



TEACHER OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY May 2024 Information for Candidates

Introduction

This document will give you an introduction to the school, the design and technology department and information about the vacancy. We wish to appoint someone who is passionate about all aspects of design and technology and can make a valuable contribution to the department as well as the whole school. In addition you should be open to new ideas and work well as part of a progressive and dynamic team. You would be joining a supportive, experienced and committed team who work hard to deliver an innovative and creative curriculum across all abilities through enjoyable, well planned and structured lessons.

The School

Vyners is a well-established and heavily over-subscribed school with a reputation for high standards of behaviour and attainment. Our core values of Community, Aspiration, Respect and Endeavour underpin everything we do as does our absolute commitment to ensuring our students get a better deal here than they would in any other school in the country.

It was built in 1959 as a four form entry mixed grammar school. In 1977 it became comprehensive and expanded to five forms of entry and in 1996 expanded again to take six forms of entry. In 1991 the school became grant maintained and in 1999 a Foundation School. Specialist College Status in **Mathematics and Computing** was obtained from September 2003. The school converted to academy status on 1 November 2011, a move which allows us greater financial freedom and security, as well as giving us the opportunity to continue to push the boundaries of excellence. Since January 2018 the school has been part of the **Vanguard Learning Trust** which also includes one other secondary school and three local primary schools. The current school roll is **1490 with 274 in the Sixth Form**. Our standard admission number is 240 and we are an eight form entry school with a significant number of families wanting to send their children to Vyners to be educated.

Despite being a relatively small site, the school has developed some impressive facilities; a large sports hall, extensive ICT facilities and specialist teaching areas. Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboard technology and the school network is constantly upgraded. We have invested over £1,000,000 improving the learning environment over the past four years and have exciting plans for the future.

The school was graded Good overall by Ofsted in December 2013, with **Outstanding** judgements for Behaviour and Safety and, Leadership and Management. They visited us again in February 2018 under the short inspection framework for Good schools. In the final inspection report, the Lead Inspector noted and stated '*I am of the opinion that the school has demonstrated strong practice and marked improvement in certain areas. This may indicate that the school is improving towards being Outstanding*'. We were re-inspected in May 2019 under the full inspection framework and have now been designated an **Outstanding** school. The school continues to achieve excellent examination results. In 2023 our headline 'figure' at GCSE level for English and Maths was 82%. We are also very proud of our A-level results with nearly a third of all grades



achieved at A* - A and 54% A* - B grades. We firmly believe that we can build on this success again this year.

Location

The School is situated close to the 'village' of Ickenham in a very pleasant residential area on the edge of the Green Belt. Although only thirty minutes or so from the centre of London by underground, access to the countryside is equally quick via the M40, M25 or M4. The School itself is well situated on a residential road, surrounded by many mature trees, which provides a pleasant atmosphere for both work and leisure.

Teaching and Learning

The current agenda and aspirations for the school are challenging and motivating as we are classed as Outstanding. We continue to develop our curriculum to meet the needs of the learners and to improve the skills of our staff to deliver this curriculum. To support this work the whole school community is committed to improving teaching strategies and understanding better how students learn. We know that effective learning cannot be left to chance; we have to refine and change our approaches if we want to make real and lasting improvements. We recognise the need to prepare students for the 21st century and make extensive use of new technologies (mobile technology, Web 2.0 tools) and are striving to develop more independent learners. Google Classroom is embedded in the school as a tool to support learning. Our key focus this year is exceptional teaching, which promotes engagement with the processes of explanation, practising and testing to enhance learning.

Developing and training Middle Leaders in the effective use of data and helping them to develop a range of different teaching strategies within their teams have been priorities. Each year we deliver significant staff development, including our annual Staff Conference, which has a focus on developing specific aspects of teaching and learning.

The Staff

Staff morale at Vyners is high, supported by a positive working environment and reviewed through staff surveys. The school puts a great deal of time and resources into training and developing its staff. Appraisal is focused on school improvement, professional development and well-being. Staff meetings encourage high levels of discussion and feedback and some staff are involved in one of our Teaching and Learning bursaries to develop and recommend major changes to whole school policy. Professional development is run every Tuesday after school, and a 'Teaching and Learning Community' meets on Wednesday mornings to develop knowledge and understanding of pedagogy and share good practice. Many staff give freely of their time to run numerous lunchtime and after school activities.

The Students

Central to everything which happens at Vyners are our students. Staff seek to ensure that every young person feels valued and listened to. Relationships between staff and students at Vyners are excellent; raised voices are seldom heard and students appreciate the fact that they are encouraged to express and discuss their views. The Student Council plays an important role in the development of policy at Vyners. Students take part in the development of the school vision and values and all applicants for teaching posts are interviewed by a student panel.



The Design and Technology Department

The Curriculum

Design and technology is taught for three periods over a fortnight on a carousel in Years 7 and 8. Students rotate through termly projects that give them foundation experience in Design and Technology, including food technology. As part of our KS4 transition programme, we currently have four Design and Technology groups and four Catering groups in Year 9. In GCSE, we have two DT groups and two Catering groups in Year 10, and in Year 11 we have three DT groups and one Catering group. AQA Product Design 'A' level continues to be a popular option with one group and one Level 3 WJFC BTEC Food Science and Nutrition Course. We have very successful examination results and are currently seeking to maximise the number of 8 and 9 grades and A*/A grades at A level. We pride ourselves on the high quality of work made by our students and staff consistently producing high quality project ideas and resources that inspire creativity.

Staffing

The Design and Technology department has 4 teachers and 2 technicians. Each teacher is able to teach a variety of disciplines at KS3, KS4 and KS5. Co-operation, sharing of skills and creative ideas are all essential to the way we work. We are a friendly and energetic team who work collaboratively in a mutually supportive manner to develop our individual strengths and professional expertise. We regularly have student teachers assigned to the department and they all find the experience gained in the department to be invaluable.

Facilities

- 3 large mixed discipline workshops
- 2 well-equipped Food Technology rooms.
- An A2+ 40W laser cutter
- Three 3D printers



Results

	2021		2022		2023	
KS4: GCSE	9-4	9-1	9-4	9-1	9-4	9-1
Resistant Materials	80%	100%	71%	100%	59%	98%
KS4: GCSE	9-4	9-1	9-4	9-1	9-4	9-1
Food Preparation	89%	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%
KS5: A2	*A-B	*A-E	*A-B	*A-E	*A-B	*A-E
Product Design	67%	100%	100%	100%	50%	100%
KS5: L3 Applied Diploma			D* -D	D* -M	D*-D	D*-M
Food Science & Nutrition			29%	100%	22%	67%

Other information

- We endeavour to give students the chance to develop creatively and practically. As part of our extra-curricular offering, we have been very successful over the years in entering a variety of different competitions. Successes have included a third place in the V&A's Design Ventura, a regional win in the Bloodhound Challenge, first place in IET Faraday competition, high placed in regional VEX robotics competition and a special mention in the Great British Space Dinner.
- In class, support is available for students identified with special educational needs.
- We have strong links with local primary schools and offer a design and technology day for year 6 students.