



Queen
Elizabeth's
School

FOUNDED IN 1573

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Graduate Teacher of Physics (with or with Qualified Teacher Status)



Welcome from the Headmaster

Thank you for considering an application to join us as **Graduate Teacher of Physics** at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. We are seeking an exceptional candidate, who relishes the opportunity of playing a significant role within the team taking our physics department forward from its present strong position into an exciting future.

For 450 years, boys have benefited from a Queen Elizabeth's School education. We are a selective school with a meritocratic ethos, committed to developing pupils' intellectual abilities and unashamedly celebrating academic accomplishment.

Ofsted has judged the School to be 'Outstanding' in all areas, following an inspection carried out in May 2022 – the sixth consecutive time QE has been awarded the highest grading.

Also, in 2022, QE was The Sunday Times Schools Guide's State Secondary School of the Year. More recently, in the autumn of 2024, we were recognised in The Sunday Times' Parent Power survey as the country's foremost state school for A-level performance – a position we have held regularly over the last 15 years.

Proud as we are of our stellar examination results, there is much more to QE than that, as is made clear in our formal mission "to produce young men who are confident, able and responsible".

We nurture habits of genuine scholarship that take boys well beyond the classroom curriculum. We provide a plethora of exciting and worthwhile extra-curricular activities. And we inculcate a spirit of service, encouraging Elizabethans to give time to causes greater than themselves. QE offers, as the Good Schools Guide November 2020 report puts it, "an exceptional and rounded education that even private schools would struggle to match".

At Queen Elizabeth's, we aim to provide a state education like no other. If you can help us in this endeavour, I look forward to hearing from you.

Neil Enright
Headmaster





The School

Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet

A highly successful and very well-run grammar school

QE offers a highly rewarding working environment, where staff thrive on teaching and guiding some of the most able young men in the country to fulfil their considerable potential.

Our examination results at GCSE and A-level consistently place QE among the very best schools nationally. Moreover, we encourage boys to pursue their intellectual interests through an extensive academic enrichment programme. QE also offers extra-curricular activities in areas as diverse as music, drama, sport, chess and robotics. All boys are expected to participate in the wider life of the School. Pupils regularly win awards at the national and even international stages of competitions.

The firm foundations underpinning the School's academic and extra-curricular achievements are reflected in its five consecutive "outstandingly successful" Ofsted reports. The School is heavily oversubscribed; large numbers attend our annual open day and sit the entrance examination. There are presently 1,298 boys on the roll, with a full complement at all ages from Year 7 through to Year 13, and a Sixth Form of about 350.


In a typical year, 90% of Year 13 leavers win places at Russell Group universities, while a higher proportion of our pupils go on to Oxford or Cambridge than from any other state school in the country. Despite all the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, QE has continued to flourish. Sixty-two Elizabethans were offered places at Oxford or Cambridge in January 2024, taking the total over the past three years to 144.

We are firmly in the second half of the implementation of our 2021–2025 School plan, entitled Building on Distinction. This draws inspiration from our rich heritage, while re-imagining our mission for a world that is rapidly changing.

Further information:

- [The School brochure](#)
- [Our mission](#)
- [Building on Distinction](#)
- [School performance](#)
- [Ofsted report \(May 2022\)](#)





“Queen Elizabeth’s is making the top spot in our annual rankings its own and our award this year recognises that sustained excellence.”

Alistair McCall, editor of *The Sunday Times Schools Guide, Parent Power*, announcing QE as 2022’s *State Secondary School of the Year*.


THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

**STATE SECONDARY
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
FOR A-LEVELS**


THE SUNDAY TIMES
**SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2022**

**STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE YEAR**

Thriving from ancient roots

Celebrating our 450th anniversary in 2023

We were keen to celebrate the significant milestone of our 450th anniversary in 2023. The start of the anniversary year was heralded by a royal visit from HRH The Duke of Gloucester in late 2022.

On the day of the anniversary itself, Friday 24th March 2023, a service of thanksgiving took place in Westminster Abbey. Attended by all the boys and by hundreds of others, including staff, governors, alumni and parents, it was a day to remember for the whole Elizabethan community.



Our professionally produced 450th anniversary video provides a whistlestop tour of our fantastic year. Great memories, and all to the soundtrack of international composer Howard Goodall's anthem, *And Be It Known*, commissioned for the Westminster Abbey thanksgiving service and performed by the Chamber Choir in a special recording session.



