



South Hampstead

High School

GDST

JOB APPLICATION INFORMATION

Coder in Residence



South Hampstead High School – an independent day school of 900+ pupils, including approximately 265 girls in the Junior School and over 140 in the Sixth Form – welcomes girls aged 4 to 18 from across London. It is a very popular school and entry is competitive at all ages. Established in 1876, it is one of 25 schools and academies belonging to the Girls' Day School Trust. Located in leafy Hampstead, with the buzz of central London's cultural life close at hand, the school is very well served by public transport and there are excellent local amenities nearby.

Academic results are excellent: in 2018, over two-thirds of A Level entries were A*/A, and over 89% of GCSE entries were A*/A or 9/8/7. The vast majority of Sixth Formers are accepted at their first choice university, including around 15% to Oxbridge and up to 10% to medical school with increasing numbers moving abroad to attend Ivy League destinations. Notable former pupils include prize-winning authors, ground-breaking scientists, passionate campaigners, successful entrepreneurs, distinguished lawyers and trailblazing creatives.

Working at South Hampstead is stimulating, challenging and fun. Pupils are intelligent and inquisitive, energetic and engaging. We offer competitive salaries, generous employee benefits – including opportunities for sabbaticals – and a warm, supportive environment. There is a strong emphasis on Continuous Professional Development and on supporting teachers to engage with leading education research.

THE GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

South Hampstead High School was the ninth school to be established by the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) in 1876.

Today, the GDST is the leading network of independent girls' schools in the UK.

Since its foundation in 1872, the GDST has been at the forefront of education for girls and a strong voice in promoting opportunities for young women. Through the Alumnae Network, this continues after the girls leave school.

“When I first stepped through the doors here, I knew that it was a very special place to be – the wonderful atmosphere, dedicated staff and energetic girls, who are such a pleasure to teach.”

— South Hampstead Teacher

AIMS & ETHOS

At South Hampstead we believe that education should be a truly enriching experience. We believe in the power of knowledge as a tool for thought and creative endeavour, and a source of lifelong inspiration and curiosity.

In and out of the classroom, we want our pupils to explore the big questions; debate and discussion lie at the very heart of a South Hampstead education. We aim to create abundant opportunities for creative output and to encourage pupils to take risks. In our teaching, we do what we know works and put research and reflection at the heart of our professional development. Teaching is a noble profession and our staff are central to our success.

We aim to provide outstanding breadth of opportunity in our curricular and co-curricular programme and to open our pupils' minds to a myriad of possibilities. We believe that involvement in school life is a key factor in our pupils' happiness. But it's not just about taking part; we aim to instil in pupils a sense of purpose, pride and determination and the belief that they can compete on the biggest of stages.

We aim to create a warm, tolerant and kind community where girls can be themselves and make friends for life. We want them to play their part in our community and in the community beyond South Hampstead. The 21st century is a time of unique opportunities and challenges; we have a critical role to play in preparing our young women to live and thrive, work and lead in tomorrow's world.

TEACHING & LEARNING APPROACH

South Hampstead follows a curriculum that equips each girl with the means to develop her intellectual abilities as well as her personal and social values. Students are able to explore a deep and expansive body of knowledge, and to discover their strengths and interests via a broad, balanced range of academic, cultural and aesthetic subjects.

Pupils are intelligent, inquisitive, confident, energetic and talented. The programme of work helps to ensure that each girl is thoroughly prepared for the next stage in her life, whether it is transition into the Senior School, higher education or adulthood.

South Hampstead students love to learn. The store we set by the power of ideas is evident in the quality of the conversation, both inside and outside the classroom.

Our teaching is known for its rigour and its passion. In-depth subject knowledge and expertise are givens for all our teachers, but equally important is an innate ability to inspire the very best from each student, both as scholars and as individuals. With a colourful mosaic of enrichment opportunities available – academic societies, national competitions, leadership roles, independent learning projects, incredible speakers and exciting trips – every girl has the freedom to direct her learning and to flourish. Our ambition each year is that our pupils leave us as assured, adaptable, inspired individuals, ready to make their mark on the world and lead happy, successful lives.



“Throughout the school, pupils are highly motivated, articulate and have strongly developed skills for learning... they are self-aware, reflective and show initiative.”

