

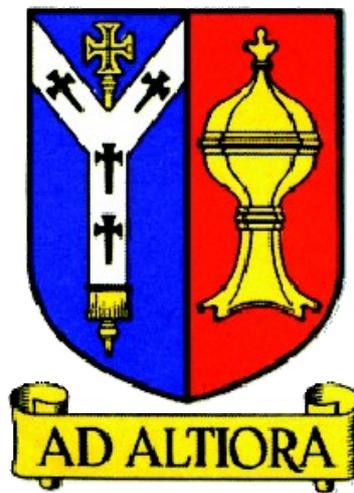


GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Head of Biology Information Booklet

Gunnersbury Catholic School



enabling our students
to achieve to the very highest

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Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Applicant

As Headteacher of Gunnersbury Catholic School I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you.

This is a fantastic time to join Gunnersbury Catholic School. The talents of our leadership, teachers and the superb student body has culminated in our school being ranked as the leading **Boys' Comprehensive School in the country for GCSE achievement (DfE Performance Tables 2025)**. Our 2025 cohort achieved 93% 5 GCSEs at 9-4 *including English and Mathematics* and a 'Progress 8' score of +1.0. Similarly at A-level we enable outstanding outcomes for our students. The appetite for success that our pupils possess, their Catholic values and superb behaviour allied to the supportive colleagues and leaders at Gunnersbury make this a great place to work and take your career on to the next level.

We seek a ambitious, talented and successful Head of Biology to be a key leader within our School. If you have a passion for the subject and a desire to enable students to receive the very best biology teaching then we would like to hear from you.

Our new Head of Biology will receive training, coaching and development of the highest quality, enabling them to become the very best leader that they can be. Developing our staff is key to what we do at Gunnersbury Catholic School as we understand that progressing staff ensures learning of the highest quality for our pupils.

Within our school we have been able to create a unique setting. Ours is a school within which students take pride in succeeding, where the pupils strive to achieve the very highest and where there is an unrelenting desire to do even better. At Gunnersbury Catholic School successes and achievements in all spheres are proudly celebrated by our students. We are a busy, thriving and ambitious school. Gunnersbury's academic achievement has been acknowledged by Fischer Family Trust as being amongst the top 3% of schools in the country. Year after year government schools' ministers have acknowledged our GCSE success as being amongst the top 100 schools nationally. Ofsted and the Diocese of Westminster have both determined that we are an outstanding school. We pride ourselves on our academic success, achievements that provide entry for our students to world leading universities and high quality careers.

There is however even more to a Gunnersbury education. We enable our students to develop in all aspects of their person: spiritual, moral, sporting, artistic and social. Gunnersbury moulds fully rounded individuals ready to take their place in and make a difference to society. More so, Gunnersbury strives to and succeeds in developing young adults equipped to take their place as leaders in an ever-changing world.

If you are someone who seeks to reach for the highest in all that you do, Ad Altiora, then we would like to hear from you.

I look forward to receiving your application.

With kind regards.



Kevin S Burke
Headteacher

The Role

The Head of Biology is integral to Gunnersbury's provision of superb teaching and achievement within the subject. The new postholder shall seek to further the learning experience and outcomes of our students and they shall seek to encourage the creative expression of our students. Further to examination success, the department keenly seeks to establish a love of Biology. Requirements of the position include:

Leadership

- Securing and sustaining effective teaching of biology
- Evaluation of the quality of teaching and achievement of biology in the department
- Have responsibility for the attainment of individual targets by each student studying biology
- Lead staff, through the provision of appropriate support, challenge and motivation, to excellence in their teaching
- Develop and implement schemes of work and policies such as will deliver excellence in Teaching & Learning and high pupil achievement
- Work with the departmental team of teachers and with Heads of Year and tutors to make sure that the work and progress of pupils is monitored and recorded in order to secure fulfilment of their personal and academic potential in biology
- Ensure that assessment systems effectively monitor pupil progress and reliably inform reports and curriculum planning.
- Plan, develop and introduce curriculum changes when required for a high quality provision

Teaching

- Ensure that individual lessons are planned, well prepared and take account of the ability of individual groups. Teachers must demand the highest standards from pupils in all areas, including classwork, homework, behaviour, attitude, organisation and presentation.
- Create an effective learning environment for all pupils, maintaining high standards of behaviour and ensuring that rooms are a pleasant place to study.
- Regularly set and mark appropriate work for pupils in order to assess progress and understanding. When marking and assessing, teachers should follow the agreed departmental policies.
- Keep a record of work and records of assessment as outlined in the school and departmental handbooks. They must be prepared to provide information on individual pupil progress based on school target data as required by the Leadership team other teaching staff and parents.
- Lead in departmental meetings and in the development of departmental policies, schemes of work, assessment programmes and examinations.
- Attend appropriate parents' consultation evenings, well-prepared to discuss pupils' work and to provide assessment of individual pupils as and when required.
- Participate in regular self review and evaluation, attending appropriate training days as part of your ongoing professional development.
- In planning units of work and individual lessons, teachers should keep in mind the requirements of the Exam Boards and department Schemes of work and ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all students.
- Contribute towards extra-curricular activities.
- Attend to all duties as directed by the headteacher.