1573 — 2023



Leadership & Governance



The Governing Body

Queen Elizabeth's Governing Body was established by the Charter of 1573 which founded the School. The Governing Body is ultimately responsible for the performance of the School, setting its overall strategic direction and ensuring that the highest standards of education, safeguarding and financial probity are maintained.

Our experienced and talented Governors bring to bear their considerable professional experience in business, finance, the law, the media, and the civil service, as well as a range of educational institutions, to provide constructive support and challenge to the Headmaster and the senior leadership team.

Further information is available from the [School website](#).



Queen
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School

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The Senior Leadership Team

The Headmaster and his senior colleagues drive the School's further progress in order that it not only meets today's challenges, but anticipates those of the future – whilst at all times preserving the traditional aspects of the School's ethos which have enabled its enduring success.



Neil Enright MA (Oxon), MBA, NPQH, FRSA was appointed the 40th **Headmaster** of Queen Elizabeth's School in September 2011. He attended The John Lyon School in Harrow and read Geography at St John's College, Oxford. In September 2002, two years after he started teaching, he came to QE, and has remained here since. His voluntary roles include governorships at schools in the state and independent sectors.



Anne Macdonald MA, **Deputy Head (Academic)**, read Geography at Cambridge and then worked for The Basic Skills Agency and the Learning and Skills Development Agency. She is responsible for curriculum development, the quality of teaching and learning, and continuing professional development.



Tara O'Reilly BEng, our **Deputy Head (Operations)**, and Company Secretary has many years' experience of managing business teams and leading digital development. Before joining the School in 2020, she spent nearly 16 years with the BBC.



David Ryan BA, MEd, **Deputy Head (Pastoral)**, read English and American Literature at Warwick. After graduating, he took up his first teaching job at QE in 1997. He has remained here ever since, working in various positions of increasing seniority. He is the Designated Safeguarding Lead at QE.



After graduating in Classics from St Andrews, **Crispin Bonham-Carter** MA, NPQSL, **Assistant Head (Pupil Involvement)** spent a decade as a well-known actor and theatre director. Before coming to QE to take up his current position in 2019, he taught for ten years at Alexandra Park School.



James Kane BA, PGCE, NPQSL, NPQH, who joined QE as **Assistant Head (Pupil Destinations)** in September 2022. He took his first degree at the London School of Economics and has remained in the capital since, working in positions of increasing seniority at schools in Lewisham, Newham, Harrow and Stratford.



Sarah Westcott BSc, MA, PhD, **Assistant Head (Pupil Progress)**, completed her PhD at the National Institute for Medical Research, before taking a research fellowship with Cancer Research UK. Since joining the School in 2008, she has completed an MA in Educational Leadership and a Postgraduate Diploma in special educational needs leadership.



Michael Noonan, BEd, was appointed **Head of Digital Teaching and Learning** in 2023 to provide leadership capacity to the development of the School's digital education, having served as Head of Technology since 2017. Having created the Digital Literacy course at QE, he is working to ensure digital skills are built right across the School's curriculum.



Having read Chemical Engineering at the University of Nottingham, **Chief Finance Officer Reena Pandya** BEng, ACA, began her career in banking and then went on to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. Before taking up her current post at QE in April 2022, she was Head of Finance at AIM-listed Safestay Plc.



Matthew Rose MA, **Head of External Relations/Executive Assistant to the Headmaster**, the 2008 School Captain, returned to QE in 2016 after working as a political advisor in local government. His responsibilities include School policies, governance arrangements, marketing & communications, alumni relations and emerging strategic initiatives.



The Physics Department at QE

Physics at Queen Elizabeth's

*"One of the most inspiring learning environments we've ever come across"
The Good Schools Guide, 2020*

We believe pupils are best served by a joyful approach to Physics which is focused on teaching a clear conceptual understanding of the underlying principles that form the rule book of the universe.