— ISI Report

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We are proud to be a busy, buzzy school with a lot going on. Each week there are well over 100 co-curricular activities for the girls to get involved in, before, during and after school. Regular guest speakers, a comprehensive enrichment programme, local and international trips, leadership opportunities and charitable endeavours combine to provide an exceptional range of experiences beyond the classroom.

South Hampstead has a well-established reputation in the creative arts. We welcome writers, poets and artists in residence and put on ambitious concerts and performances. Speaking up and speaking out is encouraged from the earliest years: we have an in-house debating coach and a strong track record in a range of public speaking competitions.

In sport, girls have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, both as part of a team and as an individual – there are over 65 sporting clubs and teams to join, with state-of-the-art facilities both on site and at our nearby 4-acre sports ground. Our aim is to cultivate a positive attitude towards recreational and competitive sport, developing the skills and team spirit needed for a lifetime enjoyment of sport.

PASTORAL CARE

Our school is lit up by the attributes that matter most here – thoughtfulness, open-heartedness, respect, courage and honesty.

At South Hampstead we aim to encourage every girl to discover her own aspirations and to run her own race with regards to her progress and achievements. Under our unique co-tutor system, no form tutor is responsible for more than 12 pupils throughout the Senior School. They make sure every girl is thriving: supported, making good progress and feeling fully involved in school life.

Mistakes are learned from and successes are shared: each girl is encouraged to consider how she engages with feedback and to communicate her own strengths. There's plenty of experience on hand from older pupils: buddies and peer mentors provide a friendly face and practical advice, and a fun programme of intra-house activities regularly mixes the year groups, creating a real sense of togetherness and community.

Our programme of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) prepares girls to go out into the world with confidence, inner strength and high self-esteem, ready to face challenges. There are also regular evening talks for parents, often reflecting the topics taught in class and as well as other issues on the minds of parents. We have a full-time nurse and counselling provision – it's completely normal for girls to sign up for sessions on any issue they like, completely free from any stigma. We understand how to educate girls, setting the feminist agenda and guiding well-rounded, well-grounded individuals to be the female leaders of the future.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to provide a secure and imaginative basis for academic progress at each key stage of a pupil's development. Our intention is that all our girls will develop their own enthusiasms and initiatives within a broad educational framework. The curriculum aims to provide our pupils with a rich experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education. It is designed to provide stimulation and subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils. The teaching and learning environment is challenging but very fulfilling. The students are intelligent, inquisitive, confident, energetic and talented.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 the girls follow a full core curriculum, with Latin in all three years, one MFL in Year 7 and a second MFL added in Year 8. Drama, Art, Technology, ICT, PHSE and PE also form part of the programme. All girls currently study ten subjects to GCSE, including English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, one MFL and Science.

The curriculum throughout the school is such that all the girls have excellent opportunities to learn and make progress in their academic studies and personal development. Girls also enjoy opportunities in life beyond school. Their programme of work helps to ensure that each girl is thoroughly prepared for the next stage in her life, whether it is transition into the Senior School, higher education or adulthood.

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

We have a great tradition of high achievement in the creative arts. Whether in Music, Drama, Art or Design and Technology, our girls are successful both in school and outside. There are many opportunities for them to perform and to exhibit their creative work throughout the school.

Music is at the very heart of school life, with a variety of major events each year and a host of smaller-scale concerts involving our many choirs, bands, ensembles and orchestras. It is our aim that every girl who comes to South Hampstead High School, regardless of her experience, accomplishment and aspirations, will have the opportunity, and every encouragement, to flourish as a musician.

Drama is packed with opportunities for all students to be involved both on stage and behind the scenes. There are many productions each year in both the Junior and Senior School, in which girls are encouraged to take an active part. We also participate in the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival and offer a wide variety of House Drama events, film making opportunities and master class workshops with external practitioners.

In Art, girls are encouraged to experiment and take risks while working within a fine arts framework. Students work with a range of media including textiles and sculpture. They also acquire skills in areas such as photography, filmmaking and animation.

Design and Technology is varied and very hands-on. Our older girls are regular award-winners in a number of competitions such as Young Inventor of the Year, Young Designer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year.

Evidence of the talent we have here is displayed all around the school – paintings, sketches, photographs, sculptures and design projects that were created by our students are always on view.

