



**SCIENCE TECHNICIAN
(Maternity Cover)**
Information for Candidates

www.gadshill.org

An opportunity to be an integral part of an ambitious Science department within an exciting 3-16 independent day school. Our close-knit team of scientists delivers Biology, Chemistry and Physics up to GCSE-level, working in the beautiful surroundings of the former home of Charles Dickens.



The Gad's Hill Curriculum

Gad's Hill is an independent day school for boys and girls aged three to sixteen years, located near Rochester, Kent. Based within the former home of Charles Dickens, the School is ideally situated with easy access to the M2 motorway and high-speed rail connections to London. The School combines modern facilities with timeless values. The Lower School occupies purpose-built accommodation opened in 2013. The Upper School occupies Charles Dickens' former home, along with a range of other buildings including accommodation for specialist and practical subjects. At the present time, the School has about 385 pupils on roll and employs around 90 staff, approximately 40 of whom are qualified teachers.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enable our students to enjoy school, to achieve good academic qualifications and to develop those personal attributes and qualities which will guide them on their journey through life.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the first choice independent school for families in Kent who value a well-rounded education for their children. It is our intention that our pupils leave Gad's Hill as confident, mature, articulate, pleasant and self-reliant young people who are well equipped to enter the world through a university education or career of their choice.

Our Values

We value **excellence, enthusiasm, friendship and success**. These attributes underpin all that we do. Our mission, vision and values are shaped by our commitment to educate children holistically, as articulated by our school motto: ***"First to thine own self be true"***.

Our Ethos

We believe that children do well when they are happy at school and at Gad's Hill we pride ourselves on providing a friendly environment, where enthusiasm and hard work are the foundations for achieving success.

There is more to life than exam results alone and while Gad's Hill enjoys the reputation of receiving good GCSE results this is not our sole focus. We want to offer our pupils a foundation in life, working with them to become confident, motivated and articulate young people ready for the next stage in their education and life beyond.

Structure and Nomenclature

The School is structured as follows:

Section	Year Name	NC Year
Lower School	KN	Nursery
	KR	Reception
	K1	Year 1
	K2	Year 2
	J3	Year 3
	J4	Year 4
	J5	Year 5
	Lower Shell	Year 6
Upper School	Upper Shell	Year 7
	Lower 4 th	Year 8
	Upper 4 th	Year 9
	Lower 5 th	Year 10
	Upper 5 th	Year 11

The Gad's Hill Curriculum



Our History

Gad's Hill Place is world-famous as being the former home of author Charles Dickens, who lived here from 1856 until his death in 1870. It is here that he penned his classic novels "*Great Expectations*" and "*A Tale of Two Cities*".

In the 1920s Gad's Hill Place was converted into a school for girls and in September 2001 the school became fully co-educational, admitting boys throughout. Gone, however, are the days when the school could be housed solely in an 18th century country manor house. In recent years the School has developed the site, against the backdrop of the historic house. After a lengthy process, planning consent was finally secured in July 2010 to develop entirely new accommodation for the whole School.

Phase I (built) is the Lower School along with a number of whole-school facilities. Phase II (not yet under construction) will be new accommodation for the Upper School.

The Present

Our new building is now the established home of the Lower School, along with a number of facilities used by pupils of all ages: a music suite, sports hall, theatre and catering and dining facilities. These facilities provide future generations of pupils, aspiring sports stars, budding young musicians and actors with the resources that they need to thrive and excel.

The Future

It is hoped and anticipated that the second phase of the project will see the demolition of a mix of buildings erected through the School's history, and the construction of a new Upper School. In recent months, some consideration has been given to working up a more phased approach to delivery of the new Upper School buildings. Once the new Upper School is complete, we hope to see the historic house used as a heritage and educational resource, celebrating the life and work of Charles Dickens.

The Gad's Hill Curriculum



The School

Gad's Hill School operates as three distinct departments within one school. The Kindergarten takes children from age three in our Nursery through to Year 2. Here, alongside the foundation in literacy, numeracy, sciences and humanities, there is a strong emphasis on play, physical education, music and drama with all pupils performing in a number of short productions each year. The school places particular emphasis on communications and therefore pupils from Reception upwards receive twice weekly lessons in Spanish and also ICT.

The Juniors are two-form entry from Years 3-6. Our Junior pupils receive a high proportion of lessons with subject specialists; in particular Modern Languages (Spanish), DT, ICT, Art, Music, Science & Games. By Years 5 and 6 nearly all lessons are delivered by specialist tutors. In sport our students have the opportunity to represent the school in fixtures against other schools.

Our school is located geographically within a selective secondary system and historically many of our pupils would leave to attend grammar schools at the end of Lower Shell (Year 6). However, in the last few years, the growing success of our Charles Dickens Scholarship Award, providing financial assistance to the most able pupils from our own Lower School and many from the wider community, has resulted in the development of highly capable and aspirational cohorts at Key Stage 3. Our strength is to make the most of our small class sizes and supportive atmosphere to add significant value to every individual.

The Upper School has a two- or three-form entry. The curriculum is relatively broad, with all pupils taking a spread of subjects including Art, DT, Food & Nutrition, Spanish, Computer Science, Music and Drama. Students choose a range of options at the conclusion of Year 8. They follow a core of Maths, English (Literature & Language), Separate or Combined Science and CCF (comprising BTEC Teamwork & Personal Development and Institute of Leadership & Management diplomas). As options they may choose from History, Geography, Spanish, Art, Food & Nutrition, DT, Computer Science, Music, Drama and PE, and in recent years we have supplemented these options with Psychology and Statistics exam courses for our increasingly able cohorts.

