

The Skinners' School

Appointment of Teacher of English



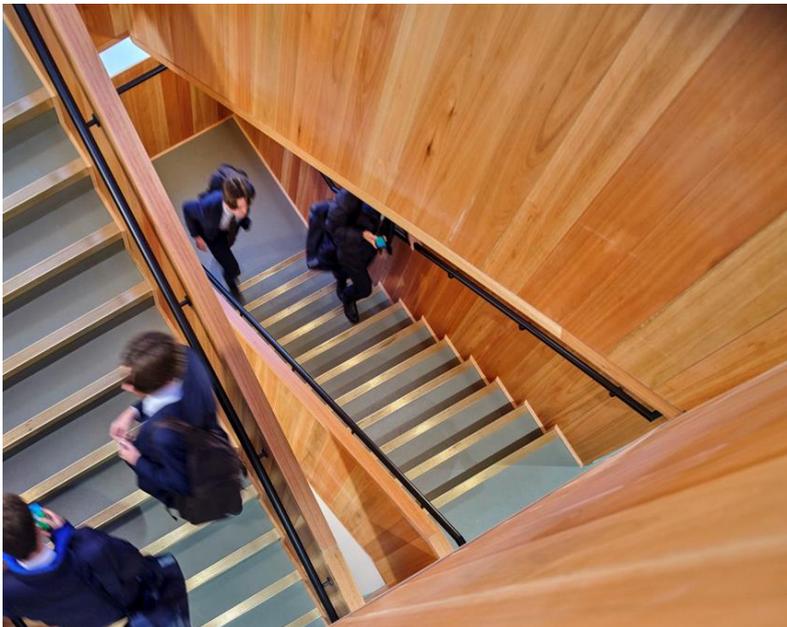
ABOUT SKINNERS'

Skinners' School was founded in 1887 and is a thriving boys' grammar school. There are currently 1119 pupils, 325 of whom are in the Sixth Form. A friendly and hard-working community, the school is amongst the highest achieving in the country, both academically and in terms of extra-curricular provision. Pastoral care is also a real strength.

ADMISSIONS

The School is significantly over-subscribed and has an excellent reputation in both Kent and Sussex. It admits 160 boys (five forms) at age 11. Entry is achieved via the Kent 11+ examination, with an entry qualification that is higher than the Kent County Council 11+ pass. Once they reach our qualifying score, pupils are given places based on distance lived from the school (although we also offer a sibling preference). The current 'catchment' of the school is approximately 11 miles.

Nearly all Skinners' students stay after Year 11 to enter the Sixth Form and are joined by a small number of students from other schools. Pupils are required to achieve a total of 50 points over their best 8 GCSE grades in order to enter the Sixth Form.



HISTORY

Skidders' is one of the Skidders' Company's family of schools – the others being Tonbridge School, Judd School, Skidders' Kent Academy, Skidders' Academy, Skidders' Kent Primary School and the Marsh Academy. The Skidders' Company, one of the original twelve London livery companies, provides a rich seam of support, governance and tradition.

Since the construction of the original school buildings in 1887, considerable development has taken place in recent years in order to accommodate an increasing school roll. The Leopard building (1994) houses Mathematics, Design Technology and ICT. The Beeby building (2002) created specialist accommodation for Modern Languages, and the Byng Hall renovation of 2008 provided a wonderful theatre for Music and Drama. A £2.5 million Sports Hall complex was opened in September 2012, dramatically increasing the range of sports available. In November 2020 we opened the £4.5 million Mitchell Building: a Sixth Form Centre, School Library and new premises for the English department.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Examination results at Skidders' are excellent. At A Level, 80% of grades are at A*-B. Students thus access the top universities in the country: last year over 95% went to the top 30 universities or top 10 courses rated nationally; typically, a dozen go to Oxford or Cambridge. At GCSE, typically around 70% of grades are 9-7, with 95%+ progressing to our Sixth Form.

Our goal is to help each pupil develop his talents and interests to the full. The curriculum is thus aimed at giving a broad education, leaving specialisation as late as possible. At Key Stage 3 this includes an integrated STEM curriculum. At GCSE and A Level there is a wide range of options, with students typically taking 11 GCSEs (including three separate sciences and a modern language) and either 3, 4 or occasionally 5 A levels. A growing number of students also undertake the Extended Project Qualification in the Sixth Form.

In February 2014, Skidders' converted to academy status, but remains closely tied to the ideal of being a leading Kent grammar school.



PASTORAL SYSTEM

Skidders' has a reputation as a friendly and supportive community. The responsibility for general welfare and progress lies with teams of Form Tutors. Heads of Year work closely with Form Tutors to ensure every pupil is known and supported. Good relationships between students, staff and parents are at the heart of all we do and are a key element in our success.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School begins at 8.45am. Each day has five periods, which last for one hour. School ends at 3.35pm but many activities take place at lunchtimes and after school. In addition, many sporting fixtures are played on Saturday mornings. Pupils enthusiastically take part in the extra-curricular life of the school and value it as highly as they do their academic studies.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

We place great emphasis upon the development of character and potential through extra-curricular activities. A wide range of clubs and societies supports both the learning of pupils and their interests. These operate during and after the school day, with pupils immersing themselves in Chess, Eco Council, Politics, STEM and Model United Nations, to name just a few. Drama, Music and Art play a significant role in the life of the school, with concerts and a wide range of productions a regular part of the school's life.

We welcome job applicants supporting the extra-curricular life of the school.



CCF AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Skidders' School has one of the largest CCF contingent of any state school in the country, including Army and Air Force sections. The attractions of Adventurous Training, Easter and Summer camps, along with rifle practice in the School's range, draw significant numbers to join. Alongside, the Duke of Edinburgh award is also very popular: pupils can graduate through Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.



