



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

HEAD OF HISTORY & POLITICS

WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering this opportunity at North London Collegiate School.

North London Collegiate School (NLCS) was founded in 1850 by Frances Buss, an early pioneer of girls' education. One of the country's leading academic day schools, NLCS is a forward-thinking, inclusive and vibrant community.

The School provides an ambitious academic education and achieves some of the best results in the country. The focus in the classroom is on fostering a deep love of learning and our teachers are passionate subject experts. The School has a strong intellectual tradition but it is also defined by an ongoing commitment to innovation. The school's new innovation hub will be a centre for creative thinking and pioneering curriculum development.

Pupils benefit from an exceptional range of activities beyond the classroom through our co-curricular and academic enrichment programmes. We welcome over 250 visiting speakers per year, we offer 18 different sports, host over 40 concerts and several ambitious dramatic productions each year, publish multiple student-led magazines, and offer activities as varied as Model United Nations, Chess, VEX Robotics and Magic Club.

Our pastoral care is focused on developing happy, independent and resilient young women. Our pupils are free to be themselves at School but ready to embrace the opportunities of the world beyond NLCS. Our community is welcoming and inclusive and celebrates its rich diversity.

At NLCS, we deeply value our staff and are committed to their well-being and professional growth. We understand that a supportive and nurturing environment is crucial for everyone, not just our students. Our comprehensive staff development programme and strong support network ensure that our staff thrive both professionally and personally.

We are looking for an inspirational Head of History & Politics who will ensure that our curriculum not only embeds a deep knowledge of History & Politics in our students but also ignites and expands their passion for the subjects. You will be an exemplary classroom practitioner, showcasing outstanding teaching methods and fostering an environment of excellence and innovation.

If you would like to join this dynamic and friendly community of pupils and staff, I would be delighted to receive your application.



VICKY BINGHAM
HEADMISTRESS





THE SCHOOL



North London Collegiate School has an international reputation for academic excellence, combined with exceptional pastoral care and extra-curricular achievement. NLCS is an academically selective girls' school. There are 790 students in the Senior School, 233 of them in the Sixth Form, and approximately 310 in the Junior School. The School takes pride in the religious and social diversity of its intake.

The School's aims are to provide an ambitious education for all its pupils and to enable each girl to make the most of her own gifts. The highest priority is to maintain a team of professional teachers to whom each pupil is important, and who can teach their subject(s) with enthusiasm and drive. All pupils are expected to learn to recognise academic excellence and realise that it is attainable.

Alongside these aims for the classroom, staff strive to make school a place where the whole personality can grow. Good relations between staff and pupils, and between girls themselves, are fostered. At NLCS, education is much more than passing examinations and the girls are encouraged to try themselves out in a variety of ways. Staff strive to maintain a community which is tolerant and teaches service to others.

Set in over 30 acres of parkland, the School has extensive facilities. These include a new Wellbeing Centre which underlines the School's commitment to ensuring that NLCS continues to provide as rounded and supportive a pastoral offering as is possible.

In 2024, 70% of GCSEs were a grade 9, and a notable 89% of grades were 9/8. At A-Level our students achieved an impressive 46% A* grades, 84% A* - A and 96% A* - B. In addition to A-Levels, we offer the International Baccalaureate in the Sixth Form and we have an outstanding record of success. Our students gained an average point score of 41 in 2024, placing us again among the best IB schools in the world.

Places are heavily oversubscribed, and entry is extremely competitive.

Our leavers receive offers from an impressive range of university destinations including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, as well as other leading universities such as Warwick, Edinburgh, UCL and Imperial.

We are extremely proud of our alumnae (Old North Londoners), who have achieved international prominence in a wide variety of career pathways from music, drama and the arts through to science, sports, politics and law.

We have an extensive schedule of extra-curricular activities including a weekly speakers' programme for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13. NLCS students regularly reach the finals of national and international competitions, such as F1 in Schools, chess, Young Enterprise, coding and debating.

There is also a remarkable commitment to outreach and charity work, reflecting the rich and harmonious diversity of the School.

To find out more about the school, click [HERE](#).



