

HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Highsted Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4PT
Headteacher: Anne Kelly BA MBA
Telephone: 01795 424223
www.highsted.kent.sch.uk
Email: admin@highsted.kent.sch.uk

Examinations & Data Officer

37 hours a week, full time all year round.

(Highsted Academy Trust pay band 8: £26,598 - £30,333)

A recruitment and retention allowance is available for an exceptional candidate.

Due to the successful promotion of the current postholder, a fantastic opportunity has arisen for an experienced Exams & Data Officer to join this outstanding girls' grammar school.

Your main responsibility will be the management of all internal and external examinations, so it is important that you have previous school experience in this arena. In assessment periods, you will line manage a team of invigilators and provide training where necessary. As with any role pertaining to school examinations, you will have an eye for detail and the ability to work accurately. You will be able to demonstrate these skills through your knowledge of JCQ guidelines and up to date understanding of best practice.

SIMS experience essential but specific training will be given. A first aid qualification is desirable and willingness to undergo first aid training. Experience of working with young people would be an advantage.

Application forms containing contact details of two referees, including email addresses, should be accompanied by a CV and covering letter explaining why you feel you would be suited to this post.

Further information and an application form are available from Linda Sayers at the school. Closing date for applications: noon 21 February 2023.

Highsted Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Highsted Grammar School is an Equal Opportunities Employer.





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GENERAL INFORMATION

Summer 2022 school performance:

GCSE results achieved by pupils at the end of key stage four

	2022	2021
Percentage A*/A grades / 7 and above	44%	57.9%
Percentage of pupils gaining 9 - 4 grades, in English and maths	97.4%	100%
Percentage of pupils gaining at least two 9 - 4 grades, science	97.0%	99.2%
Percentage of pupils gaining at least one 9 - 4 grade, MFL	80.2%	94.3%
Percentage of pupils achieving history or geography 9 – 4	100.0%	99.0%
Percentage of pupils achieving English Baccalaureate*	98.3%	98.4%

* **English Baccalaureate** consists of 9 - 4 grades at full GCSE in English, mathematics, two science subjects, a foreign language and history or geography.

A-level results achieved by students at the end of Year 13

	2022	2021
Percentage pass rate	99%	100%
Percentage A*-B grades	81%	83%

'Highsted Grammar School is an outstanding school. It knows its strengths and areas requiring improvement very well.'

'The school is ambitious for its students and is very effectively focusing the staff team and the girls themselves on raising their expectations and achievements.'

'The school effectively enables girls to make excellent progress. They achieve the highest academic standards.'

'The curriculum gives girls an outstanding range of experiences and there is excellent involvement in extra-curricular activities.'

'There is a strong mutual respect between staff and girls. Initiative is encouraged and girls say that they get on very well together, help one another and enjoy school.'

(Ofsted Inspection report 2009)

Highsted Grammar School is a small girls' grammar school (around 900 on roll, including 179 in Sixth Form) situated in the North Kent town of Sittingbourne. As an outstanding school, we were one of the first to convert to academy status in the autumn term 2010.

Excellent road and rail connections give easy access to London, Canterbury, Ashford and the Continent. Sailing and swimming facilities in the area are good and there are plenty of community activities (for example, orchestral, choral, theatrical clubs, etc.) available. Theatres in Canterbury and Maidstone, as well as those in London, provide entertainment. A well-equipped sports complex in the town has excellent facilities both for the serious sportsman and woman and for family recreational use. House prices are relatively low for the South East and opportunities for further professional development are excellent.

The school itself is a high-performing girls' school, where pastoral care and enrichment feature as highly as academic success. Having featured three times in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's list of outstanding schools, we are proud to play a leading role in the education of young people in our area. The pupils are exceptional in every way – they are

enthusiastic, personable, caring, and show considerable initiative – and we enjoy the strong support of parents. Likewise, the staff team – teaching, support and administrative – is talented, dedicated, hard-working and committed to the continuing success of the school. The governing body represents a group of capable, multi-skilled individuals, wholly supportive of the work we do.

The main block of the school was opened in 1958 when the school moved from older premises and since then other buildings have been added, including a technology block, new laboratories and additional classrooms. Development of the site continues with an imaginative, multi-purpose teaching area – the Hi-pod; new PE and dance studio, language laboratory and media studies/photography suite.

The Learning Resource Centre was created out of the old school library and boasts a light, comfortable and airy environment with good book stock, excellent ICT facilities and a pleasant reading area. It is very popular with students and well used by all age groups. Books, newspapers and specialist magazines are catalogued alongside other media and loans are monitored through an electronic library management system. Much of the day-to-day running of the Centre is undertaken by a group of library prefects, trained and overseen by the Centre Manager.

Highsted is a school of opportunity for staff as well as pupils, winning the School Achievement Award in two out of the three years that the scheme ran. We contribute extensively to initial teacher training, with many PGCE and SCITT trainees successfully completing their programme in the school each year and in recent years, no less than six members of the leadership team have been promoted to headship posts.