In Sport, girls have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, both as part of a team and as an individual, during regular lessons at our four-acre sports ground and in the gymnasium, or as part of our co-curricular programme. We currently offer a total of 20 different sports and in excess of 60 sporting clubs across the Junior and Senior Schools. There are regular overseas sport and music tours and overseas expeditions, as well as the more usual school visits at home and abroad. In the Senior School, girls typically spend three hours a week in Sport; in the Junior School, at least two hours. Specialist coaches work with the girls on occasion, and there is a Going for Gold programme for our most talented sportswomen.

The 4 acres of playing fields, squash courts and dance studio are some 10 minutes' walk away. Our aim is to cultivate a positive attitude towards recreational and competitive sport, developing the skills and team spirit needed for a lifetime enjoyment of sport.

The Role

We are seeking a ‘Coder in Residence.’ Computing is currently taught, in some form, to students in each of the Years 7 to the Sixth Form at South Hampstead. We are looking to expand and develop our provision even further, with the recruitment of this new role. Contact time is estimated to be between one half day to one full day each week, depending on the applicant. The specifics of employment (e.g. how many/which days of the week) may be flexible, in order to work alongside the successful applicant’s existing commitments.

The successful applicant for this post would be an enthusiastic and dynamic graduate who will inspire our students to further develop their coding skills. The role would suit somebody who has studied Computer Science at undergraduate or postgraduate level or has industry-related experience in developing coded solutions. Those looking to gain experience prior to training as a Computer Science teacher are also encouraged to apply. Depending on applicants’ level of expertise, delivery of coding may feature as part of timetabled Computer Science lessons at A Level, enrichment with younger years, or co-curricular coding clubs. Students at South Hampstead High School learn a variety of programming languages including Python, Visual Basic and Java using Visual Studio as the development environment.

Applicants should be confident in all aspects of procedural and object-oriented programming, GUI design and familiar with SQL and database management.

Remuneration for this position will be dependent on the successful applicant’s experience and availability; for one full day each week (term time only), the remuneration would be in the region of £4,000.

Start date September 2019

Computing

Pupils currently receive a weekly single lesson in Computing in Year 7 and can then opt for a double lesson enrichment course in Years 8 and 9, with each enrichment carousel lasting for a term. The school is keen to expand the compulsory provision for Computing and is currently exploring ways in which to do this. Students who, in February of Year 9, opt to take GCSE Computer Science (OCR) are required to begin their Computer Science GCSE in the Summer Term of Year 9.

Computing is a both a new and popular GCSE subject, with our first results received in 2016. The department generally can have either one or two GCSE classes in each a KS4 year group, and this is largely determined by the size of the cohort. A Level numbers are small but sustainable, and we expect growth in this area over the next few years. We have students who apply to study Computer Science at university, including Oxbridge, and these are assisted by both our Head of Computing and members of the Mathematics department.

The department currently consists of one teacher who is also the Head of Department. In KS3, some classes are delivered by non-specialists (including our Assistant Head with responsibility for Digital Strategy) under the leadership of the Head of Department.

Coding Club is popular with students and, this year, the department is taking part in the GCHQ Cyber Challenge. In past years, we have hosted the GDST Techathon in which students have designed applications. The Head of Department is currently considering options for an inspiring visit abroad.

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- to support pupils in learning Computer Science up to A Level standard; this may be through in-lesson support, co-curricular clubs or small focus group workshops
- to help provide support to Sixth Form pupils with their applications to study Computer Science and related degrees at competitive universities
- to support students who are preparing for competitions, for example Cyber Centurion

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive and will be subject to regular review.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All school staff are expected to:

Work towards and support the school vision and the current school objectives outlined in the School Development Plan.

Contribute to the school's programme of extra-curricular activities.

Support and contribute to the school's responsibility for safeguarding students.

Work within the school's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, students and visitors

Work within the GDST's Diversity Policy to promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff, both current and prospective.

Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with students, parents and colleagues.

Engage actively in the performance review process.

Adhere to policies as set out in the GDST Council Regulations, HUB and GDST circulars.

Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Completed applications will comprise a letter of application addressed to the Headmistress outlining why the applicant thinks she/he is suitable for the role; an application form; the names and full contact details of two referees who may be approached immediately.

Applications should be addressed to Mrs Bingham, Headmistress, South Hampstead High School, 3 Maresfield Gardens, NW3 5SS or by email to L.cripps@shhs.gdst.net by noon on Friday 3rd May.

It is the post-holder's responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact. You will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school s/he must report any concerns to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (Deputy Head) or to the Headmistress. Candidates should be aware that they will be asked to undergo a DBS check.