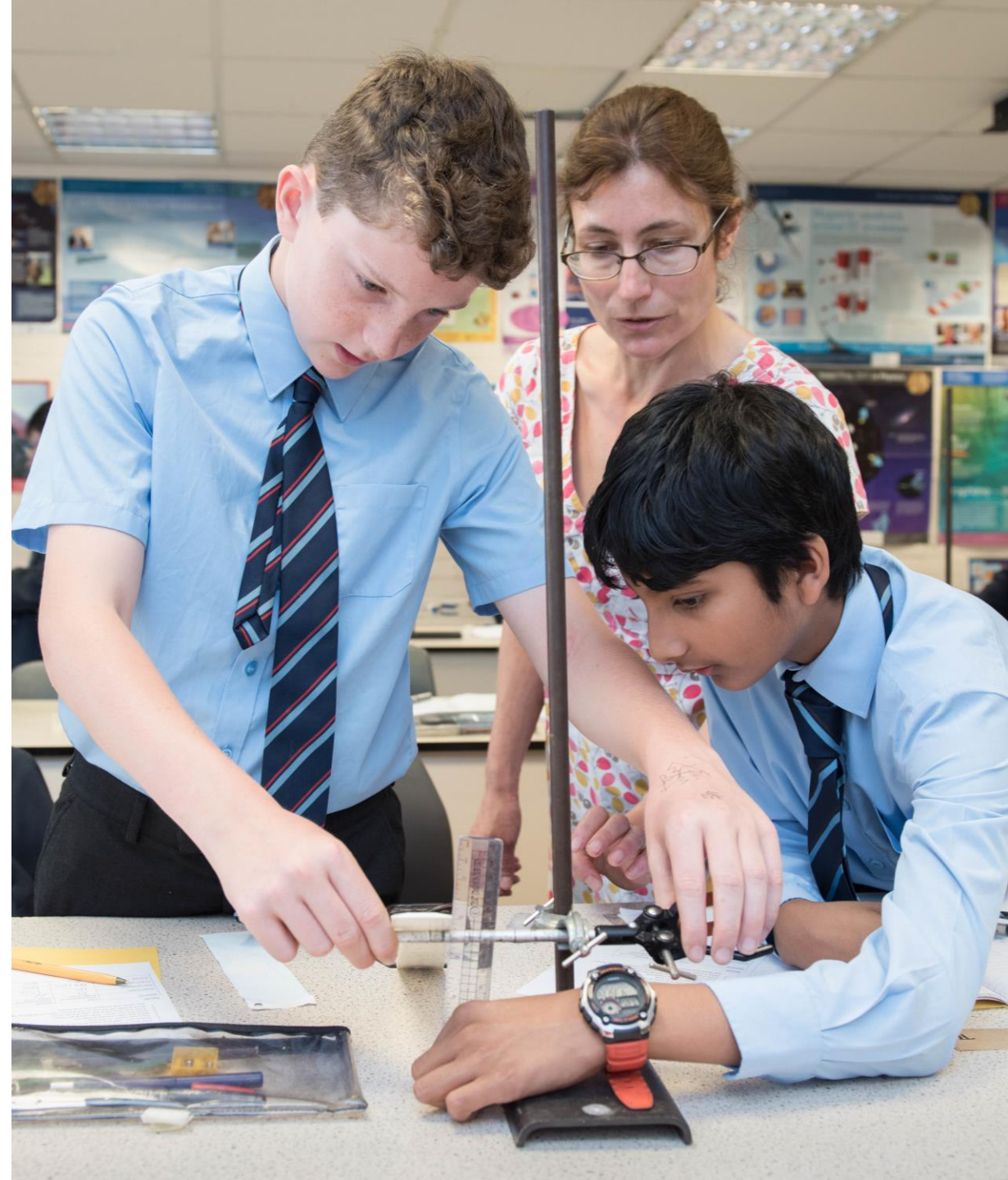
Examinations may, of course, sometimes be passed by candidates for whom key concepts remain opaque or even incomprehensible. However, we contend that examination success can be secured more easily if a robust and nuanced understanding of the physical law studied is the central aim of the teaching and learning process. Not only is that the most pleasurable and satisfying way to approach Physics, but it also best reflects the motivation of physicists who spend careers in research at universities and in industry, pushing back the frontiers of our understanding of the physical law.

For those boys without a marked talent or interest in Physics we still seek to engender some appreciation of the beauty of the subject. Those ending their studies at GCSE should gain an intimation of the deep structures of physical law which govern energy and matter, while we also hope to demystify things that surround us, such as the mains electricity supply, for example.

At A-level, pupils are expected to develop an understanding of the activity of modelling – physicists employing mathematical structures and tools to create a mathematical model of physical reality. We hope to give the boys some elementary experience of how these abstract models are used to predict and explain the patterns observed in the concrete world of physical reality. On a more mundane and pragmatic level, we recognise that many of our A-level students are progressing to degrees in Engineering, Economics or Medicine and not moving towards tertiary study of Physics: we help those boys get the best grades through the most efficient use of their time.