Pupils are granted places at the school on the basis of success in the Kent selection tests or the Highsted Test, broadly speaking they represent the top 25% of the ability range. The economic and social characteristics of the locality are not the most affluent in Kent, so opportunities for value-added are high and the school is able to make a real impact within the community. At Sixth Form level we work in partnership with two other local schools, Borden Grammar (boys) and Fulston Manor (mixed). Through this arrangement, we focus mainly on A-level provision and are able to offer more than 34 different courses, including several applied A-level options. Highsted continues to be placed in the top 100 secondary schools (The Telegraph) based on our A-level results.

The school, formerly sponsored by Microsoft, received specialist school status through science and consequently we have implemented major changes to the ICT infrastructure to make full use of these connections. Across the school we regard this not only as a strategy to develop science further and promote the role of women in this area, but also as the opportunity to enhance provision across the whole curriculum.

Music and drama within the school are exceptional, with high quality productions taking place every term. There is a strong choral tradition in the school. Sporting activity also features highly in the work that we do, and the pupils enjoy both local and national recognition in areas as diverse as cricket, judo and life-saving. Other extra-curricular activities are wide-ranging and responsive to student need. A very strong School Council has been an established part of Highsted for more than 50 years.

The school has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with Gymnasium Fridericianum, Erlangen in Bavaria and this has led to regular exchange visits for more than 25 years. From our advantageous geographical position, we are also able to undertake day trips to Europe and each year there are study visits to France, Belgium and Italy, organised by different subject areas. For the first time in 2005, a group of Year 12 students spent three weeks in quality work experience placements in Brussels and this has now become a regular part of the summer term enrichment programme, supported by substantial grants from the EU.

From this brief description, potential candidates will realise that this grammar school offers far more than a purely academic focus. This does not come about by accident. It is entirely dependent on the determination and commitment of the whole school community, alongside effective delegation of tasks. If you have the potential to contribute to an exceptional school and would like to be part of a friendly, winning team, we would love to hear from you!

This post would suit a creative and ambitious professional who can work well as part of a team, is keen to contribute ideas and take on new initiatives and has high expectations of the students. It provides an opportunity to work with able and well-motivated students within a successful department and with friendly colleagues. Flexibility and a personal desire to broaden professional experience would be an advantage.

In line with supporting the wellbeing of all staff, all Highsted employees will receive a private health care package supported by Benenden Health Care.

Anne Kelly (March 2022)

HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL: JOB PROFILE

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Job title: Examinations & Data Officer

Reports to: Deputy Headteacher

Postholder's name:

Date:

Grade: Highsted Academy Trust Band 8

Purpose of job

The main responsibility will be management of all internal and external examinations. In assessment periods, you will line manage a team of invigilators and provide training where necessary. As with any role pertaining to school examinations, you will have an eye for detail and the ability to work accurately. You will be able to demonstrate these skills through your knowledge of JCQ guidelines and up to date understanding of best practice and carry out these duties in line with Kent's 'Ways to Success' document'.

Hours of work: 37 hours, 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm Friday, all year round.

Dimensions

1. Line management responsibilities:

Exam invigilators

2. Statistical information relating to the scope of the job.

School roll: 894

Agreed by

Approved by

Date

Principle accountabilities

Examinations

- Planning the examination year, managing priorities and ensuring Awarding Bodies' deadlines are met.
- Ensure that accurate returns are made to the awarding bodies.
- Liaison with staff e.g. Heads of Department and other staff with responsibility for subjects about all aspects of examination regulations and procedures.
- Ensure that all required evidence for access arrangements is up to date and ready for Inspection.
- Management of special consideration requests and liaison with parents and candidates about evidence needed.
- Briefing candidates as necessary.
- Resolution of exam clashes, including liaison with academy staff and parents.
- Liaison with the HR Officer about recruitment of invigilators
- Management and briefing on a daily basis of senior and other paid invigilators.
- Managing the daily running of external examinations.
- Misconduct or irregularity i.e. handling of incidents, reporting to the Headteacher and writing of reports where necessary.
- Dealing with the Awarding Body Inspector.
- Being present in school to receive the results from awarding bodies on the official results publication dates, to produce tables of the results, queries on the results and make applications to the Boards for re-marks as appropriate.
- Annual review and evaluation of the running of the public examinations.
- Keeping up to date with the latest procedures and regulations by, for example, membership of the Examination Officers' Association. Liaison with staff.
- Check unit codes with Heads of Department.
- Produce and send relevant sheets to Heads of Department to complete student entries for January /June series GCE and GCSE.
- Give coursework and mark sheets to Heads of Department and when completed check and return to Boards/Examiners as appropriate.
- Give copies of student entries to Heads of Department for final checking before sending to Boards.
- Liaise with the Modern Languages Department regarding oral timetables and checking of tapes etc, prior to exams.
- Liaise with SENCO regarding access arrangements.
- Liaise with SENCO and SLG regarding examinations for Foundation Learners.
- Briefing staff about the regulations for invigilation. Communication with Candidates.

