Head of Computer Science and Academic IT
Permanent/Full Time
Clifton Pay Scale

For September 2024, Clifton College seeks an experienced, enthusiastic and well-qualified Head of Computer Science and Academic IT. This is an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to drive forward a Department that has delivered outstanding results for a number of years. They will also make a positive contribution to the wider life of a busy day and boarding school.

Some candidates may also be interested in our vacancy for Assistant Head Digital Education, in which case both applications should be submitted simultaneously.

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.

About You

We require an inspirational Head of Computer Science and Academic IT who is able to make a significant contribution to the development of the subject, showing creativity, passion and initiative. The candidate should ideally have experience of teaching both GCSE and A level Computer Science. Experience of teaching IT BTEC may also be of use.

The successful candidate will be a competent and enthusiastic programmer, with experience of a number of different languages, and evidence of a continuing interest in coding. Python and C## are used at GCSE and A level respectively, so proficiency in both these languages is essential. The successful candidate will also be a strong mathematician, holding a good grade in Mathematics A level or equivalent. They will have a good honours degree in the subject or a closely related qualification, and a teaching qualification would be an advantage.

The School sees this appointment as an exciting opportunity to review the teaching of all aspects of computing across the full 13–18 age range. The candidate must also be able to support a wide range of pupils and their needs, from those interested in vocational routes into the areas of IT and computing after school, to those interested in studying Computer Science at Oxford, Cambridge, and other top institutions.

Information Technology is currently taught to all pupils in Year 9, and also as a BTEC in Sixth Form. GCSE and A level Computer Science is an option for Year 10 and 12 pupils respectively.

In addition, the Department offers a number of opportunities to enthuse pupils about computing and explore its opportunities. These include Computing as an activity choice in Year 9, and a Coding Club open to all Years. For many years, pupils have successfully taken part in a number of national computing competitions, such as Bebras and the British Informatics Olympiad. We are looking for a teacher who will not only deliver excellence in the classroom but who will also inspire our pupils to develop their own passion for the digital world.

Specific Responsibilities

- Take responsibility for maintaining up-to-date schemes of work, department handbook, development planning documentation and other associated admin.

- Focus on planning and delivering outstanding lessons that inspire and enthuse pupils.

- Hold the highest expectations of all pupils irrespective of their ability or background.

- Work with the Learning Support Department, academic and pastoral teams to ensure that opportunities are provided for every pupil to make progress including the provision of extension activities for those who excel at the subject.

- Set challenging and rewarding prep tasks, and provide prompt feedback inline with school and department policy.

- Assess, record and report on academic and pastoral progress and attainment of pupils.

- Give a decisive lead to the delivery of Computer Science across Key Stages 4 and 5.

- Stay in touch with best practice within Computer Science teaching.

- Keep up to date with University requirements and courses, and advise pupils on their university applications as appropriate.

The ICT Department

The Department has two specially designed classrooms for delivering IT and Computer Science. The College has extensive and modern ICT facilities throughout the campus, including a super-fast Wi-Fi network.

The school has a very successful record in public examinations with both Computer Science and Information Technology. In 2023, at GCSE 53% achieved grades 7-9 (91% achieved grades 5-9), and at A level 67% achieved A*-A grades. 100% of BTEC IT candidates achieved *D or Distinction.

Extra-Curricular Computing

The school is keen for the department to offer opportunities for pupils across the school to develop their computing skills outside of the classroom. This may be developed through increased opportunities for pupils to take part in national competitions, and through appropriate trips and visits related to Computer Science.

If you require any further information about this role, please contact the Deputy Head Academic, Gavin Turner at gturner@cliftoncollege.com.

09 August 2023

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 we Recruit and our commitment to Safeguarding
Clifton College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. That's why we apply robust selection principles to our recruitment, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).

Please complete our application form. 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.

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.

If you join us, we will provide regular training on Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety legislation to ensure that you maintain an up-to-date knowledge of these areas.

Equal Opportunities
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.

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