At present there is no sixth form education at Gad's Hill and pupils currently depart for local schools, colleges or other independents. In the last few years we have partnered with the University for the Creative Arts and several of our leavers have commenced Extended Diploma courses with them.

The Gad's Hill Curriculum

The Ethos



The Headmaster, Mr Paul Savage, was appointed in August 2018, having previously occupied the role of Head of Upper School. His vision is to provide generations of pupils with all the opportunities and individual care and guidance that an independent school can provide, but underpinned by a passionate commitment to the evaluation and refinement of quality teaching and learning, based on the latest educational research.

The school achieves good academic results with the vast majority of pupils leaving Gad's Hill to attend

their first-choice sixth form destination, but Gad's Hill is not an academic hot-house. We place a priority on our children enjoying school and one way in which we do this is to ensure that there are ample opportunities to experience drama, music, competitive games, swimming, trips, visits and CCF to keep our children occupied, challenged and inspired. Most of these things never appear in a league table but we believe that by ensuring children enjoy their time here they are much more likely to contribute in all aspects of their school life and this benefits the academic side too.

At Gad's Hill we pride ourselves on being a small friendly school, where academic success is valued along with the recognition that there are many other ways in which a good school will prepare a child to live their lives. The joy and agony of team games, the discipline and concentration of learning an instrument, the confidence and challenge of performing to an audience, the awareness of the complex world around them, the care and concern for others and the opportunity to shape their destiny.

Our Curriculum Intent

Gad's Hill School's One Curriculum is an ambitious and challenging curriculum for a child's educational journey from 3 to 16. It is designed to deliver strong outcomes in a broad range of GCSE subjects and other valuable areas of achievement, allowing leavers to progress to their first choice of further study and equipping them with the teamwork, independence and leadership skills necessary for rewarding careers and adult life.

The One Curriculum covers issues of critical importance on a global scale, as well as reflecting the rich history and cultural diversity of Medway, Kent and the South East of England. The curriculum favours opportunities to make

learning enjoyable and incorporates significant opportunities for speaking and listening to produce articulate and thoughtful young people who are capable of empathy for others and keen to serve their community.

The curriculum allows for learning to be supportive and personalised, taking advantage of the high levels of expert guidance within each classroom, while still offering excellent value for money in its delivery. Through the school's curriculum, children learn how to look after their own wellbeing and develop compassion for the wider world.

Science Technician: The Post

The Purpose of the Role

Gad's Hill School requires a capable and organised Technician to join our small Science team, for the duration of a Maternity Cover. Full details of responsibilities can be found within the job description but, in summary, the successful candidate will be responsible for the preparation and organisation of Science classroom materials and other resources, providing technical support to teachers and contributing to students' learning experience in the subject.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics (triple Science) are compulsory at GCSE. Science in the Upper School is taught by three specialist teachers.

Gad's Hill School requires a Science Technician on a Maternity Cover contract as soon as possible (from Monday 13th May 2024) to provide support to the Science department.



Key Accountabilities

- To prepare and allocate practical activities for Science lessons, trialling practical activities, preparing, delivering, assembling and clearing away apparatus from labs as required.
- To keep labs tidy, clean and free from hazards and to organise the prep room in an orderly and user-friendly manner, carrying out health and safety checks and risk assessments as appropriate and keeping up-to-date with developments in practical Science and CLEAPSS guidelines.
- To take stock and organise the storage of chemicals and equipment including books and study materials, and to obtain materials by local purchase, taking delivery and keeping records of orders and deliveries.
- To attend and participate in departmental and whole-staff meetings as appropriate and carry out other reasonable duties as directed by the Head of Science.

Essential Qualities

- Experience of working in Science roles as support or in a school environment
- Knowledge of Health and Safety in relation to Science
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- An adaptable and creative approach to day to day work
- Flexibility
- Able to use own initiative



Desirable Qualifications

- Knowledge of, or current, CLEAPSS certifications.

The Process

Completed application forms are to be submitted to the Headmaster, Mr Paul Savage, either:

- via the TES jobs online application form OR
- via the Gad's Hill School application form to his PA, Mrs Tracy Barker, by email to t.barker@gadshillschool.org

Completed applications must be received by the School no later than **10am on Monday 6th May 2024**. Please note that if you do not receive an acknowledgement of your emailed application by this time **please contact the School as a matter of urgency as you should assume your application has not been received.**

Short-listed applicants will subsequently be invited for interview and it is hoped that the selected candidate will be able to commence employment from Monday 13th May 2024.

Gad's Hill is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service checks (DBS) and pre-employment checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. An overseas police check will be required by candidates who have worked or resided outside of the UK, in the last 5 years.

The Benefits

Key Facts

Contract: Temporary; From 13th May 2024 for duration of Maternity Leave

Pay: £12,869 per annum

Hours: 26.5/week, across 5 days and to be agreed - between 8.30am and 4pm. Term-time only.

Parking is provided on-site and a free, home-cooked lunch is available each day in term time.

Children of all staff receive subsidised education at Gad's Hill, subject to our policy and standard entry requirements.

And Finally...

We thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity, and look forward to receiving your application.