- Ensure personal details are correct for certificate purposes.
- Explain applications for special consideration.
- Provide copies of examination entry statements to check before submitting to Boards.
- Obtain UCI numbers of new pupils and enter onto system.
- Provide all candidates with relevant notices relating to public examinations and ensure that candidates are aware of examination procedures and conduct.
- Make provision for pupils to be issued with individual examination timetables.
- Entries • Download base data from Boards for January and June entries. Keying in entries to Boards: January & June.
- Process any further amendments as necessary, particularly before deadlines and penalty Charges.
- Exam Preparation
- Produce examination timetables.
- Produce clashes timetable and ensure pupils are informed of arrangements made.
- Process administration of special consideration candidates.
- Check exam papers against despatch notes and timetables to ensure all have been received with sufficient copies. Store securely.
- Check registers and make note of pupil who have extra time to ensure relevant paperwork is prepared. Enter details onto the system for necessary slips to be provided for extra time candidates during each public examination.
- Order examination stationery for specific exams.
- Produce candidates' names & numbers for desks. Public Examinations
- Check all exam papers are accounted for, the register is signed and details on the front of the envelopes are completed.
- All sealed envelopes to be registered on Parcel Force sheet.
- Liaise with Parcel Force to collect exam material out of normal exam periods.
- Ensure exam stationery is kept stocked in the Sports Hall throughout the exam period.
- Ensure all paperwork relating to special considerations and overnight clashes is forwarded to the Boards at the appropriate times. Results
- Assist with the download of Vocational, GCSE and GCE exam results.
- Make applications to the Boards for re-marks as appropriate and ensure correct fees are paid.
- Produce tables of exam results for the Headteacher, SLT and Heads of Department.
- Process re-marks when submitted to candidates and staff.

Data

- To export and collate data for the use of the Senior Leadership Group and interpret student information in an instructive way for teachers.
- To use dedicated database packages to record and archive pupil performance and tracking data.
- To produce performance data for the Heads of Department and the Senior Leadership Group.
- Have working knowledge of SIMS Assessment Manager (or be willing to train to build knowledge and skills).

Awards

- Organise award ceremonies including the recommendation of and contact with guest speakers.

Marketing

- Prepare all press-releases and liaise directly with the media to ensure maximum exposure for raising the profile of the school. Including exams results day.
- Production of the school termly newsletter.

In addition the post-holder is to:

- Act as First Aider after receiving appropriate training and ensure training is kept up-to-date.
- To meet with the Line Manager every week to enable regular review and discussion.
- Annually, on Awards Evening, assist with the Awards procedure to meet the needs of the students (NB this involves an attendance of approximately one hour in the evening for which the working hours that day will be adjusted).
- Undertake in service training as appropriate.
- Cover for absent colleagues and interchange duties as necessary at busy times.
- Be available during the GCSE and A-Level examination results period to support with publication of results and student advice and guidance.
- In line with school policy, contribute fully to maintenance of the whole school ethos by undertaking responsibility for the behaviour of all pupils around the site.

Necessary experience

- The postholder requires a good level of general education.
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills.
- Computer literacy, including a proficiency in Excel and Word and knowledge of SIMs.
- A flexible, efficient approach to duties is required, with the ability to act on own initiative.
- The ability to relate well to children and adults.

This Examinations Officer job profile does not constitute a fixed list of tasks. It reflects the core priorities of the role which are subject to change depending upon the changing needs of the school and of the students. The post is reviewed annually to reflect the changing and developmental needs of the school.

Confidentiality

All personal information regarding students, parents, employees at the school to which the Examinations & Data Officer may have access in the course of his/her work are to be regarded as strictly confidential in all respects even within the working environment. Disregard of confidentiality will be grounds for disciplinary procedure.

To fulfil as an employee, legal obligations under Health and Safety requirements; namely those of personal safe practice and the promotion of Health and Safety procedures generally.

Job context

The postholder has day to day contact with staff, students, parents and members of the public, in person and by telephone and works as an Examinations & Data Officer and as part of the Administration team.

Organisational structure

Headteacher



Deputy Headteacher



Postholder (37 hours per week, all year round)

**Person Specification
Examinations & Data Officer**

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	Educated to GCSE standard (level 2) or equivalent, with GCSE English and mathematics.	
	Use of ICT, in particular, office packages such as Word and Excel.	
	Knowledge and use of SIMS.	Successful experience in working with young people.
	Evidence of excellent time management skills and ability to multi-task.	
Personal Qualities	Evidence of working with other professionals as part of a team.	Willingness to take on delegated responsibility.
	To be a flexible and helpful member of a team.	
	Enjoy working with young people.	
	Sense of humour.	
	Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.	Ability to build on the experience, advice and contribution of others.
	Consistently high expectations.	
	Self-motivated and self-confident.	
Skills	Confidence in dealing with pupils, parents and outside agencies in person and on the telephone.	
	To pay attention to detail.	
	High-level communication and presentation skills.	
	Communicate effectively with groups of children to maintain an orderly atmosphere.	
	Think creatively and imaginatively to solve problems.	Ability to anticipate problems.
	Ability to use ICT effectively to support the job.	
	Excellent organisational skills.	