For pupils with a gift for Physics and a love of the subject for its own sake, we seek to nurture that ability and passion, and, with time, to alloy these attributes to a rigorous, analytical approach. This will prepare them for continued study of Physics (and closely related disciplines) as they leave QE and head off to leading universities.

Technology is used in Physics at QE in the presentation of computer simulations (for example, the PhET interactive simulations begun by Nobel Laureate Carl Wieman) and extensively at A-level in the use of data

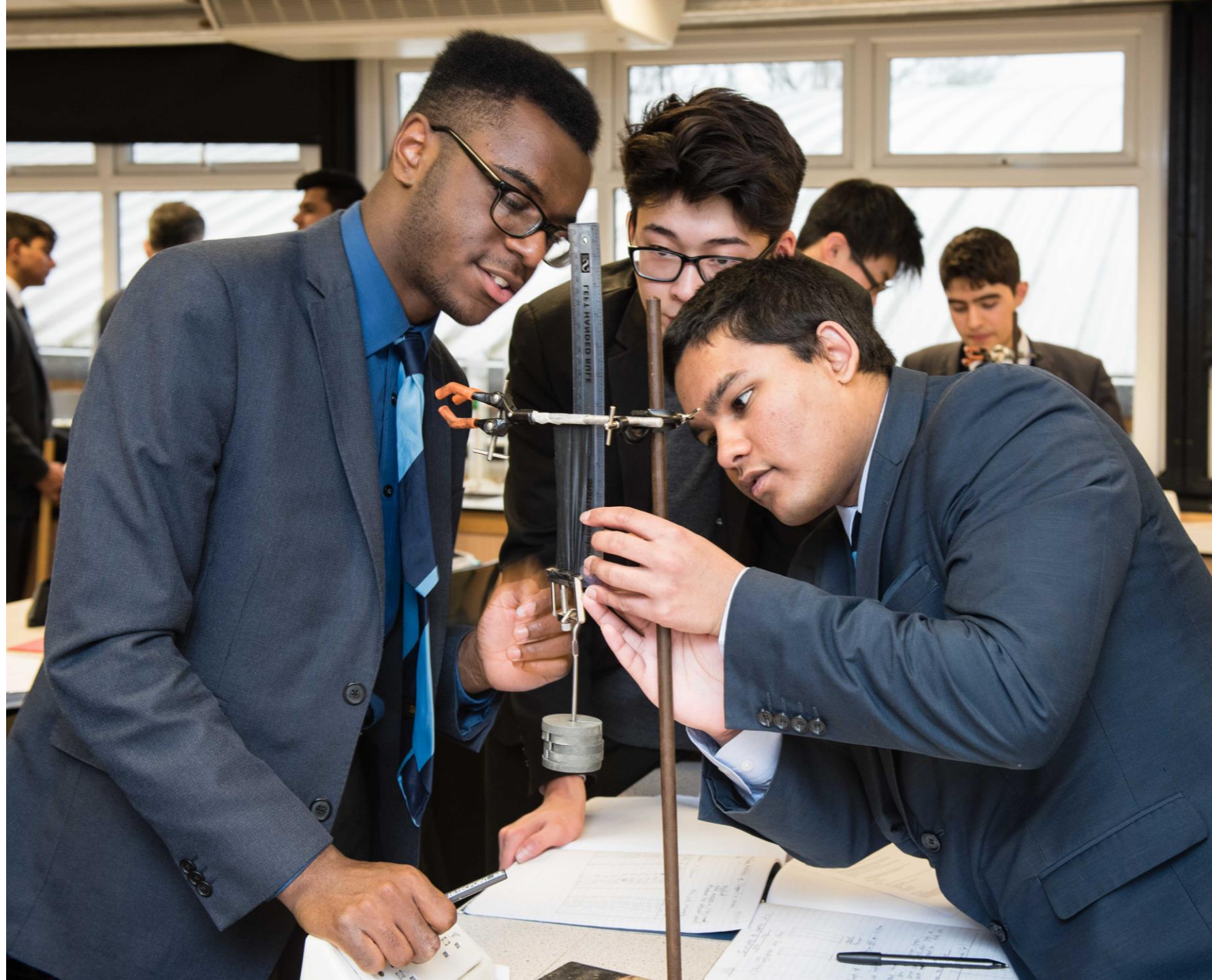


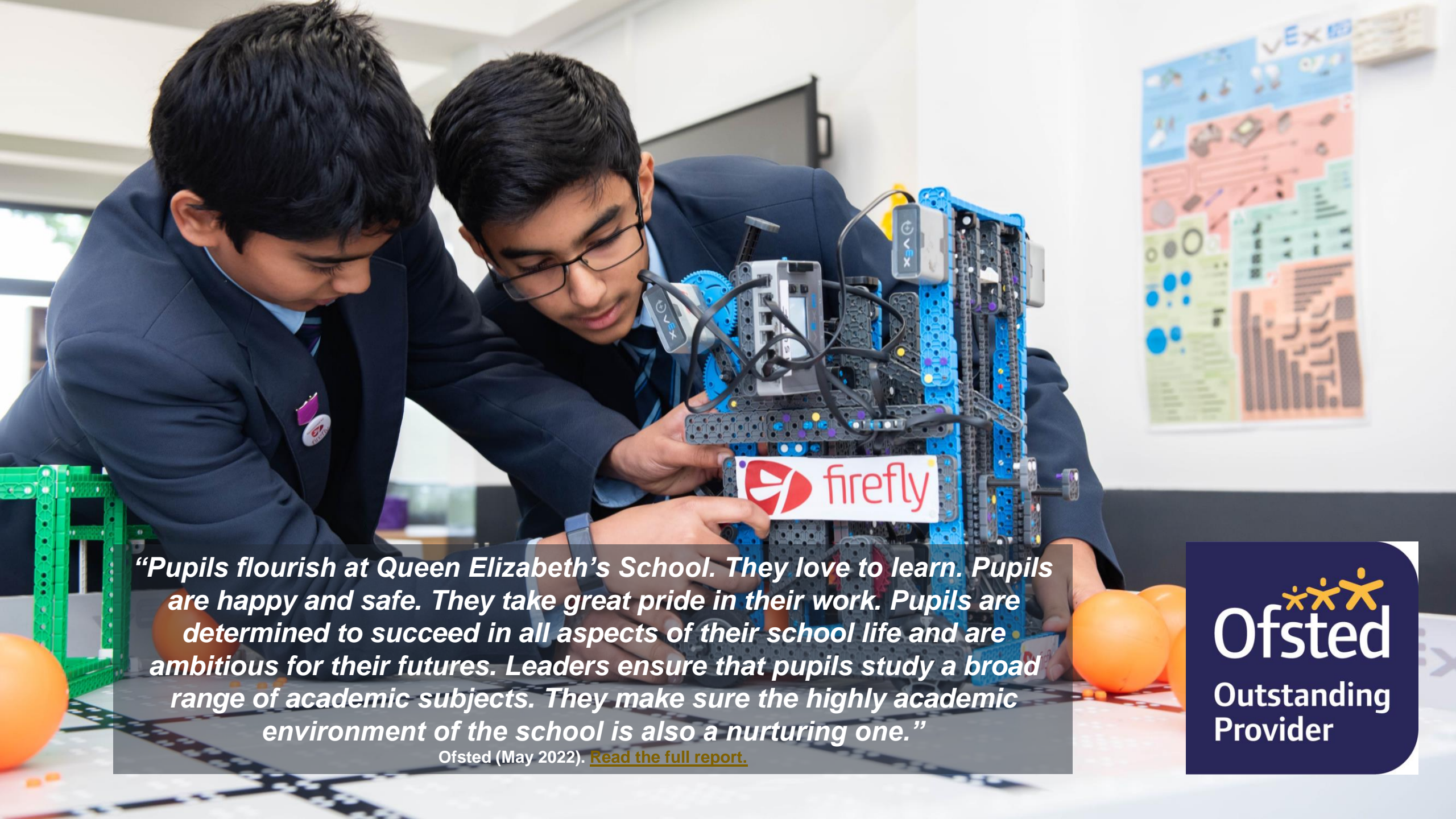
loggers, with a range of sensors including ultrasound motion sensors, light-gates, voltmeters and ammeters.

Extra-curricular opportunities in Physics include participation in the Institute of Physics Challenges and Olympiad, in which QE has enjoyed considerable success.

Read more about the School's curriculum [here](#).

