



# Blanchelande College

## Blanchelande College Appointment of Teacher of Theology & English (part time) For January 2019 or as soon as available

### **The College**

Blanchelande College is a co-educational Catholic independent school for pupils aged 4 to 16. The College educates over 370 pupils, of whom approximately one third are Catholic. Blanchelande's Catholic mission and identity, understood and supported by all staff, are at the heart of school life.

Blanchelande has a one-form structure from Reception to Year 4, with room for two forms in Years 5 and 6, and for three forms in the senior school (Years 7-11). Typically, classes contain around twenty pupils. Pupils are required to pass an entrance assessment to ensure that they can access our curriculum, but otherwise Blanchelande is not an academically selective school and the College nurtures a wide ability range. Exam results in August 2017 were excellent: 100% of pupils achieved at least five A\*-C grades, and the proportion of A/A\* grades was 33% (nearly doubling from 18% in 2016). In 2018 the proportion of students achieving 7-9 rose to over 38%.

The College was recently (October 2018) inspected by ISI and was found to be 'excellent' across the board and fully compliant with all British Schools Overseas regulations. The report is available [here](#). The College is also inspected by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, and is preparing for Diocesan validation in the near future.

Blanchelande offers an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities before, during and after the school day, to which all academic staff are expected to contribute.

### **History**

Blanchelande was re-founded in 1992 by parents and members of the local community after the Sisters of Mercy withdrew their Order from Guernsey. The new school began in temporary accommodation and in its first five years grew from 40 pupils to almost 200. It is now almost twice that and is experiencing a period of strong growth.

In April 1999, the College moved to its current address at Les Vauxbelets (former site of the De La Salle boys' school) after an extensive refurbishment programme. Les Vauxbelets is a beautiful estate in a rural setting with large historical buildings. 2017-18 has seen a new round of developments, including the relocation of the Infants to renovated classrooms in the main school buildings, and the conversion of Victor House (formerly the Infant school) into an Arts Centre for music, drama and art. Further projects include the conversion of the Undercroft basement area, new computers throughout the school and the development of an agricultural field into a breath-taking cricket pitch. There are many further plans in the pipeline.



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## **Leadership/Governance**

Blanchelande is administered as a charitable trust and three Trustees oversee the finances of the College. As a grant-maintained college, Blanchelande receives a degree of funding from the States of Guernsey.

The Senior Management Team consists of the Principal, Vice Principal (Secondary), Vice Principal (Primary), Head of Pastoral Care and the Bursar. This team meets weekly and works closely together on all aspects of College life. There is also a Senior Leadership Team, which comprises the Head of Activities and Head of Careers in addition to the SMT.

The Board of Governors meets twice a term and is responsible for working with the Principal in setting the strategic direction for the school, including approval of school policies, and for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school. The Board operates sub-committees – such as for educational issues, ICT and property management – which also meet regularly.

The Trustees are responsible for the administration of the whole school site, including the financial administration of the College and the relationships with the site owners and with sub-tenants.

The Principal of Blanchelande College is Mr Robert O'Brien, formerly Deputy Head at Westminster Cathedral Choir School.

## **The Theology department**

Theology at Blanchelande College follows Diocesan guidelines while retaining its independence in choosing appropriate resources and curriculum. At Key Stage 3 the College broadly follows the ISEB Religious Studies Syllabus B (Common Entrance). At Key Stage 4 (GCSE), students follow the Eduquas Religious Studies Route B course, which consists of three components: Foundational Catholic Theology, Applied Catholic Theology and Study of a World Faith (Judaism). Theology GCSE is a core subject, studied by all students. Each class receives four 35 minute lessons per week (generally two double periods). The Theology department currently comprises four teachers in the senior school.

## **The English department**

English is taught throughout the school, with both English Literature and English Language studied at KS4. At KS3, students study a wide range of prose and dramatic texts, including *The Tempest*, *The Book Thief* and *Lord of the Flies* (in Year 8), and *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and *Journey's End* (in Year 9). Pupils also develop their ability to analyse of works of non-fiction, as well as contemporary and classic poetry. Throughout their



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studies, pupils continue to refine their grasp of English spelling, punctuation and grammar.

At KS4 all pupils follow the Edexcel IGCSE specification (2016). Currently this consists of internally moderated coursework (40%) and a written examination (60%) for both Literature and Language. The English department is run by two subject specialists who collaborate closely with the Head of Learning Support. Weekly meetings are held to discuss pupil progress and to identify any students requiring additional help or support. Lunchtime and after-school clubs run by the English department play a large part in enabling pupils to improve their confidence and level of attainment.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for this post should consist of:

- A detailed letter of application stating how you believe you meet the criteria for this role.
- A copy of your C.V.
- Names and contact details for three referees, one of which should be from your current or most recent educational post. We will assume that you are happy for us to take up references straight away, unless we hear otherwise.

You may be asked for further information following short listing. You will be asked to provide proof of identity and original qualification certificates at interview.

After short listing, the Selection Process will normally include:-

- A tour of the College.
- An observed lesson, after which the views of the pupils will be considered.
- An interview with the selection panel, which will normally include a Governor, the Principal, the Vice Principal and a subject specialist.

## The Contract

The position of Teacher of Theology and English is currently part-time, though there may be other teaching opportunities available for the right candidate. The salary will be in accordance with the States of Guernsey teachers' scale. Blanchelande staff are admitted to the Guernsey Civil Service Pension Scheme, a contributory final salary pension scheme.

All staff are required to undergo a current police check, a medical declaration, provide proof of qualifications and identity and have a Guernsey housing qualification.



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## **Closing Date**

Applications must be received by Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 for consideration and should be addressed to Mr Robert O'Brien, Principal.

Further information about Blanchelande College can also be obtained from our website, [www.blanchelande.co.uk](http://www.blanchelande.co.uk).

If you have any further questions or need any clarification, please contact the Principal's P.A., Mrs Maria Green.

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