe Abbey is a welcoming and vibrant community for all staff.

Our school is set in 170 acres of parkland. It is a beautiful countryside setting, within a five-minute walk of the town of High Wycombe. There is easy access to London, the Chiltern Hills and attractive towns such as Marlow, Beaconsfield and Henley-on-Thames nearby. There are many National Trust properties within five miles such as Hughenden Manor, Disraeli's home for many years, West Wycombe Park and Cliveden.

There are outstanding Grammar Schools in High Wycombe itself and also in surrounding towns. London is within easy reach, with the fast train from High Wycombe to London Marylebone taking just 24 minutes. Oxford and Bicester Village are within 30 miles, with a new direct train link. Wembley Stadium and Heathrow are just 20 miles away and there are good transport links to the other London airports.

There is a range of committees that staff can join including Wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion, Sustainability and others. The Wycombe Abbey Community Association works in partnership with the Wellbeing Committee to organise staff wellbeing and social events on a regular basis, which are well-attended.

Wycombe Abbey celebrates its significant 125th anniversary this year and an exciting programme of celebratory events is taking place to mark this milestone.

Terms of Appointment

A formal contract of employment will be drawn up on appointment.

The following notes provide guidance, without prejudice, on the main provisions of the agreement.

Contract

This is a full-time, fixed-term contract. The first six months will be a probationary period.

Appointment Date

April 2022 until August 2023.

Salary

Wycombe Abbey has its own pay scale which compares favourably with other independent schools and is well above that of the maintained sector.

Pension Scheme

The School currently offers membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Death in Service Cover

Members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme have life cover at x 3 annual salary.

Training and Development

There is an extensive induction programme for new colleagues and ongoing professional development and training of all staff.

Provision of Meals

Meals and refreshments are provided free of charge during the working day.

Sports Centre

The facilities in the Davies Sports Centre (swimming pool, squash courts, fitness suite, etc.) are available for staff use.

Fee Remission

Fee remission is available for daughters attending the School, subject to the usual entry requirements and space being available.

Parking

Free parking is provided.

Equal Opportunities

It is the policy of Wycombe Abbey to ensure equality of opportunity for all members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching.

Safeguarding

All staff share responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the pupils and must adhere to, and comply with, the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy at all times.

Pre-Employment Checks

The appointment is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.

Applications

Please apply as soon as possible. Suitable applicant may be interviewed and appointed upon receipt of application.

Please submit a completed application form, which you will find on our website, as soon as possible, together with a covering letter addressed to the Headmistress, Mrs Jo Duncan, outlining the experience and personal qualities which you believe qualify you for this position.

The application form and letter should be emailed to Miss K Scorer, Senior HR Officer: scorerk@wycombeabbey.com

WYCOMBE ABBEY

IN FIDE VADE

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