HEAD OF HISTORY & POLITICS

THE OPPORTUNITY

As our new Head of History & Politics, you will lead and manage the department effectively to ensure that all students and staff reach their full potential. As the HoD you must ensure that History & Politics is an outstanding department with a focus on inspirational teaching and outstanding outcomes. This is an excellent opportunity that will allow you to work with both talented and dedicated staff and students.

THE ROLE

Our ideal candidate will have both the commitment and ability to enthuse and motivate our students to ensure excellent progress is made by all. They will be a dynamic teacher who encourages a love for the subject through both their teaching and their involvement in co-curricular offers. The successful candidate should have a genuine passion for the subject, the ability to be an outstanding teacher of their subject and be committed to raising achievement, raising achievement.

THE CURRICULUM

History and Politics are thriving subjects in the Sixth Form and we offer AQA A-level History with units on Britain, 1951-2007, the Crusades, and the early modern witchcraze for coursework. At IB our History courses are broadly modern with a heavy focus on twentieth-century Europe. For Politics, we teach Edexcel A level (covering contemporary UK Politics, Ideologies, and Global Politics), and for IB their Global Politics Course. At GCSE, students study AQA with units on Germany, the Cold War, Elizabeth I and Migration to Britain through the ages. As with all curriculum areas, Key Stage 3 students go well beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Indeed, we have developed a cutting-edge course for Years 7-9 in which every term students cover a different period of history and they look at a key theme through the year. For instance, Y7 examine power with a study of medieval female rulers across the globe in the autumn term, early modern London in the spring term as well as a Henry VIII and his break from Rome, and the rise of democracy in the summer term. Diversifying our curriculum has been an important focus for us in recent years – our younger students, for example, cover the more traditional history of First World War but they also look at the role of colonial troops and our students engage in a detailed study of African kingdoms and empire too as part of their course.

THE DEPARTMENT

The History and Politics Department is large and vibrant and consists of 8 staff in total, a number of whom hold extra responsibilities and senior positions in the school. There is a strong team ethic, with a weekly departmental meeting, and regular sharing of best practice and resources. As much as possible staff are timetabled, especially at Sixth Form, to align with their preferences and expert knowledge. Innovative approaches to teaching and learning are very much part of the departmental culture and members of the department have been involved in History curriculum reform at the national level. NLCS, for instance, hosted a groundbreaking conference in 2022 on Teaching Medieval Women in conjunction with leading academics.

ENRICHMENT

History Society is one of the most active societies in school, meeting for an hour every week at the end of the day, and has entertained an impressive array of visiting speakers. Symposia organised with schools such as Winchester and Eton have also provided our Sixth Form with a chance to practise seminar style discussion with peers. Politics Society has an exciting programme of speakers and events and also meets on a weekly basis after school. For younger students, in Years 7-9 'She Wolves' is also a thriving lunchtime club.

Departmental staff and societies collaborate on a History and Politics Week each year, with exciting activities such as debates, competitions and speaker events for students in all year groups. In 2023 the theme for the week was the history and politics of fashion.

A departmental trip is organised to the First World War Battlefields in France and Belgium for Year 9 on an annual basis. Our proximity to London means that students frequently attend lectures and theatre visits in town, and a plethora of exciting museums are right on our doorstep. Y7, for example, have a trip to Hampton Court Palace to enrich their study of the Tudors.

All members of staff are also expected to be involved in pastoral care within the school community, usually in the role of form tutor or co-tutor as well as to contribute to the rich and varied extra-curricular life of the school.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & DEVELOPMENT

There is a strong culture of professional development at the School, rooted in the expectation that all staff proactively seek to develop their practice throughout their time with us.

A fortnightly Teaching and Learning Forum offers staff the opportunity to present and discuss pedagogy. In addition to this, there are regular guided lesson observations with senior members of staff, to encourage colleagues to think critically about their own teaching and experiment with new approaches.

Internal promotion and professional development posts are advertised to all staff. In addition, the School also offers a number of generous external opportunities for staff, to expose them to wider educational experiences. The School works closely with The Prince's Teaching Institute, investing in "unlimited" membership of the PTII, which offers our staff the opportunity to attend their full programme of events.

