

TEACHER OF PHYSICS

Contract Type: Permanent, Full-time

Required for: September 2026

Closing Date for applications: 9am, Monday 23rd Feb 2026

This is an outstanding opportunity to join one of Oxfordshire's most successful schools. Wallingford School is an oversubscribed, 11-18 school with enthusiastic students, supportive staff and excellent facilities. We have an excellent reputation, enjoying strong support from parents and students, and a good and growing working relationship with the local community.

We are among the most successful schools in the country for progress in English and Maths. In 2025, 81% of our students achieved at least a Grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE; 63% achieved at least a Grade 5 in English and Maths, and 29% achieved 5 or more Grade 7s or above. Vocational grades were similarly impressive: 91% of entries gained at least a Level 2 Pass and 31% were at least a Level 2 Distinction. At A Level, 31% of entries were A*-A and 61% of entries were A*-B. 83% of KS5 Vocational entries gained at least a Merit and 57% were a Distinction or Distinction*.

These results are great, but our school is about much more than just exams. We are an inclusive school which – as the only secondary school in the town – is determined to serve its local community well. Comprehensive school values are important to us. Students of all abilities thrive at Wallingford and we pride ourselves on giving students a chance who may not have had one at other schools.

Staff – both teaching and associate – are happy at Wallingford. Professional development is hugely important to us and our programme is varied but also bespoke to support individual needs and priorities. There are many opportunities for teachers to work collaboratively across the school. Our annual two-day Teaching and Learning Conference is the highlight of this programme. Student attitudes and behaviour are excellent and are frequently commented upon by visitors as being so. It is an excellent place to work and we are committed to staff wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance for all our colleagues. The successful applicant should expect to be very well supported in their professional development and the role would definitely suit and benefit ECTs.

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science is a hugely successful and popular subject throughout the school and standards of achievement are high. The consistently high number of students opting to take Science subjects at KS5 is indicative of the success and strength of the department. It is taught by an enthusiastic and highly committed team of teachers, ably supported by a team of technicians. The Science Department is vibrant and full of personality with an emphasis on teamwork and mutual support, which enables members to develop their practice and adapt to the challenges of a developing curriculum.

Sending every young person into the world able and qualified

In KS4 Science, our students consistently make progress that is significantly above the national average. In 2025, 72% achieved at least two grade 4s in GCSE Double Award Science and 70% of all GCSE Triple Science grades were at 7+.

KS5 performance continues to be very strong, with those students studying A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics regularly making excellent progress. In 2025, 67% of all A Level grades were at least a B (Biology 61%, Chemistry 76%, and Physics 68%). We also have a popular and successful vocational pathway in BTEC Applied Science. In 2025 67% of the students gained a Distinction or Distinction* in this qualification.

The Science department is well resourced and superbly catered for in a suite of nine labs, plus two large prep rooms. All labs have projectors and there is a department set of laptops for student use. Three extra labs and a prep-room are in the recently opened new block at the front of school.

THE CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

Mixed ability tutor groups follow a spiral curriculum across the three Science disciplines in Years 7 & 8.

Key Stage 4

The Science GCSE curriculum is started in Year 9, where students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups and cover a range of topics including: cells, atomic structure and the periodic table, and energy. In addition, students further develop their practical investigation and mathematical skills. At the start of Year 10, students are set in ability and either continue with Combined Science or switch to Triple Science.

Key Stage 5

At A Level Chemistry and Physics currently follow OCR specifications and Biology follows AQA. Applied Science BTEC is a well-established course and has enabled us to broaden our post-16 provision. It has become a very popular and successful alternative to the traditional A-Level Science route.

SELECTION CRITERIA – Science/Physics

The successful candidate will:

- Hold Qualified Teacher Status
- Have an Enhanced DBS Certificate
- Have the ability and quality to teach Science/Physics across the age and ability range.
- Be a good, enthusiastic team member
- Be a reflective practitioner, who has the potential to develop his/her own career further
- Have the ability to communicate effectively with staff, parents and students
- Have unquenchable enthusiasm for the Sciences
- Believe that students are capable of high standards, and expect them to achieve
- Have the capacity to develop our pupils both in Science/Physics and beyond
- Enjoy working as part of a team and sharing expertise.
- Be keen to contribute to the development of the department
- Have competent ICT skills

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GENERAL DUTIES

Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust we pride ourselves on providing a safe and happy environment where young people can flourish and we want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their full part within it. This job description should be read in conjunction with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and the provisions of that document will apply to the post holder.

Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks along with other relevant employment checks.

You will be expected to carry out the professional duties of a teacher as outlined in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document currently in operation, or any subsequent legislation. The performance of all the duties and responsibilities shown below will be under the reasonable direction of the Headteacher, or other Senior Manager if appropriate, who will be mindful of his/her duty to ensure that the employee has a reasonable workload and sufficient support to carry out the duties of the post.

The successful candidate will be expected to be a form tutor and on Friday mornings help with the delivery of the school's PSHE programme. In addition to support from within the Science team, newly appointed staff are able to benefit from the induction support programme.

You will find many opportunities at Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust and we look forward to receiving your application.

TEACHERS PENSION DETAILS

The link for teaching staff to the Teachers' Pension website is:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/>

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust employs teaching staff on the conditions of service contained in the General Terms and Conditions of Employment for Teaching Staff which can be found at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/teachers-conditions-employment>. Please see our privacy notice: <http://www.wallingfordschool.com/index.php/documents/category/24-privacy-notices>

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TO APPLY

Further information and an application form can be found on our school website at www.wallingfordschool.com or telephone us on 01491 829722 or e-mail us at recruit@wallingfordschool.com

We look forward to receiving your application

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