

Blanchelande Girls' College

Appointment of Head of Religious Education For September 2010

The College

Blanchelande Girls' College is a Catholic independent school for boys and girls aged 3 to 7 and for girls aged 7 to 18.

There are approximately 275 students on roll, of which approximately one third are Catholic.

There is one class in each year of the Infant and Junior Colleges and two classes in each year of the Senior College. College policy is to restrict the maximum class size to 20. The Pre-School department can take up to 16 children aged 3 and over.

The new College opened in 1992 after the Sisters of Mercy had to withdraw from the original Blanchelande. It grew from only 40 students to almost 200 in the first 5 years. It is administered as a charitable trust and three Trustees manage the finances of the College. The Board of Governors act as College managers. In May 2001 the States of Guernsey agreed in principle that Blanchelande should receive funding for each senior pupil on roll, in line with the two other Colleges on the Island. Blanchelande also receives up to 6 Special Place Holders in Year 7 each year. These are Catholics who have been awarded a place through the 11+ selection system and their tuition fees are covered by the States of Guernsey.

Blanchelande is not selective and therefore our pupils' ability varies greatly. Our aim is always to develop each pupil to their full potential in line with our motto 'a family, not a factory'.

The College moved to the current Les Vauxbelets site in April 1999 after an extensive refurbishment programme. Les Vauxbelets is a beautiful estate in a rural setting with large historic buildings. The Infant Department is based in a separate building on the site which was completely renovated and refurbished for the opening in September 2004.

As an independent school we choose the National Curriculum as a framework for our teaching and learning but constantly try to offer deeper and broader access. We are always interested in new educational developments and, whenever possible, share training with other local schools.

The Catholic nature of our school is central to our success and all staff are in sympathy with the aims of a Catholic school and willing to actively support the ethos of the College.

We are fortunate that the small class sizes and supportive nature of our parents helps to create a pleasant and orderly school environment. The majority of students take 10 GCSE subjects and the average A* to C pass rate is over 80% for the last 5 years. A level pass rates have been 100% for 3 of the last 5 years.

Head of R.E. Post

As a Catholic school Religious Education is central to the purpose and ethos of the College and all senior students take R.E. for approximately 10% of teaching time. Religious Studies is a compulsory subject at GCSE and is also available as an A level option. R.E. is currently taught by three members of staff in the senior college, all part time.

Due to the nature of our school the Head of R.E. should ideally be a practising Catholic and have a good knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church. They must be willing to actively support the Catholic ethos of the College both inside and outside the classroom.

Key Criteria – Essential to this post

1. Has a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
2. Is willing to actively support the Catholic nature of the College
3. Has relevant experience in teaching, monitoring and managing R.E.
4. Works well as a member of a team
5. Is a suitably qualified and effective classroom practitioner for a wide ability range who creates a positive and supportive classroom environment for all pupils
6. Shows initiative in driving forward new programmes or developments
7. Sets themselves high standards as a teaching professional including good organisational and communication skills at all levels
8. Has developed their professional expertise and competence
9. Actively supports the wider aspirations of the school

Key Criteria – Preferred

1. Is an active practising Catholic
2. Is a competent user of ICT for both teaching and learning and administration
3. An ability and willingness to teach another subject

The Post - Key Areas

The post holder will :

- Be responsible for leading the R.E. Department by developing, monitoring and supporting a policy for R.E. across the whole school.
- Work with and provide support for all R.E. teachers throughout the senior school.
- Identify curriculum needs, research and identified appropriate courses to deliver.
- Manage the budget and resources for R.E.

The Post – General Responsibilities

- Follow the precepts of our mission statement and so provide a caring environment for first class teaching and learning.
- Set an example of high professional standards and competence as a part-time teacher, details to be agreed by negotiation. (70 – 75 % timetable likely.)
- Work to ensure the safety, happiness and well-being of the staff and pupils.
- Contribute to whole school policy and practice.
- Join in the provision of a wider curriculum.
- Contribute to our important links with parents, other schools, the Catholic community and the wider community.

The Contract.

The salary will be in accordance with the agreed pay scale for Guernsey teachers based on Main and Upper Pay Scales. As a small school **there is NO MANAGEMENT ALLOWANCE APPLIED TO THIS POST.** (There are other paid posts of responsibility which all staff are able to apply for which require taking on specific roles, which are internally advertised periodically.)

The teaching year is 181 days with normally 4 training days in addition. (The Colleges work 10 days less than States' schools.)

Conditions of Service are largely in line with those in other schools in Guernsey with the exception of the shorter working year, terms of notice and maternity arrangements.

Blanchelande staff are admitted to the Guernsey Civil Service Pension Scheme which is compulsory for full time staff. This is currently a contributory final salary pension scheme.

All staff are required to hold an enhanced police check and a valid 'Right to Work' document. A 15 year Housing Licence should shortly be approved for this post.

Further Information

Further information about the College can also be obtained from our website, www.blanchelande.co.uk

A College Prospectus is available by contacting the College Office (admin.bgc@cwgsy.net) although the information contained in it is replicated on our website.

If you have any queries or require any clarification, please contact the Principal for an informal and confidential discussion in the first instance.

(**Please note** – Blanchelande is an independent school and is not administered by the Education Department.)

To apply for this post

Applications for this post should consist of :

- A full c.v.
- A detailed letter of application
- Names and contact details for THREE referees, one of which should be from a current or recent educational post.

You may be asked for further information following shortlisting. A reference from the local Catholic priest may be requested.

You will be asked to provide proof of identity and original qualification certificates at first interview.

The Selection Panel

The selection panel will normally include :

The Chairman of the Board of Governors

Another member of the Board of Governors

The Principal

A representative of the Diocese of Portsmouth or the local Catholic Church

The Selection Process

After shortlisting, the Selection Process will normally include:-

- Consideration of the c.v., references and letter of application
- A short lesson (about 20 to 30 mins) observed by the Principal.
The views of the pupils will be considered after this lesson.
- A meeting with the School Council
- An Interview with the Principal, Vice Principal and members of the Board of Governors lasting 30 to 40 mins.

The appointment will need to be approved by the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Closing Date

Applications must be received by 12th March 2010 for consideration and should be addressed to the Principal.

Interviews are likely to be held in the week beginning 22nd March 2010.

If you have any further questions or need any clarification, please contact the Principal, Lesley Le Page, Tel. 01481 237200 or principal.bgc@cwgsy.net