



Prior Park Schools

Teacher of Science

Information for candidates

Prior Park Schools
An Education for Life

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The School

Prior Park College is one of the group of Prior Park Schools which includes our junior school, The Paragon, Bath, and our sister school, Prior Park Gibraltar. The heart of Prior Park Schools is the encouraging Christian ethos which nurtures over 1,000 pupils aged between 3 and 18 years to become confident, capable, compassionate and independently minded young people. With over 600 pupils, Prior Park College is one of the most successful Catholic independent boarding and day schools in the South West of England. Set in a stunning location of 57 acres, overlooking the World Heritage city of Bath, the college offers an exceptional and stimulating environment for students to study, play and live.

The College aims to inspire and challenge every one of its students to prepare them for the next stage of their lives. We pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care and promote an environment that successfully supports personal development. We strive to ensure that students meet their potential. We stretch but also support our learners, making Prior a particularly exciting and rewarding place to teach.

The 2017 ISI Inspection Report accorded the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements as "excellent", finding that pupils have "a tremendous appetite for learning in and beyond the classroom". "Pupils demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding in all areas of learning, display outstanding communications skills... are articulate... listen actively... demonstrate first rate writing skills... are positive... and display great self-esteem".

The Person

We are looking for an inspirational Science specialist to teach Science across the age range on a fixed term basis for 2 terms. The ability to teach two sciences to GCSE level, and one science to A-Level would be advantageous. Experience of teaching, or a willingness to teach ICT/Computer Science would be most welcome.

The successful candidate will be an innovative and creative thinker with excellent communication skills. This is a full-time post although for the correct candidate a part-time position may be available. The post is suitable either for an experienced teacher or a newly qualified teacher, with a good level of subject specific knowledge. The school operates an induction programme in operation for NQTs.

We welcome applications from people of all faiths and none but an understanding of and support for the school's Catholic/Christian ethos is important for all staff. All teachers are expected to play a full part in the wider extra-curricular life of this busy boarding and day school.



The Department

The Science faculty is a vibrant and dynamic suite of departments with practical science at the core of our teaching. The faculty includes Junior Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology, each with their own Head of Department and overseen by the Head of Science. The faculty consists of eleven full-time and two part-time specialist teachers, who are well supported by four very experienced science technicians.

Curriculum

Junior Science

Junior Science is a two-year course based on the AQA KS3 biology, chemistry and physics curriculum. There are three sets per year group, with a maximum class size of 23. Each set has a dedicated science teacher and receives 6 x 55-minute periods per fortnight.

The Junior Science Department's vision is to foster our pupils' passion for science. We strive to encourage and motivate students to make the most of their abilities, adopting a highly reflective approach to our pedagogy. We seek to find the most effective ways that allow pupils to acquire the knowledge and skills foundations that will best prepare them for the transition into the GCSE course. Crucially, teachers are committed to enthusing pupils with science in the world around them, always looking for ways to make connections with science in everyday life. The Junior Science department offers several supra-curricular opportunities for pupils, such as access to internal and external outreach opportunities, as well as stretch and challenge opportunities, such as the CREST award scheme.

In Year 9, students are given a broad scientific grounding based on the principles of how Science works. There are five sets, with between 15 to 23 students per set. Each set receives 9 x 55-minute periods per fortnight.

AQA GCSE Science is a 2 year course and runs six sets. One or two of these, according to student choice, are separate award, and four are double award. The majority of students sit higher tier papers and set sizes vary from 12 to 23. Separate award science sets receive 18 x 55-minute periods per fortnight, while double award science sets are allocated 12 x 55-minute period per fortnight.

Physics

Our thriving and finely equipped Physics Department occupies a dedicated floor of the Science Faculty and focusses on teaching Physics as an exciting and practical discipline. This approach permeates the department from resourcing to teaching: a ripple tank each instead of a demonstration, hands-on experience with radioactive materials at post-16, and working with cryogenics – freezing bananas for younger students, investigating temperature/conductivity and the Meissner effect for senior groups.

From Form 4 students study Physics as a dedicated subject, beginning the GCSE course in Lower 5 and either working towards their AQA Trilogy Double Science qualification, or our popular separate science option, the Edexcel GCSE in Physics. Our A-Level course has expanded rapidly in recent years and is now extremely popular, usually with two sets of around 8-12 in each Sixth Form year-group. We follow the OCR-A specification. The Department also offers a wide range of super-curricular provision, including regular excursions to CERN, our popular Oxford PAT/BPhO group and an expanding programme of outreach events building to our well-attended 'Phantastic Physics' show near the end of the year.

