ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE

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Teacher of Design Technology

Application Pack

Welcome to St Columba's College

St Columba's College is located 25 miles from Central London in the cathedral city of St Albans in Hertfordshire. SCC is a thriving 4-18 independent co-educational day school, comprising a Prep School of approximately 200 pupils and a Senior School of 600 students, of whom 160 are in the Sixth Form. Columba's is an academic and aspirational school devoted to scholarship and the holistic development of each individual child. The College underwent an ISI inspection in 2022 and was judged as excellent in every respect, with no areas identified for improvement. It was established in 1955 by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and is a Roman Catholic foundation based on the educational philosophy developed by its founder, Father André Coindre: to ensure a provision of education rooted in religious values, structured through friendly discipline, nurtured by personal attention, and committed to academic excellence. We are part of a vital and dynamic group of 12 schools located primarily across the United States and United Kingdom.

The College's GCSE examination results in 2023 were among the best in its history with 62% of grades at 9-7, and A-level grades follow the same pattern with 64% A*-B. A-level results allowed 90% of students to obtain their first choice of university, including Oxbridge, with 50% attending Russell Group or top 10 universities.

Leadership throughout the College is promoted and expected of Sixth Form students: on the sports field, as Prefects, Pastoral and Academic Mentors, as well as in liaison work reaching into our Prep School. There is significant impact on the wider community, with a range of long-established charitable activities and volunteering arrangements benefiting local primary schools, special schools and homeless relief charities, both in the local area and overseas through our work with CAFOD.

Design and Technology offers students practical experiences and problem-solving skills within a structured learning framework. It is a multidisciplinary field that empowers learners to apply a diverse range of knowledge to tackle real-world challenges. Students are encouraged to engage in the design process and bring their ideas to life. Many find fulfilment and motivation in this hands-on approach.

Person Specification:

St Columba's College is seeking an enthusiastic and inspiring Teacher of Design Technology to join our growing vibrant department. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the high-quality education and holistic development of our students, within an institution renowned for its commitment to academic excellence and nurturing environment. If you have proven knowledge and understanding of the subject with a special focus on resistant materials such as metal, plastic and wood - we invite you to become part of our community.

Department Organisation with Current GCSE and A-Level Results:

Design and Technology aims to instil confidence in students to navigate and contribute to a technologically advanced society. By addressing human and environmental concerns, both locally and globally, students develop a sense of responsibility towards their communities and the planet.

The goal of Design and Technology in St Columba's College is to nurture students as critical thinkers, effective planners, creative inventors, and proficient communicators—skills crucial for shaping our future in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

From Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, all students explore products and their societal impact, fostering awareness of technological issues prevalent in today's world. This critical analysis enhances their understanding of topics, such as nuclear power and sustainability, empowering them to make informed decisions.

Key Stage 3:

Key Stage 3 (KS3) students delve into Design Technology, immersing themselves in the design process utilised by real-life designers. The curriculum encompasses three units, with two emphasising practical making skills and one centred on design and technologies. Throughout these units, students work with a variety of materials, including wood, plastics, and metal, utilising both traditional techniques and cutting-edge CAD/CAM technologies. This hands-on approach fosters crucial skills in creative problem-solving, empathy towards others' needs, and the ability to evaluate their work.

In Form 3, students who opt to continue their study of Design and Technology build upon their foundation from the previous two years, dedicating two hours per week to the subject. They further refine their design skills, deepen their technical knowledge, and enhance their workshop capabilities. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, entrepreneurship, and collaborative projects to prepare students for future endeavours.

The KS3 scheme of learning (SOL) is thoughtfully designed to align directly with the AQA GCSE Design Technology curriculum, ensuring a seamless transition for students as they progress to Key Stage 4 (KS4).

Key Stage 4 and 5:

Students often undertake projects where they respond to open design briefs, allowing for creativity and individual expression. Those who wish to pursue Design and Technology at a higher level may opt for A Level Product Design. This advanced course not only equips students with the skills and knowledge needed for university-level study but also prepares them for potential higher apprenticeships in their chosen field, providing a versatile pathway for future endeavours.

Additional Information:

The department boasts a thriving and successful environment. In 2023, impressive results were achieved, with 75% of the GCSE class attaining a grade 6 or higher, and a remarkable 100% of the A-level class securing a grade B or above. This outstanding performance is a testament to the dedication and hard work of both students and staff alike.

To support student achievement, the department offers a range of extracurricular opportunities. Lunchtime and after-school sessions are available, providing students with additional support, access to competitions, and the chance to enhance their skills. Competitions such as V&A Innovate, VEX Robotics, and the Furniture Makers School Design Prize are just a few examples of the enriching experiences available.