The above characteristics and details of the role are not exhaustive. Rather they represent a guide to the requirements of the job. Furthermore the job description/requirements are subject to regular review and may change over time.

The Person

Personal Qualities and Attributes

- A passion for Biology and its teaching
- A commitment to providing students with the very best education and life chances
- The talent and capability to be a leader in Biology
- The ability to inspire and motivate pupils and staff
- Excellent communicator and a team player
- Ambitions for self development and future career promotion
- Persistent, energetic and enthusiastic
- Adaptable
- A positive outlook

Qualifications, knowledge and professional skills

- Qualified Teacher Status
- A relevant degree or higher qualification
- An excellent teacher who will enable pupil success
- Knowledge of the requirements of the Biology Curriculum at KS3, KS4 and KS5
- The ability to produce high quality schemes of work
- Proficient in interpreting and using data to further students' success
- Understanding of safeguarding and its successful implementation to ensure the safety of children
- Leads by example with high professional standards

Above all else we seek to appoint a superb teacher with a real passion for biology, who is committed to the success of their students and the talent to be an exceptional leader within the school. Potential, dynamism, determination and resolve are key attributes for this role.

Our excellent school and science department will provide the experience, training and guidance to enable this ambition to be fulfilled.



The Department

Gunnersbury Catholic School is a highly successful Science Specialist School. Year on year we infuse a love of Science within our pupils and achieve excellent results. In 2025 at Key Stage 4, over 92% achieved two or more Science GCSEs at grade 5. Similar superb results were achieved at A-Level

The Science department consists of 11 specialist Science teachers and 3 laboratory technicians. In addition to the Head of Science there are three other TLR post holders within the department (Head of Biology, Chemistry and Physics). The Science department is a strong and supportive team which is keen to share ideas and embrace new ways of teaching and learning, including the use of ICT.

The Science department has 8 recently refurbished laboratories and 3 preparation rooms. The department has its own Staff workroom and fully equipped ICT suite, a full range of sensing equipment and 8 interactive whiteboards.

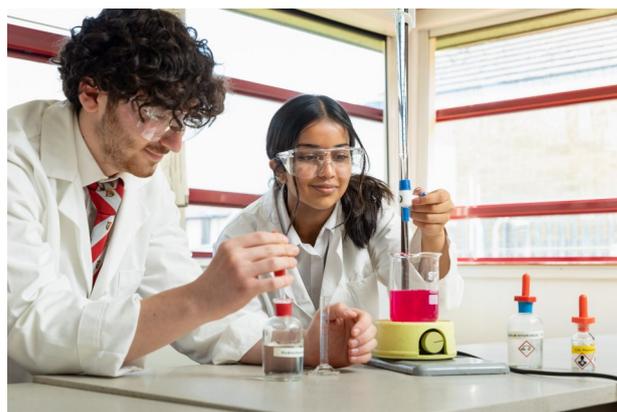
In Year 7 and 8, KS3 Science is taught as Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics by one teacher to the National Curriculum. In Year 9 and KS4, our pupils follow the AQA GCSE syllabus for Combined Science (Trilogy) and Separate Science GCSE awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, taught by subject specialists. In KS5, A-Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics follow the AQA Specification.

All Science A-levels are an exceptionally popular choice for our 6th form pupils, with the Biology department establishing itself as the most popular year on year. Along with a robust course of study, the Biology department carry out an A-level field trip for the Year 13 students which the pupils not only find enjoyable but also very informative and useful towards their studies. Every year there is a Biology Challenge event carried out by Year 10 and Year 12 pupils to further enhance their knowledge outside of the set curriculum.

The Science department has a thriving Science and Engineering Club. Also we celebrate a Science Week each year, with a variety of different activities. In addition to this, we have extensive extra-curricular activities which include a variety of trips and visits, talks and workshops.

As a Science Specialist School we have developed strong links with partner schools both at secondary and primary level. In addition, we have been able to develop close partnerships with Higher Education Institutions including Imperial College and Surrey University as well as professional establishments such as Glaxosmithkline.

The Science department aims to continually improve and react to the ever changing world. We recognise that to teach Science effectively we must give pupils activities which they enjoy, see the relevance of and are taught by teachers with excellent subject knowledge.



The School

Gunnersbury is a Voluntary Aided School for Catholic boys. Administered by a Board of Governors acting under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Westminster. The annual intake is 184 pupils and the total number of pupils on roll is 1257, including a mixed Sixth Form of boys and girls. We achieved 'Outstanding' in all categories of our recent Ofsted Inspection in January 2023. Year on year our school regularly achieves excellent examination results. In 2025 93% of year 11 pupils gained at least five GCSEs at 9-4, including English and Maths. Our 'Progress 8' score for this cohort was +1.0. As such we are ranked as the leading Boys' Comprehensive School for GCSE in the country. Similarly we achieve excellent results at A- level.