Chemistry

The Department is located on the top floor of a purpose-built science block. The department has three primary teaching laboratories a well-equipped preparation room, with full time technician support as well as a departmental office.

We aim to provide a high calibre, interesting, challenging and relevant education in Chemistry for all students in the school, regardless of ability. We ensure that appropriate GCSE and A level specifications, either AQA Chemistry GCSE, AQA Combined Science Trilogy or GCE AQA Chemistry, are taught thoroughly; that students are fully aware of the syllabus content, the expectation of examiners and the general style of exam questions. Students are given plenty of opportunities to consolidate their learning and practice the skills they are acquiring in a variety of contexts.

Teaching will often go beyond the confines of the National Curriculum and exam board specifications and we try to highlight applications of the Chemistry in the wider world and everyday life, including environmental and political contexts. Our teaching approach is heavily based on practical investigation and our students are well trained in the skills needed to consider and evaluate experimental and published data.

We have close links to the University of Bath Chemistry Department and during their U6 year, after undertaking a project to synthesise and purify aspirin, we visit the university to analyse their samples using their computerised instrumental technology.

Resources & Accommodation

The Faculty boasts nine purpose built modern laboratories and four science preparation rooms, with a dedicated Science Technician covering each department. Laboratories are equipped with excellent projection and display systems and from September 2020 students will be issued personal learning devices with touch screen functionality running Windows 10 and the Office 365 suite. The faculty is also well supported by our first-rate ICT department. All Science departments have generous operating budgets and are extremely well resourced.

