

BABLAKE SCHOOL



TEACHER OF HISTORY

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Bablake School is an HMC independent co-educational day school, with 850 pupils, of whom 220 are in the Sixth Form. There is an even balance of boys and girls. The main entry to Bablake is at the age of 11, when about 125 pupils join, of whom one third come from our Junior School. Entry is governed by academic ability, and the availability of Bablake School Bursaries and Scholarships allows us to assist over a quarter of pupils financially. The School occupies an attractive site approximately 1 mile from Coventry city centre, and is easily accessible by road from surrounding towns and villages. Coventry itself is undergoing healthy regeneration after the loss of some manufacturing industry, and is surrounded by some beautiful countryside in the heart of England. The School enjoys the educational, artistic and historical benefits of its proximity to Warwick and Coventry Universities, Birmingham, Royal Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon.

For those seeking selective co-education, Bablake is often the natural first choice for pupils from primary and preparatory schools throughout Warwickshire and the West Midlands. There is healthy competition for places, and it is not surprising that the vast majority of pupils obtain 10 GCSE passes at grades A* to C. Over the last three years, 65% of GCSE grades have been A* or A, with 81% of A Levels graded A or B.

The School was founded in 1344, but has occupied its current home since 1890. The main impressive Victorian building has been constantly upgraded and improved. Recent developments have included a Language Block (1991), a Junior School (1993), a new Science Laboratory (1997), a suite of ICT rooms (1999), an English, Drama and Music Block (2000), refurbishment of the Design Technology area (2001 and 2002), two new Science Laboratories (2004), refurbishment of the swimming pool (2005), an extension to the Library (2005), a new multi-media Language Laboratory (2006), refurbishment of the Main Hall (2007/08) and new indoor sports facilities (2009). In addition, there has been a gradual improvement of all teaching areas, so that all departments now have their own suite of rooms and staff areas, as well as having access to ICT equipment including multi-media projectors and interactive whiteboards. There are 40 acres of excellent playing fields about one mile away from the School. Next to these is the Coventry School Foundation Astro Turf facility, which is shared with our sister school, King Henry VIII. The Governors are committed to building a new Junior School, which will enable the Senior School to develop the current Junior School as a new Sixth Form Centre.

Extra-curricular activities, including sport, music, drama, art, Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, are enthusiastically pursued and supported by staff and pupils alike, as is a vigorous programme of Community Service and charity fundraising. A Combined Cadet Force was introduced in September 2002, and is the largest volunteer contingent in the West Midlands. There is a vibrant House system. In recent years the School has been represented in national finals for Rugby and Netball, with the Hockey teams (boys' and girls'), Cricket teams and the Athletics teams regular winners of local and regional competitions. There is a full and varied programme of visits and tours, to all parts of the world. All pupils visit Le Logis de Fousseau, a French manor house owned by the Coventry School Foundation.

Staff are all well qualified and enthusiastic. The School received an outstanding inspection report in February 2008, and it was said that "lessons are distinguished by a powerful sense of purpose to learn, in a shared enterprise between teacher and pupil". The School has a strong reputation for pastoral care, and staff are committed to extra-curricular activities. Salaries are based on a generous interpretation of the National Scales and, in addition, there is a Bablake allowance (at present £1280), as well as the School's own 'threshold scheme'. Generous fee remission for staff children is available at all Foundation schools (from age 3). The School is part of the HMC NQT accreditation scheme that allows newly qualified staff to gain QTS after one year's successful teaching. There is an excellent and loyal support staff.

Individuals at Bablake are nurtured and encouraged to develop their own talents and grow in self-esteem. There is a strong sense of consideration for others within an outward-looking and friendly community.

A fuller description of the school may be found on our website (www.bablake.com), which also contains a link to the latest ISI inspection report. Bablake is one of five schools in the Coventry School Foundation, which comprises Bablake Senior and Junior Schools, Bablake Pre-preparatory School at Cheshunt, and King Henry VIII Senior and Preparatory Schools.

J W Watson
Headmaster
February 2010

HISTORY AT BABLAKE

The History Department at Bablake is committed to supporting the aims and objectives of the School. There are five well-qualified, enthusiastic and experienced Historians on the team, including a Deputy Head and the Director of Studies. The department aims to enthuse its students through enquiry-led learning and debate. We encourage our students to be independent learners and this is a key focus of our current development plan.