The school was founded in 1919 by Fr William Roche, became a Voluntary Aided Grammar School in 1932, took its first comprehensive intake in 1972, became Grant Maintained in April 1993 and returned to Voluntary Aided in September 1999. It has been designated a Specialist School in September 2003. Since then we have been awarded a further specialism, Leading Edge, whilst also achieving High Performance Specialist Status.

Although located in the London Borough of Hounslow, Gunnersbury considers itself a Diocesan School and draws from a wide catchment area consisting mainly of the London Boroughs of Hounslow, Ealing and

Richmond, but some pupils attend from even further afield coming from Central London, Brent, Hillingdon, Spelthorne and Harrow.

The Catholic character of the school is an essential and important part of school life. It is made explicit not just in the religious education programme and shared values but in the liturgical life of the school. There is a voluntary mass on Fridays and important feast days together with family liturgies, a retreat programme and Morning Prayer in Advent and Lent. The School Chapel is set-aside as a quiet area for prayer and liturgy.

The school is led by a Headteacher supported by three Deputy Heads within a senior staff of 8. Each member of the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for a distinct pastoral, academic, administrative and policy area of the school. Departments are subject based. The school has a well-developed system of pastoral care, overseen by a Year Head and Form Tutor. High standards of behaviour and dress are expected and the pastoral system aims to promote the development of self-discipline and consideration for others. The School Council meets regularly, chaired by a member of the Sixth Form.

Gunnersbury is always over-subscribed with first choice applications from Catholic pupils. Our mission is to continue to provide these pupils with the very best Catholic education for their lives ahead.



How to Apply

To assist in this key decision of your career visits to Gunnersbury Catholic School, prior to application, are welcomed. Visits can be arranged through the Business Manager, Ms K Smith email:

welcome@gunnersbury.hounslow.sch.uk, telephone no: 020 8568 7281

In order to apply, please complete the CES Teacher Application Forms on the school website.

Completed applications should be posted to the headteacher's PA at:

Gunnersbury Catholic School
The Ride
Boston Manor Road
Brentford
TW8 9LB

or emailed to: welcome@gunnersbury.hounslow.sch.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is: Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 at 10am

Applications will be considered immediately upon their receipt

Gunnersbury Catholic School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.



The Advert

Job details

Employer:	Gunnersbury Catholic School
Location:	London (Brentford)
Salary:	MPS/UPS + TLR 2C(Outer London)
Contract type:	Full time
Contract term:	Permanent
Start date:	September 2026

Gunnersbury Catholic School is seeking to appoint a highly talented and ambitious Head of Biology at our Outstanding School. This post provides a fantastic opportunity for an aspiring Biology Teacher to receive the very best coaching and experience in their leadership journey. As a department biology has been integral to Gunnersbury year on year achieving extraordinary outcomes for our students. An environment as ours, can enable you to become the very best biology teacher and a highly successful school leader.

The Role

Our leaders are integral to Gunnersbury's success through their oversight of superb teaching outstanding achievement is enabled for all. The Head of Biology is key to Gunnersbury's provision of excellent teaching and achievement within Biology and Science. The new postholder shall seek to further the learning experience and outcomes of our students. Further to examination success, the department keenly seeks to establish a love of biology within our students.

The Person

Above all else we seek to appoint a superb teacher with a real passion for biology who is committed to the success of their students and the talent to be an exceptional leader within the school. Previous leadership experience, whilst helpful, is not as important as potential, dynamism, determination and resolve. We seek an outstanding teacher with the insight and capability to lead and inspire students and staff alike. Our excellent school and department will provide the experience, training and guidance to enable this ambition to be fulfilled.

The School

Year on year Gunnersbury Catholic School has developed our staff to become fantastic teachers and leaders. In doing so, from one year to the next, we have enabled unparalleled success for our students. Our school is:

- a Catholic community where care for each other, student ambition, pupil motivation and behaviour are exemplary
- committed to providing quality support, guidance and coaching to develop our staff so that they may progress to the highest levels as teachers and leaders
- highest achieving for GCSE boys non-selective school in the country
- an environment that enables achievement of the highest order 93% 5 GCSEs at 9-4 *including English and Maths* in 2025, Progress 8 score of +1.0
- The setting that achieved the highest proportion of A*s at A-Level in the borough
- determined by Fischer Family Trust as being amongst the top 3% of schools Nationally
- determined 'Outstanding' by Ofsted (2023)
- determined 'Outstanding' in all areas by Diocese of Westminster (s48 inspection, 2019)
- a workplace where staff are a friendly, welcoming and helpful team



GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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