



Head of Spanish

Full-Time, Permanent

We are looking for a creative, enthusiastic and inspirational practitioner with drive and high standards to fill a full-time Head of Spanish post from September 2024. The appointed candidate will be an experienced teacher or middle leader with a track record of contributing to and developing their current Languages Faculty. We are looking for a practitioner able to motivate and challenge both pupils and colleagues. They will lead an innovative and forward-looking department.

The role will involve promoting interest in the Spanish language through cultural events, exchanges, co-curricular activities and trips, as well as monitoring and supporting the delivery of the curriculum.

The successful candidate will have the ability to teach Spanish from KS3 to university entrance. The ability to offer French up to IGCSE would be desirable. Please specify in your application all the experience you have of teaching languages and to what level. Also required are an up-to-date knowledge of developments in language teaching, good IT skills as well as strong organisational, administrative and interpersonal skills.

About Us

Clifton College is a leading independent day and boarding school educating over 1,200 pupils aged 3 to 18. Founded in 1862, the College provides an all-round education, a rich heritage with modern state-of-the-art facilities. Located in the beautiful suburb of Clifton, we lead the way as one of the best independent schools in the country.

The Languages Faculty

The Languages Faculty is composed of fifteen members of staff including three Foreign Language Assistants (French, Spanish and German). There are four departments within the Languages Faculty and each department is managed by a Head of Department (French, Spanish, German and Native Languages). Heads of departments manage teachers and Assistants in their respective departments.

The Head of Languages leads the Languages Faculty and manages the Heads of departments. The Head of Spanish will be trained and supported by the Head of Languages to become a successful middle leader. The Languages Faculty is a strong team with dedicated and hardworking teachers who value collaboration and effective communication.



The Spanish Department

The Spanish department is strong in terms of enthusiasm and experience, and is a supportive team. There are currently four members of staff teaching Spanish and a Spanish Assistant. The Head of Spanish would be expected to manage the Assistant and the Spanish department efficiently and effectively. The Head of Spanish would also be expected to manage their own budget to order resources for their department. Spanish is the most popular language in the Upper School. Consequently, we are looking for a dynamic practitioner able to motivate, inspire and stretch our Spanish learners.

The Pupils

When entering the Upper School in Year 9, most pupils study two languages. Many of our pupils come from Clifton College Preparatory School, where they start French at an early age and then study two languages from Year 7, with German, Spanish and French on offer. Many continue with the two languages started in the Preparatory School and take them to IGCSE level. For other pupils and those entering from outside, there are beginners' sets in German, French and Spanish from Year 9. Studying French and Spanish is the most popular combination in Year 9. Taking at least one language at IGCSE level is compulsory. French, German, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, Italian and Portuguese can be taken to A Level. Oxbridge candidates are identified half-way through the Lower Sixth (Year 12) and preparation classes are offered off-timetable.

The Syllabus and Curriculum

For each language, Year 9 currently has 5 periods of 45 minutes per fortnight and Years 10 and 11 each have 7. Set sizes are not bigger than 22 and many are much smaller. We enter all sets in French, German and Spanish for the Edexcel IGCSE exam.

In the Sixth Form, candidates use a variety of resources to prepare for the Edexcel A level including the Hodder Edexcel A Level series.

Our IGCSE and A level results are strong. Our record with high attaining candidates is excellent, and typically one or two students prepare for interviews in Modern Languages at Oxford or Cambridge every year. Numbers for languages in the Sixth Form have grown in the last five years.



Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities

The department runs several study trips and is keen to organise more. The Head of Spanish would be expected to run trips locally and abroad and organise whole school events to promote Spanish.

Here is a selection of recent activities:

- A German language and History trip to Berlin.
- A French trip to Paris.
- “El Dia de los muertos” cultural day
- A European Day of Languages celebration
- A Modern Languages Christmas Market

We also put on a number of events for students, including the following in recent terms:

- A large MFL Debating event involving over 170 participants from local schools, in French, German, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.
- A Sixth Form ‘Language Fest’, to enable students to perform sketches in front of a small audience.
- A Modern Languages poetry evening with all Sixth Form linguists
- A poetry evening for all years.
- A German event to celebrate the start of Fasching.
- A French cheese tasting night.
- A Spanish tapas night.
- Lectures from Universities on language, history and on writers.
- Modern Languages Film Club evenings and a Modern Languages Society.

The Facilities including ICT

The Languages Faculty is located in a beautiful building at 4/5 Worcester Road. The building has a ‘Languages café’ which serves as a venue for films and debates. It is a very popular place amongst staff and students to meet, eat or read a foreign language newspaper over a coffee. The eleven classrooms are well-equipped with state-of-the art Smart screens and sound bars. We also have a language laboratory. Each of the Assistants has their own office and there is also a Faculty staffroom.

If you require any further information about this role, please contact the Head of Languages, Géraldine Maringo at gmaringo2@cliftoncollege.com



How we Recruit and our commitment to Safeguarding

Clifton College is committed to Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). That's why we apply stringent selection principles to our recruitment. If you're invited to an interview, you'll be asked to complete an application form (but it's OK if you want to send us your CV too). Although not all the roles at Clifton College are pupil-facing, we treat all roles as regulated activity. This means we can be safe in the knowledge that we have applied the most stringent recruitment checks to safeguard our pupils.

If you join us, we'll expect you to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of Safeguarding legislation, and our safeguarding policies and procedures. We'll also ask you to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of Equality and Diversity legislation and associated policies, as well as Health & Safety legislation. But don't worry because we'll provide training to do this!

What's in it for you

- Free Holiday Club • Free lunch • Onsite gym membership with swimming pool • Pension scheme & Life Assurance
- Cycle to work scheme • Confidential counselling • Employee Assistance • Opportunities for career development • Pop Up Bicycle Servicing • Wellbeing Week

How to apply

In the first instance, send us your CV. If you're invited to interview, we'll ask you to complete an application form which is a key requirement of Safer Recruitment within Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

Clifton College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, all staff and volunteers are required to share this commitment. Due to the nature of the role, you will need to complete an enhanced criminal record disclosure (DBS check) and undergo our pre-employment screening. As a regulated sector we are required to ask for references prior to interview. By applying for this role you are consenting for us to contact your referees. This role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 therefore you will be asked to disclose all previous convictions not exempt under amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.

Equal Opportunities & Safeguarding

Applications are welcome from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age or disability. We particularly encourage applications from under-represented groups. Clifton College is committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.