



LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR TEACHING POSTS 2017/2018

“This is an outstanding school”: Ofsted, January 2007

“Pupils make exceptional progress in this school”: Ofsted boarding, January 2017

INTRODUCTION

Lancaster Royal Grammar School is one of the oldest state schools in the country. It was founded in the thirteenth century and endowed by John Gardyner in 1472. Originally situated close to the Priory Church and Lancaster Castle, the school moved to its present site in 1851 when Queen Victoria granted the Royal title. The pupils are mainly selected by examination at the age of eleven, but a substantial number also enter the sixth form after taking their GCSE examinations elsewhere. From the outset the Free School of Lancaster educated boarding as well as day pupils and of the 1000+ pupils currently attending the School about 170 are boarders. For these boys, their education remains free, and parents only pay for the boarding element. LRGS became an academy in April 2011.

We are proud of the excellent academic record of our pupils. In recent years, LRGS has consistently been one of the top state schools in the country in terms of examination success. Over the last five years 74 % of A-level entries have resulted in grades A* or B (with 18.2% A* in 2017. At GCSE, over the same period 63% of the entries gained A* or A grades (with 37.5% A* in 2017). Pupils are able and ambitious. Over 90% of students go on to further education – typically 30-40 students will apply to Oxford and Cambridge colleges each year. An average of 15 students per year gain Oxbridge offers. We are also a caring school offering strong and effective pastoral support. An exceptional range of social, cultural and sporting opportunities is provided through the varied and numerous extra-curricular activities.

The school's facilities have been extended and improved considerably in recent years. Boarding accommodation includes a junior boarding house for Year 7 & 8 boarders which opened in 2001 and a new senior house in 2008. Classrooms are well-equipped with ICT equipment including projectors and screens. The most recent new building on the site is City View which opened in September 2011. We have been fortunate to benefit from a number of recent grants and donations which are allowing us to re-model the Victorian building of Old School House to improve library facilities, develop a new Sixth Form café and create new classroom space for subjects including Drama, Economics and Business. We continue to work on the exciting task of redesigning the heart of the school to create teaching and learning facilities which will see the school through the next phase of its history. There is a genuine restlessness to keep evolving and improving.

The school aims to provide a well-balanced and rigorous academic education for all its pupils, and it is fortunate to employ an able, enthusiastic and dedicated staff. New colleagues will be well qualified in their main subject and also willing and able to pass on their wider knowledge, enthusiasms and understanding to their pupils. A broad level of involvement is encouraged.

New members of staff are assured of help and support from their colleagues whenever required. One of our core aims is to be a school that develops exceptional teaching. The careful induction of new staff and ongoing professional development are fully supported.

Dr Christopher Pyle
Headmaster

September 2017

THE SCHOOL SITE

LRGS enjoys a large site close to the centre of Lancaster with some distinguished old buildings interspersed with new teaching areas and excellent facilities. Some of the classrooms for Geography, History, Classics and MFL are located on East Road opposite the Old School (built in 1851) which houses the generously proportioned library and the sixth form centre and café. Economics and Business & Management are found in newly refurbished top floor rooms. The Music block, sports hall, gymnasium, swimming pool and assembly hall are all close by.

The remainder of the school lies higher up between Wyresdale Road and Quernmore Road, and enjoys spectacular views across Morecambe Bay to the Lake District hills beyond. Here there are specialist blocks for Mathematics, English and the three Sciences. There is a Technology centre with three workshops and an integrated ICT suite, the International Building which houses InspirUS (our primary school masterclass programme) two Art studios, plus Religious Studies and the Chaplaincy. The new City View building provides Food Technology lessons, a popular cafeteria and staff commonroom and office facilities. In addition, this upper site includes the Dining Hall, and most of the boarding accommodation. Our cricket pavilion and four cricket squares nestle just below Lancaster's most prominent landmark, the Ashton Memorial.