It is important for our teachers to refine their knowledge to further enhance the academic rigour of their lessons. To this end several of our academic staff lead PTI sessions in their own specialist areas.

As part of the wider Senior School, staff benefit from being able to attend the Senior Societies lecture series given by eminent speakers. Staff are also encouraged to share their passions through our Nicholson Lectures series. Colleagues present their own research on areas of academic or personal interest. These lectures occupy a prestigious place in our academic calendar, occurring fortnightly and are well attended by staff and students alike.

Following the opening of four partnership schools, NLCS Jeju (South Korea), NLCS Dubai, NLCS Singapore, and NLCS Vietnam, staff in the UK have opportunities to be involved in monitoring visits to these overseas schools, and to be involved in the recruitment and training of their staff.

Teaching departments in all the schools are linked via Communities of Practice, which provide a forum for collaboration on projects between teachers and students, sharing of good practice and exchange of ideas.

All of these opportunities enable colleagues to become better and more rounded academics and teachers, and our staff relish the chance to get involved in such activities.





KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Monitor the quality of teaching and learning and disseminate good practice in the teaching of History & Politics across the School

Provide training opportunities for department staff

Develop links with other professionals, agencies, governors and neighbouring schools

Liaise with Learning Support with respect to any specific Additional Support Needs issues or developments

In line with school policy attend review meetings

Lead on the performance management of History & Politics teaching staff

Undertake appropriate and agreed continuing professional development

To be accountable for developing and managing the staff and curriculum budget, consistent with the financial aims of the School

CURRICULUM

To ensure the strength and appropriate delivery of our History & Politics offering through the leadership and support of members of the department

To keep the school leadership apprised of any national or international developments and their implications for History & Politics

To work in conjunction with the Deputy Head Academic and Senior Team to plan the curriculum for future years, including regularly reappraising and reviewing the offering

To ensure, in conjunction with the SENCO, that the provision for students with Additional Learning Needs in History & Politics is in place and is effective

QUALITY OF TEACHING

To ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is conducted in line with NLCS aims and ethos and is excellent

To monitor and report on pupils' progress

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

To agree strategies with the Deputy Head Academic in order to support student progress

To monitor and evaluate the progress of all students in History & Politics and to report to the Deputy Head Academic on academic progress and the teaching and learning delivered by the department

To oversee the reporting of student progress

STAFFING

To identify the future staffing needs of the department and to play a key part in the recruitment process for History & Politics teaching staff

To support and nurture staff development and wellbeing in conjunction with the leadership of the School

To plan, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Academic, the budget for staffing and resources in the Department

To ensure that all staff are appropriately trained to perform their roles

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

As a department head, the Head of History & Politics will report to senior leadership either directly or through an Assistant Head.

The postholder will also be required to undertake any other duties as reasonably required by the Head/Deputy Heads



THE PERSON

The successful candidate will demonstrate strong communication skills, warmth and empathy. They will have a high level of organisational and interpersonal skills, be committed to maintaining the nurturing and supportive ethos of the school, and be an enthusiastic, caring and positive role model within the School community.

GENERAL SKILLS REQUIRED

Excellent interpersonal and management skills, with the ability to relate well to people on all levels, to encourage and motivate, and to show ambition for the School and its direction

Clarity of thought and an ability to express ideas and arguments in a thoughtful and analytical manner

Ability to work effectively as a member of the team, to show initiative and imagination and to have vision and the ability to inspire others

First class organisational and administrative skills with the ability to remain calm under pressure and to work to tight deadlines, managing competing priorities

Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, combined with a proactive and positive approach

Ability to maintain a high work rate and to juggle a range of tasks and issues at the same time with good humour and a positive rationale

High level of classroom teaching skills and commitment to developing and maintaining high standards

Excellent written and spoken English

PERSON SPECIFICATION

It is highly desirable that applicants have the following attributes

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Strong academic qualifications in a relevant subject

A teaching qualification

The ability to teach to up to A Level and IB

Further study beyond degree level

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Ability to enable excellent pupil outcomes

The desire to participate in extra-curricular activities and trips

Successful teaching experience from at least 11-18, up to and including preparation for university

A proven track record for enabling and inspiring students to achieve high standards