The department is situated in suited accommodation on the ground floor in the main building. There are three dedicated classrooms for students in Years 7 to 11, a Sixth Form room and a computer room with 18 workstations, two printers and a scanner. The three main classrooms are each equipped with an interactive Smart Board, computer, DVD and video player. The Sixth Form room has a media centre. The History Office is situated between two of the main teaching rooms and has two computers, a scanner and printer. The department is very well resourced with both textbooks and extension books for all years. The School Library holds further extension material.

The department is very supportive of both staff and pupils. Teaching staff share ideas and resources and we are building a comprehensive pool of resources on the school Intranet. A pupil requiring urgent extra help can approach any member of the team before school, at lunchtime or at the end of school. The department has a weekly workshop for Year 11 students throughout the Spring and Summer terms.

There is a Junior History Society which meets at lunchtime every Wednesday. The History department takes all Year 7 pupils to Warwick Castle for a day of 'hands on' historical study in October each year. Sixth Form students have recently travelled to Russia to reinforce their A level studies. A trip to Berlin for GCSE students is planned for next year.

All students study History in Years 7 – 9. Years 7 and 9 have three 35 minute periods which are normally arranged as one double lesson and one single lesson. Year 8 has two single period lessons. History is a popular option choice at GCSE and A level. There are currently 5 sets in Y11, 4 sets in Y10, 3 LVI sets and one UVI set.

At GCSE the department follows the OCR History B Modern World syllabus. The topics currently studied are:

- International Relations 1918-1939 and Germany 1918-1945 (Unit 971A – knowledge and understanding)
- British History 1890-1918 (Unit 972A –source evaluation)
- The Role of the Individual in History: Lenin and the Russian Revolution 1917-1924 (coursework)

At A level the Department follows the AQA syllabus. The modules offered are:

- HIS1B: Britain 1483-1529
- HIS2L: The Impact of Stalin on the USSR, 1924-1953
- HIS3K: Triumph and Collapse: Russia and the USSR 1941-1991
- HIS4X: Tudor Rebellions (Historical Enquiry)

Eight periods a week are allocated to Years 10 and 11; eight to Year 12 and ten to Year 13.

Examination results for History at both GCSE and A level have been very good. In 2009, 72% of GCSE students achieved an A* or A grade and 96% achieved a grade B or above. All achieved at least a grade C. At A level in 2009 96% of students achieved an A or B grade.

Staff in the History department normally only leave for promotion or retirement. The current vacancy arises from the retirement of the Director of Studies.

TEACHER OF HISTORY

from 1 September 2010

This post would suit a dynamic and well qualified graduate, who is capable of teaching History up to A level. The ability to teach another humanities subject, particularly Geography, Classics or Religious Studies at Key Stage 3 will be an advantage (as might participation in the school's Games programme). Appropriate training will be available if necessary for newly qualified staff wishing to gain QTS status after one year's successful teaching. The successful candidate will have good communication and ICT skills, and will wish to work as part of a mutually supportive team. He or she will also enjoy developing and nurturing young people outside the department, and involvement in the pastoral and extra-curricular sides of the school community will be expected.

A teacher at Bablake contributes to the well-being and development of the school by supervising, guiding and caring for pupils inside and outside the classroom. He or she is responsible to the appropriate Head of Department, and is expected to:

- Teach within the agreed departmental scheme of work and follow agreed whole school policies on such matters as reports, marking and assessing and monitoring pupils' work and progress.
- Attend departmental meetings and INSET days, as well as whole school Staff Meetings as indicated by the Headmaster.
- Exercise proper care of rooms and equipment and follow the school's policy on Health and Safety matters.

While the first priority of a subject teacher is the teaching of his/her own subject - including preparation, marking, assessing and evaluation of the success or failure of any period of teaching - it is hoped that a subject teacher will:

- Attempt to improve qualifications and expertise and keep up-to-date with subject material and exam requirements, as is necessary and practicable.
- Participate in the various extra-curricular activities offered at Bablake as his/her interests allow.
- Become involved in the Tutor, Pastoral and House systems currently in operation in the school.

It is recognised that this job description is not comprehensive and will alter for each subject teacher, so as to reflect his or her own interests, aptitude and involvement in the various activities and roles in operation at the school.

Bablake School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and this is reflected in its recruitment procedures. Successful candidates for posts are required to undergo an enhanced CRB disclosure.

Application forms, accompanied by a covering letter and curriculum vitae, should reach the Headmaster as soon as possible, and no later than Wednesday 17 March. Interviews are likely to occur the following week.