The school has extensive sports fields for rugby and athletics just a short walk (or run) away.

THE STAFF AND THE ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL

The Headmaster has two deputies. The Second Master carries responsibility for boarding and pastoral matters and the Third Master has responsibility for the academic direction of the school. There are three Assistant Heads.

There are in total 57 full-time teaching staff and 18 who teach part-time. A staffing structure detailing the various Heads of Department and coordinator posts is available if requested.

The teaching staff are well supported by an equally committed support staff, led by the Director of Finance and Support Staff and team leaders. High levels of support for teachers are provided by the General Office staff, technicians, librarian, information officer and the grounds staff. Our catering operation is run by Chartwells. School food is much better than the boys would tell you!

There are five forms at the point of entry and approximately ten tutor groups in both Sixth Form years. We are expanding to six forms of Year 7 entry from September 2017. It is anticipated that most teachers will have pastoral responsibilities for one of these forms or groups.

Our 170 boarders are placed in one of four boarding houses: Storey House (for Year 7 & 8), Frankland House (for Year 9), School House and Ashton House. The Boarding Housemaster in each case is a member of the teaching staff who is assisted by House Tutors and by other catering, medical and cleaning staff. Resident boarding staff generally receive free accommodation in addition to additional remuneration. Non-resident house tutors receive free meals when on duty and a boarding house allowance. Applicants for teaching posts may wish to consider applying for some boarding house duties.

Please note that the school operates a no smoking policy.

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND TIMETABLE

The school timetable operates using 35 periods per week each of 40 or 45 minutes duration. Lunch is taken from 13.05 to 14.05. Each day is from 08.50 to 15.30 and has seven teaching periods, five of which are before lunch.

The timetable operates on a two-week cycle. The current period allocation in each cycle, for subjects studied up to GCSE, is shown below.

| Subject (Key Stage 4) | Years 10 & 11 |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Maths | 8 & 9 |
| English | 10 |
| Projects | 4 & 3 |
| Option 1 ² | 6 |
| Option 2 | 6 |
| Option 3 | 6 |
| Option 4 | 6 |
| Option 5 | 6 |
| Option 6 | 6 |
| Option 7 | 6 |
| PE | 2 |
| Games | 4 |
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| Subject (Key Stage 3) | Year 9 | Year 8 | Year 7 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Maths | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| English | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| French | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Physics | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Chemistry | 4 | | |
| Biology | 4 | | |
| RE/Phil. | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| History | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Geography | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Latin | 4 | 4 | 2 ³ |
| Technology | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Art ⁴ | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Music | } 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Option ⁵ | | | |
| Option ⁶ | | 4 | |
| PE | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Games | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Values | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Computing | 1 | 1 | 1 |

² In Y10 and Y11 boys choose seven subjects from:- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Latin, Greek, Spanish, German, Art, Music, Religious Studies, French, Physical Education, Theatre Studies, Resistant Materials, Systems and Controls, Food Technology and Computing. They must choose at least two sciences and at least one MFL). Year 10 pupils can also study for Higher Project Qualification.

³ In Year 7 this is a language and learning course.

⁴ In Year 9 this is an expressive arts course including art, music and drama.

⁵ In Year 9 boys choose one subject from German, Spanish and Greek.

⁶ In Year 8 boys choose one subject from German or Spanish

In the Lower Sixth time is divided into 4 blocks (13 periods each) and games (4 periods). In the 4 main blocks students choose 3 or 4 subjects at AS level from the following:- Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Greek, History, Latin, Maths, Further Maths, Music, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish, Technology, Theatre Studies and Computing. A fifth block is devoted to a tutor period and Enrichment Programme which includes an opportunity to work towards the Extended Project Qualification.

On average, staff teach about 58 periods in each two week cycle and spend a further period supervising sixth form private study. The remaining periods are free for planning and assessment.

In addition to a main subject specialism, it is sometimes helpful if an applicant can offer a second subject. This is especially useful up to GCSE level and also in the Options programme in the sixth form.