A clear understanding of the potential uses of technology in the classroom

Experience of strategic planning and implementation

Strong experience of pastoral care and student leadership

Track record of motivating and inspiring staff

Track record of excellent pupil outcomes

Wider interests that could contribute to the extra-curricular life of the School

EXPERIENCE & KNOWLEDGE

An awareness of recent important educational developments in History & Politics

Safeguarding experience / training

Strong understanding of pastoral work

Good working knowledge of common IT applications with a clear understanding of the potential for IT to enable more innovative and effective approaches to learning, teaching and school organisation

Expertise in using CPOMS software

OTHER

Personal integrity, honesty, energy, stamina and enthusiasm

A sensitivity to the needs of young people and a commitment to their support, care and nurture

Willingness to give generously to support School events and activities

Commitment to personal development and life-long learning

Track record of working collaboratively across departments

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY



North London Collegiate School condemns unequivocally discrimination and inequality in all its forms.

Our School was founded on the principles of respect and compassion, service to others, and active, positive participation in society and the wider world. We cannot change the past, but we must learn from it. It is not sufficient to say that we are not racist – we must be actively anti-racist in our actions, policies and educational delivery. As a school, we are proud of our heritage of supporting, embracing and celebrating all the members of our community, as exemplified in our School Aims.

We recognise and celebrate the benefits of having a diverse school community, in which individuals value themselves, one another, and the different contributions that everyone can make to the school, our wider community and the world.

Our students are taught to value and respect themselves and others as they work hard to prepare to take leading roles in our future society.

In the provision of equal opportunities, the School recognises and accepts its responsibilities under the law and opposes discrimination based on the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

We oppose all bullying and unlawful discrimination on the basis that a person has a special educational need or learning difficulty, or because English is an additional language. We are committed to being an equal opportunities education provider, and to equality of opportunity for all members of our school community.

North London Collegiate School aims to ensure that all policies and practices conform with the principle of equal opportunities and comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

We will tackle inappropriate attitudes and practices through our staff leading by example, through the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme, through our supportive school culture and through our school's policies. Our teaching will reflect the diverse nature of our modern world and we will seek through our extracurricular activities, partnerships and School societies to challenge inequality and inequity, promulgate fairness and equality for all and to celebrate the differences that make us all unique and valuable members of society.

We believe that our School community is an agent for change in the world, and we continue to seek to ensure that more generations of young people leave North London Collegiate School empowered and enabled to take the next steps forward in their education and lives for their own benefit and for the good of society as a whole.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

KEY DATES

Closing date for applications:

Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.00am

Interview Date:

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

SALARY

Highly competitive salary, paid according to experience and qualifications

START DATE

Required from September 2025

PENSION

All teaching staff members are currently eligible to join the Teacher Pension Scheme.

LOCATION

NLCS is a short walk from Canons Park or Stanmore stations.

Staff arriving at Edgware Station on the Northern Line can use our free Station Shuttle-bus service.

For further information please visit our Travelling to School page [HERE](#).

MEALS

A free lunch is available for all staff during term time. Thomas Franks, our dedicated caterer, accommodates all dietary requirements.

EYE CARE SCHEME

NLCS contributes towards eye care costs.

CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

The School is a member of the Cycle to Work Scheme, which allows staff to make Tax and National Insurance savings when purchasing a bicycle.

CANONS SPORTS CENTRE

Canons Sports Centre is located in the beautifully landscaped grounds of NLCS. Staff have free access to the Sports Facilities at designated times.

This includes the Fitness Studios, Swimming Pool and Multi-Purpose Sports Hall.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Our Performing Arts Centre which has a 350-seat theatre holds up to 40 productions and concerts each year. Tickets are available to staff with the majority of performances being free or at a discounted price.

FEE REMISSION

A teacher's daughter that meets the entrance criteria is eligible for 60% fee remission (up to two daughters). The remission is pro-rated for part time staff.

HEALTH CARE SCHEME

Staff are eligible to be part of a discounted health insurance scheme.

SAFEGUARDING

NLCS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all members of all staff to share this commitment.

Applicants must declare any criminal convictions as the post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Appointments will be conditional upon the receipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via the Disclosure and Barring Service and references from previous employers.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer.