Past students have pursued diverse pathways after leaving the department. Some have chosen to further their studies in Product Design at esteemed institutions like Loughborough University, while others have embarked on Engineering programs at universities such as Exeter. Additionally, many have opted for higher apprenticeships with local engineering firms, showcasing the department's commitment to preparing students for both academic and professional success.

Facilities and Accommodation:

The department is proud to offer well-equipped workshops for wood, metal, and plastics, providing students with an exceptional environment to explore a variety of materials and manufacturing processes. Additionally, we have invested in Computer-Aided Manufacture (CAM) machines, ensuring students stay abreast of modern technology and manufacturing techniques.

Looking ahead, the department is excited about the prospect of expanding its facilities to include a dedicated metal forging area. This enhancement will further enrich students' experiences and broaden their skill sets in metalworking.

Furthermore, our surface pro devices are used for Computer-Aided Design (CAD), word processing, and other computer-based tasks relevant to the curriculum. This setup enables students to seamlessly integrate digital tools into their design processes and project work, preparing them for the demands of contemporary design practices.

Key Accountabilities:

- Elevating student performance and engagement by diligently tracking and nurturing their academic journey within DT.
- Crafting an enriching, comprehensive curriculum that not only equips students with essential knowledge and skills but also fosters a culture of independent learning.
- Playing an active role in the creation and implementation of detailed lesson plans and assessment frameworks, as guided by the Head of Department, to ensure educational consistency and excellence.
- Championing a collaborative spirit within the department, facilitating the sharing of best practices and promoting a unified team dynamic.
- Employing reflective teaching strategies to guarantee that all students experience substantial progress, adhering to established schemes of work, assigning meaningful homework, and conducting thorough assessments in line with departmental standards.
- Ensuring that student work is assessed frequently, to a high standard, and in accordance with the DT department's marking policy.
- Strategically utilising available resources to bolster the learning environment, in close coordination with departmental colleagues.
- Taking charge of personal professional development, seizing opportunities for growth and enhancement of teaching skills.
- Efficiently handling organisational and administrative duties related to the DT department and broader school policies, ensuring tasks are completed with precision and punctuality.
- Strengthening the academic and cultural bridge between the Prep and Senior schools, following directives from the Head of Department and/or Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning.

Generic Responsibilities:

- To be a member of a team of teachers which nurtures the Catholic ethos of the College in tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, in order to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, aesthetic, intellectual and social development of the students and the community life;
- Responsibilities carried by all teachers in the College comply with the teachers' contract of employment and Teachers' Standards;
- To promote and safeguard the welfare of children;
- Expectations regarding the role and expectations for all Form Tutors are contained within the Senior School handbook;
- To play a full part in the life of the College community to support its distinctive mission and ethos and to encourage staff and students to follow this example;
- To contribute to the Extra & Extended Curriculum Activities (EECA)

It should be noted that a job description is not an exhaustive list of activities, and employees may be asked to carry out other duties commensurate with the responsibility and seniority of the post. The job description may also be amended to take account of changed circumstances, and employees will be consulted if this is necessary.

Safeguarding Children:

The appointee's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the College's Safeguarding Policy at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the appointee becomes aware of any actual or potential risk to the safety or welfare of children in the College s/he must report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Remuneration and Benefits:

- St Columba's College operates its own salary scales.
- The College offers a fee remission of 66% for children of permanent members of staff educated at SCC.
- Membership of APTIS, a Defined Contribution Pension Scheme.
- 17 weeks of annual leave to include an October two week break.
- Complimentary lunch / tea / coffee / fruit / biscuits.
- Eye care vouchers.
- Free annual flu vaccination.
- Cycle to Work and Tech Schemes.
- Access to use of a confidential 24-hour counselling help line
- Use of the College Fitness Suite.
- Free car parking on site.
- Support with Continuing Professional Development.
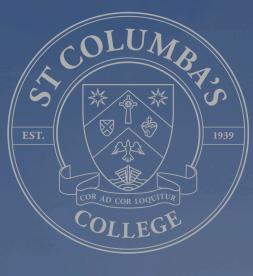- All staff have use of a Microsoft Surface Pro for school use.

Work With Us:

St Columba's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including reference checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

To apply for this position or any of our vacancies, please visit our current vacancies here. You should email your covering letter and completed job application form to Jackie Metcalfe, HR Manager at metcalfe.j@stcolumbascollege.org or call 07727 892095 to discuss further.

Application Process:

Closing date: 10.00am on Friday 3rd May 2024. Interviews will be held on Friday 10th May. Early applications are encouraged as we reserve the right to call suitable candidates to interview prior to the closing date.