Read more about our vision for a diverse and inclusive curriculum at Queen Elizabeth's [here](#).





“Pupils flourish at Queen Elizabeth’s School. They love to learn. Pupils are happy and safe. They take great pride in their work. Pupils are determined to succeed in all aspects of their school life and are ambitious for their futures. Leaders ensure that pupils study a broad range of academic subjects. They make sure the highly academic environment of the school is also a nurturing one.”

Ofsted (May 2022). [Read the full report.](#)


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



The Role



The Role

Responsible to the Head of Physics, Mr Jonathan Brooke

We are looking for an outstanding physicist and teacher who has the ability to motivate and stretch able boys, instilling a genuine enthusiasm for physics and science.

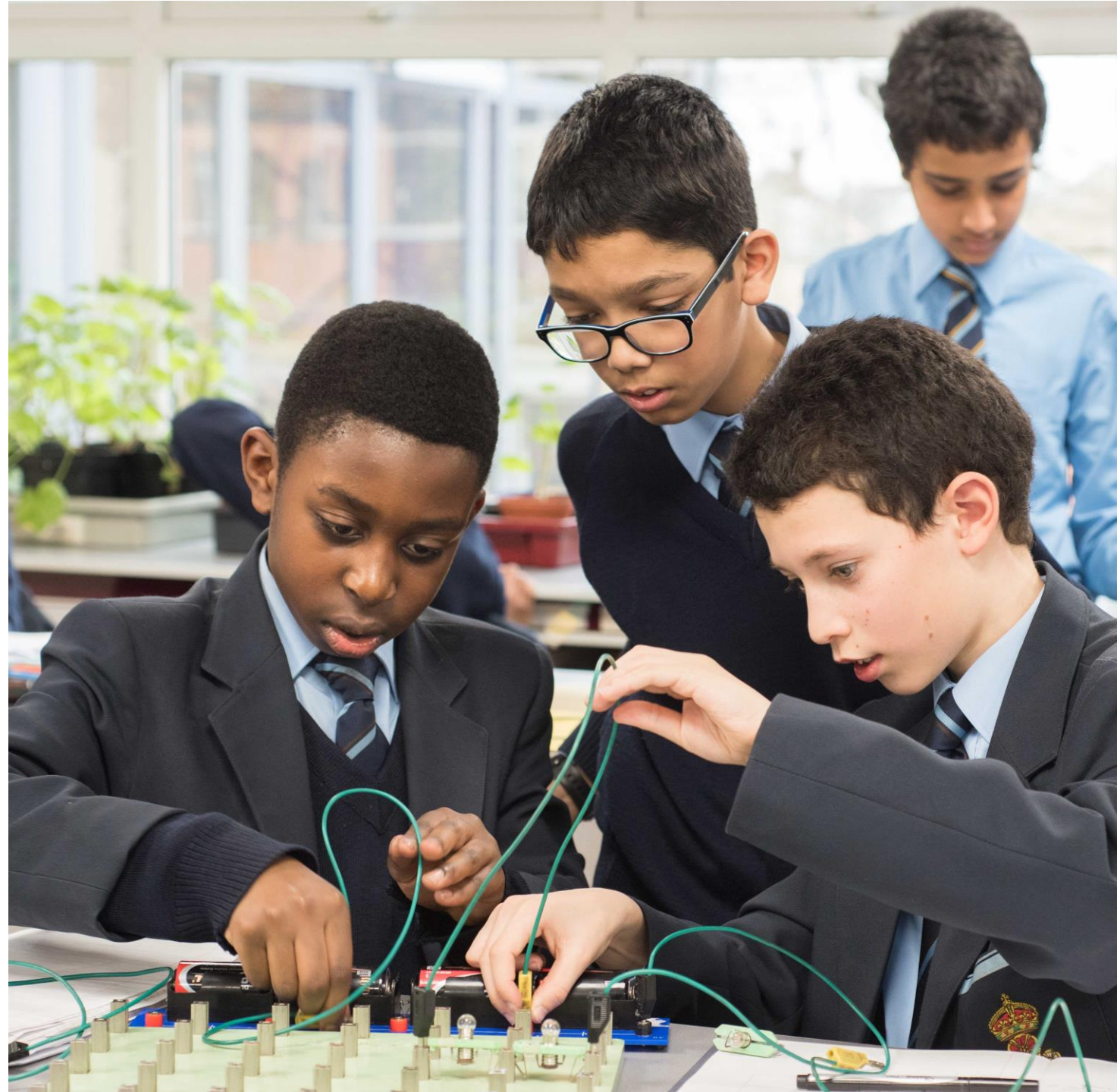
The successful applicant will have a strong academic background and will be enthusiastic about developing their teaching practice across the full range of our ability, up to and including working with our A-level students.