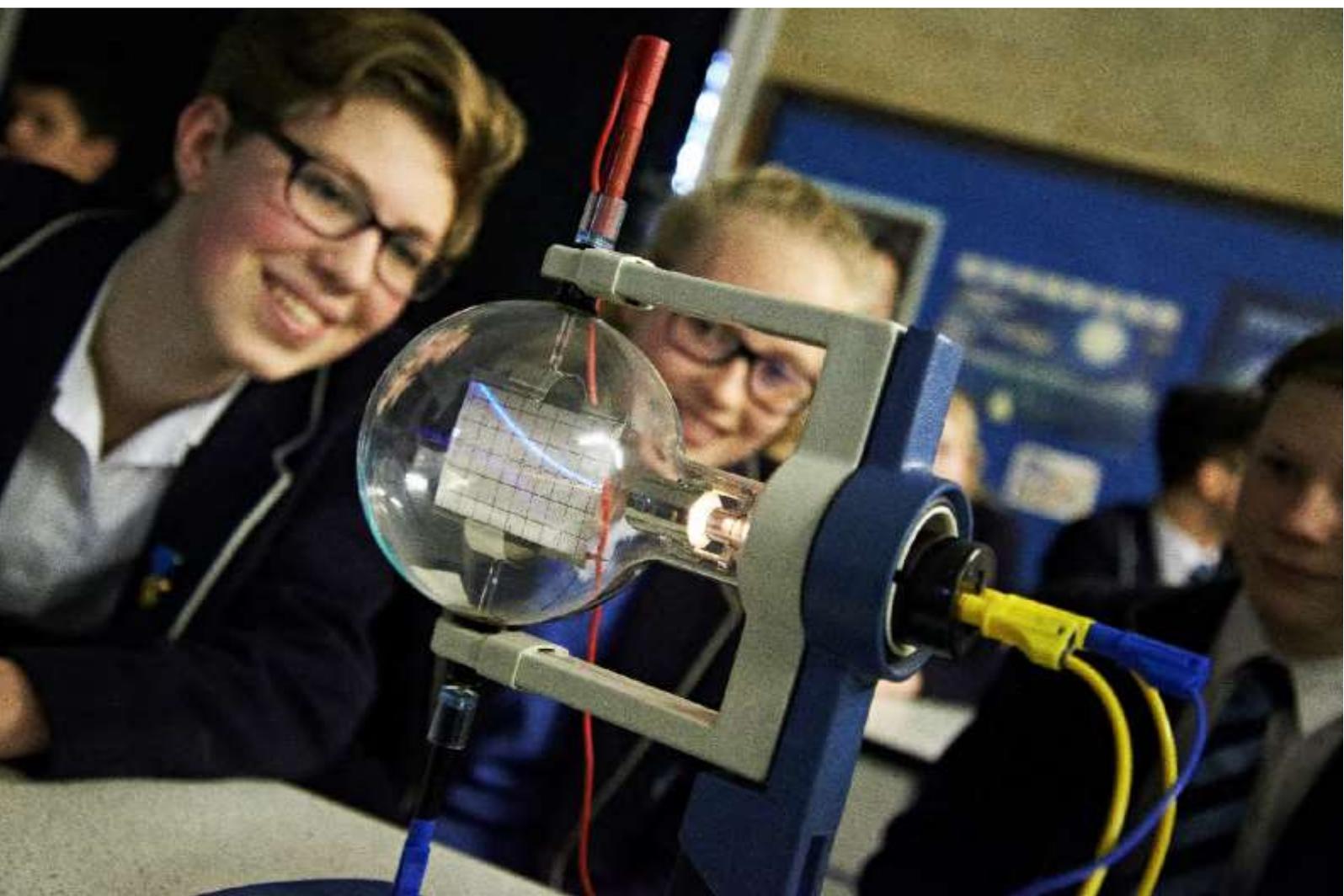


Super-Curricular Activities & Trips

The faculty provides a fascinating array of extracurricular science activities, clubs and societies. Students are given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of their subject by attending lectures, science workshops, field trips and science expeditions. These opportunities allow our students to enhance their learning beyond their specifications and takes them into the real world. This in turns enhances their synoptic capacity, intellectual curiosity and develops their scientific method, independent thought and practical skills.

The list below gives a flavour of the opportunities that are available to our science students: GCSE Science Live, Medical Society, Medical interview practice, Biology Olympiad, Residential A-level field trip, Science expeditions working with the charity Operation Wallacea to Indonesia, Cuba and Dominica. Bath University visit to the spectroscopy department. Physics trip to CERN to see the Hadron Collider, Junior science trip to the coast, Crest Award. Tricky Physics club, dissection club. Essay and photographic competitions and additional support for those students applying to Oxbridge (Autumn Term).

As a faculty we are also keen to provide outreach opportunities such as our summer science fair for local feeder primary schools.



The Position

Summary of Responsibilities

- To plan and deliver academically challenging and inspiring lessons
- To assess homework and coursework, set and mark tests and provide appropriate feedback
- To promote super-curricular activities related to the subject
- To liaise with tutors over matters of individual pupil progress and behaviour
- To prepare academic reports, provide subject information to parents, attendance at Parents' Evenings and response to subject-related parental enquiries
- To participate in the system of cover for absent colleagues
- To act in accordance with advice from the SENCO, the Medical team and House staff on the best approach to individual students
- To act as House tutors being part of a team reporting to a Housemaster/Housemistress and making a full contribution to the House and associated events
- To contribute to the extra-curricular programme of the school which may include after school, evenings and weekends
- To attend the induction programme as required by the Deputy Head
- To participate in the system of appraisal
- To identify training needs in consultation with the Head of Department
- To be familiar with Common Room Handbook and school guidance policies
- To ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other additional, reasonable tasks falling within the capabilities of the post holder may be required, depending on the needs of the school.

The Benefits

The school has high expectations of staff and therefore rewards them with a generous salary scale and beneficial conditions of service.

Class sizes are small and the teaching facilities are excellent – especially the IT provision.

Staff have strong, positive working relationships and cite the common room as a supportive and friendly group of individuals.

Career

There is an extensive induction programme for all new colleagues and we encourage ongoing professional development through generous CPD provision at a school, department and individual level. Individual support and coaching for career progression, internally and externally is provided by members of the Senior Management Team.

Personal

Membership of a Pension Scheme

Life Assurance

Ill health retirement benefits

Typically generous sick and maternity/paternity arrangements

School Nurse on site

Free onsite parking

Cycle to Work scheme

A Lenovo Yoga for use at work and home

Free use of the school's gym, pool and other facilities

Free lunch and refreshments available throughout the working day

Fee concessions are available for the children of any member of the academic faculty who meet the school's entry requirements

Free access to the National Trust Prior Park Landscape Garden

The Process

Please complete an application form and include a supporting letter outlining your suitability for the post;

Application forms can be downloaded from the Prior Park Schools website www.priorparkschools.com/vacancies

Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the close date and the School reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made. Applicants are therefore encouraged to apply early.

The closing date for applications is Monday 30 November 2020 at 9.00am.

Applications can be sent by email to: recruitment@priorparkschools.com or by post to:

Recruitment – HR Department

Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Drive,

Bath, BA2 5AH

Child Protection

Prior Park Educational Trust 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 and Barring Service.

Data Protection

In the course of employment at Prior Park Educational Trust, staff may have access to confidential information relating to pupils and their families and are required to exercise due consideration in the way they use such information. Staff should not act in any way which might be prejudicial to the School's interest. Information which may be included in the category covers both the general business of the school and information regarding specific individuals. A strict code of confidentiality must be adhered to at all times. The School is registered under the Data Protection Act 2018 and operates under policies that meet General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Staff must not at any time use the personal data held by the school or disclose such data to a third person.