SPORTS AT SKINNERS'

We consider involvement in team sports to be a valuable part of the pupils' education. There is a very strong fixture list every Saturday and we also achieve success in national competitions. We place an emphasis upon excellence, but also upon mass participation and team work. We often, for example, field six rugby teams for Year 7 alone. We think it is important that every pupil can say that they have represented the School competitively.

The main sports are rugby, hockey and football during the winter months and cricket, tennis and athletics during the Summer Term. However other sports include basketball, table tennis, badminton, cross-country and shooting. The Sports Hall is also equipped with a state of the art fitness suite, which is also freely available to staff at the school.



STATEMENT OF VALUES

The Skinners' School is place of learning. Students acquire not only qualifications, but a respect for scholarship and learning, as things worthwhile in themselves. We intend that they will also develop an appreciation of human achievement in the arts, humanities, languages, science and literature. Students must be diligent and open-minded, and they must develop the ability to think critically, to respect evidence, to distinguish between opinions and prejudices and to make balanced judgments of their own. Through involvement in our varied extra-curricular programme every boy should develop and grow intellectually, culturally, physically and spiritually and emerge as well-rounded, flexible, articulate and collaborative individuals.

Skinners' is a caring school. No young person will learn effectively unless he feels happy, safe and secure. At Skinners' we try to address the particular needs of every pupil through a comprehensive pastoral system. We value everyone as unique and we work together to develop self-respect, self-discipline and self-understanding. We aim to make responsible use of our talents and opportunities, strive for wisdom and knowledge and take responsibility for our lives.

Skinners' is a community. We respect others for themselves, not for what they have or what they can do for us. We believe that the capacity to form strong relationships is the foundation of a happy and fulfilled life. As such we strive to show others they are valued, to earn the trust and loyalty of others and to work together cooperatively. We do not tolerate bullying, violence, theft or abuse.

Skinners' is at the heart of a wider community. We learn to take on our responsibilities as citizens. We respect and celebrate diversity. We promote opportunities for all. We place truth, integrity, honesty, loyalty and goodwill at the heart of what we do. The ethic of service is more highly valued by us than that of self-interest. We believe that from those to whom much is given, much is expected.

These values will underpin our work and relationships at Skinners' School; they are at the foundation of all that we do.



ENGLISH AT SKINNERS'

We are looking for a talented and enthusiastic teacher, ready to play a full part in the work of this hugely successful department. The successful applicant will also have the prospect of teaching highly motivated, artistically gifted and academically accomplished students throughout the key stages.

The English department currently comprises seven specialist teachers who are passionate about their subject. Pupils are taught within forms at KS₃ and then divided into smaller mixed ability sets from Year 10. The department follows the Edexcel specification at GCSE, achieving between 65% and 75% of grades between 9-7 in English Literature and English Language.

About one third of the Sixth Form studies OCR English Literature at A level, again with impressive results: an average of 90% A*-B over the last three years. A healthy number of students go on to study English at university each year, including Oxford and Cambridge.

All teaching takes place in a brand new English department on the middle floor of the Mitchell Building, just below the school's state of the art Library. Each classroom is equipped with visualisers and projectors; the department has its own office and an extensive storeroom. There are suites of computers that can be booked by any department for use in lesson time.

The department runs or supports a number of extra-curricular activities from Debating, Mock Trial and Model UN to the National Theatre's New Views playwriting scheme, English Societies and the Sixth Form Theatre Club.

The successful applicant will be an outstanding teacher with excellent subject knowledge supported by a good honours degree in English or a related subject. The ability to form good working relationships with colleagues and students is essential. We welcome full and part-time applicants for this role.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting to: Head of English

Main duties:

- To prepare and teach lessons to the teaching groups assigned by the Head of Department using methods appropriate to the age and ability of each student.
- To undertake assessment of student progress, setting targets and monitoring performance in line with school and departmental policies.
- To set and assess homework on a regular basis according to school policy.
- To maintain an up to date knowledge of the subject, and use a range of teaching methods in line with currently acknowledged best practice.
- To collaborate with the Head of Department and other colleagues in the development of appropriate specifications, schemes of work and lesson plans, which should engage, stimulate and challenge students of all abilities, and should cater for all learning styles.
- To play a role in the effective promotion of English, at Open Days/Evenings and other events, and in the development of effective curriculum links with partner schools and the community.
- To ensure effective communication/consultation with the parents of students.
- To participate in the school's ITT and CPD programme.
- To maintain the highest standards of behaviour within the school community, based on mutual respect between students and staff.
- To play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its distinctive ethos and to actively contribute to the wider life of the school by organising and participating in appropriate extra-curricular activities.

Person specification:

- Strong subject knowledge
- An excellent classroom practitioner
- High expectations of self and students
- A capacity for sustained hard work
- Strong organisational and interpersonal skills
- Professional, positive and resilient
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- A passionate commitment to equality of opportunity for all students
- A firm commitment to Continued Professional Development
- A commitment to the ethos and extra-curricular life of the school

The Skinners' School is committed to the safeguarding of children; all employees will receive safeguarding training and will need to follow the Safeguarding Policy.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should submit a completed application form, including details of key achievements and responsibilities, along with a covering letter which fully addresses the competencies outlined in the job description and person specification.

Completed applications should be emailed to the Headmaster's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Dray at wendy.dray@skidders-school.org.uk

The closing date for applications is **12pm on Tuesday 9th November 2022.**

Candidates will be invited for interview either during week beginning either 8th or 15th November 2021.