Physics is taught as a separate discipline throughout the School and it is one of the most popular options at Advanced Level. Significant numbers progress to Natural Science and other related degrees, most notably engineering, at the country's most selective universities.

Our new Physics Graduate will need to be able to work alongside the existing team to maintain standards whilst ensuring that boys' enthusiasm for the subject is encouraged through stimulating lessons complemented by a wide range of co-curricular activities.

All teachers at Queen Elizabeth's are encouraged to play a full part in the wider life of this thriving School.

We welcome applications from experienced teachers, Early Career Teachers and also from those without any formal teaching qualification. Those without QTS will be supported by a comprehensive initial teacher training programme so that they make progress during the first year towards securing the evidence base they will ultimately require to obtain the teaching qualification.





How to apply

Application and Appointment Process

“Staff appreciate the efforts of leaders to support their well-being.” *Ofsted, 2022*

Applications should be submitted online through our dedicated recruitment portal accessed from our website. To apply for this particular post, please [click here](#).

Please note that CVs alone will not be accepted.

Any questions regarding the position or our application and recruitment process should be directed to recruitment@qebarnet.co.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 9am, Monday 27 January 2025.

We are an equal opportunities employer. Queen Elizabeth’s is a dynamic school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and from those with disabilities.

Queen Elizabeth’s School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Our new **Teacher of Physics** will be expected to take up post by September 2025 at the latest. An April 2025 start is available for candidates available earlier.

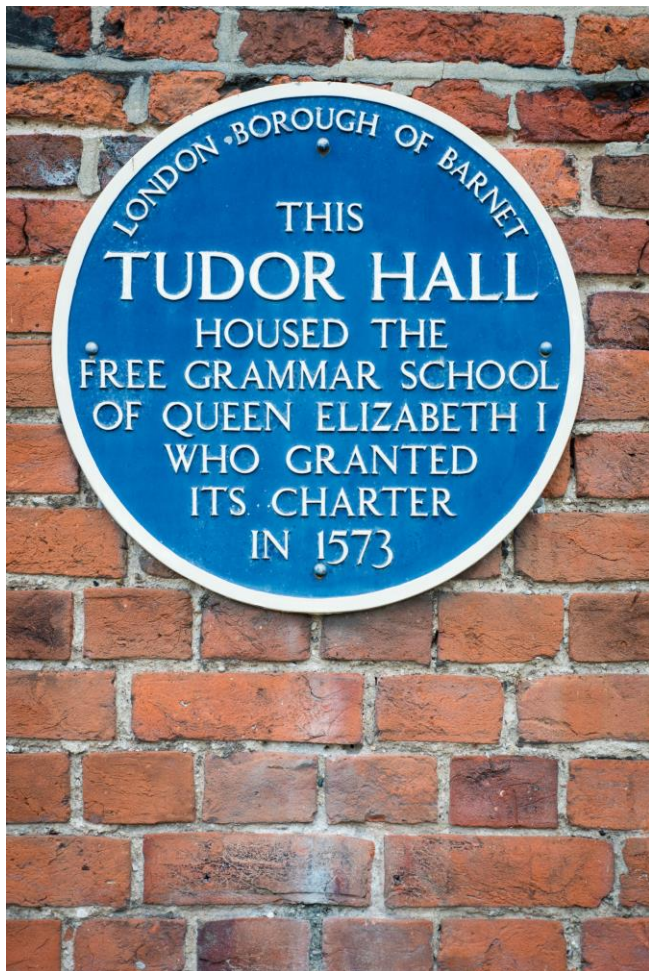
The role will be remunerated according to the experience and qualifications of the teacher appointed.

On the interview day candidates will be observed teaching a sample lesson. The interview process will also comprise a blend of formal and informal meetings.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate at interview:

- Outstanding subject knowledge.
- Genuine enthusiasm for working with young people.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Excellent administration and organisational skills.
- A commitment to educational excellence and the ethos of the School that will help to ensure our pupils thrive.





1573 — 2023