We actively support staff professional and career development. LRGS is active in teacher training with the University of Cumbria and through School Direct. A number of teachers are undertaking Masters degrees or National Professional Qualifications in Middle and Senior Leadership, while others are involved with the Prince's Teaching Institute, local cluster groups and the regional Maths Hub led by LRGS for example.

PUPIL WELFARE, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL CARE

The immediate pastoral care of pupils is undertaken by form tutors. A form period is set aside, each day, from 8.50 am to 9.05 am. The work of form tutor is supported and co-ordinated by the Head of Year 7 and Transition, the Head of Year 8 & 9, the Head of Middle School (Years 10 and 11) and the Head of Sixth Form. Successful applicants will normally be expected to undertake the duties of a form tutor.

Personal development is aided by the LRGS Values programme which has recently been introduced in Years 7 to 11.

The boarders are cared for by the Housemasters and Medical Centre staff. There is an increasing trend towards weekly boarding from Monday morning to Friday afternoon.

SPORT & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

LRGS offers the opportunity for boys to compete at a high standard in a range of sports. Rugby, cricket, athletics, cross-country running, swimming and rowing are the major team and individual sports. Hockey, tennis, squash, basketball, badminton, football and golf are also played against other schools.

The success of the sports mentioned above depends to a large extent on the interest and enthusiasm of staff beyond the PE department. Contributions from new staff to the sporting life of the school are always welcome.

In addition to these sports, the boys can take part in a wide range of other outdoor activities all of which are run by dedicated staff. In their first year, all pupils spend three days in the Lake District on an outdoor pursuits course. Year 9 pupils can join the combined cadet force which has Army, Navy and Air Force sections. Other activities include orienteering, canoeing, mountain walking expeditions and rock climbing. A large number of boys take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

For boys whose interests are not sporting, the school has active clubs which range from chess to debating to Warhammer! There is a very successful drama group which aims to produce at least two plays or musicals each year. The standard of music at the school is high. The orchestra plays in conjunction with the Girls' Grammar School and there is an excellent Big Band as well as a wide range of other ensembles. The school choir is particularly impressive, the highlight of the year being the annual Carol Service in Lancaster Priory.

The school has very strong links with our partner schools in Europe and international tours or visits are becoming increasingly ambitious. Recent trips include a rugby tour to Argentina, cricket tour to Barbados, and music tour to Barcelona.

FRIENDS OF LRGS AND THE OLD LANCASTRIAN CLUB

The school enjoys the enthusiastic support of the parents' association called 'The Friends of LRGS'. The Friends help the school by organising and helping with social occasions and by fund-raising. It is usual for members of staff to take a turn serving on the Friends' committee.

The school has a thriving Old Lancastrian Club which provides regular contact for our leavers and also financial support for school activities.

THE LANCASTER AREA

We consider the Lancaster area to have unrivalled opportunities. The quality of life is high in this university city. LRGS is a happy school with a very committed staff and pupils who are a pleasure to teach!

Lancaster is surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty. It is only a short drive to the Lune Valley, the Pennines, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District. The local amenities include good shopping facilities, a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities, the new University of Cumbria and Lancaster University. Communications to the rest of Britain by road (M6) and rail (main line) are first class.

There are many delightful residential areas in Lancaster and the surrounding districts. House prices are around the national average.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for posts at LRGS should consist of a letter and a fully completed Application Form. Candidates may also send a CV if they wish. Details should be provided to allow the school to contact two referees.

Applicants are encouraged to use the letter to explain why the post is potentially attractive and to identify any interests or skills which would particularly enhance the application.

CHILD PROTECTION

LRGS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to show this commitment. The successful applicant will need to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly CRB).

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lrgs.org.uk

www.academyconverters.ofsted.gov.uk (URN119810)

www.ofsted.gov.uk (URN SCO42778)