



DUBAI COLLEGE
A tradition of quality in education

Teacher of History and Politics

Required for September 2019

Vacancy Information



Teacher of History and Politics

The Post

The College is seeking to appoint a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and highly motivated teacher of History and Politics. The successful candidate will collaborate with the Head of Department and Second in Department in order to maximise student outcomes throughout Key Stage 3-5 through inspirational teaching, thorough and informative marking and effective engagement with school and departmental systems for tracking, monitoring and intervention. They will help to enhance the broad and imaginative range of extra-curricular opportunities already on offer and they will collaborate effectively with colleagues to allow the department to further develop the quality of the education it delivers for all students.

All applicants must:

have a good honours degree in History or Politics and a PGCE qualification or its equivalent

an outstanding knowledge and understanding of History and the ability to stretch and challenge all students at KS3, KS4 and KS5, including the most able

a strong track record of academic success

outstanding teaching skills which enable all students to achieve relative to their prior attainment, with all students making progress as good as, or better than, students with a similar profile in other schools internationally

It would be an advantage if the successful candidate had:

a keen willingness to teach Politics alongside History to academically able Sixth Form students

a postgraduate degree in History or Politics

experience as an examiner for a UK examining body

In addition the post holder must:

be able to demonstrate a clear positive impact on teaching and learning both in the classroom and in the wider school environment

be an enthusiastic and innovative teacher with a genuine

love of the subject, who can motivate and inspire all of the students that they teach using a wide range of teaching strategies

be a positive role model to students and other staff, modelling effective strategies to them

be committed to his or her own professional development, and in particular to the use of digital skills as a tool for teaching and learning

be ambitious, energetic, enthusiastic and able to plan independently and collaboratively to help further develop the department and the school

take responsibility for the safeguarding of students

be empathetic to the ethos of the College

be willing to immerse themselves in the College's extensive extra-curricular programme and in the general life of the College

The Department

The History Department at Dubai College will (from August 2019) consist of five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. The department is well resourced, with a range of specialist teaching rooms equipped with the latest technology, including interactive screens, a big library of books and subscriptions to a host of magazines, newspapers and academic journals. A strong emphasis is placed on the quality of teaching and learning, including a culture of regular informal observations and teachers are encouraged to use a wide range of teaching strategies at every Key Stage. The department is committed to promoting whole school teaching initiatives, including the Harkness method.

History is a popular choice at GCSE, with three groups in Year 10 and 11, and History and Politics are both popular choices at A Level, with four teaching groups across both subjects in Year 12 and 13.

The department follows the main themes in the UK's History National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and many of the topics we have chosen to teach will be familiar. The department has evolved its KS3 provision significantly

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over the last two years, under the supervision of the Second in Department, and all teaching at KS3 is now supported by a distinctive enquiry-based approach, designed to ensure academic rigour.

The GCSE course starts after February half term in Year 9. We follow the Edexcel syllabus and begin with Medicine through Time (with a World War One enquiry), followed by Elizabethan England 1558-88, the Cold War, 1941-91 and Russia, 1917-41 in Year 11. We took a group of students to Russia in February half-term and we aim to run at least one trip for KS4 and 5 students each year.

At A Level we currently follow Edexcel Route H, Democracies in Change, Britain and the USA in the twentieth century, with a Year 13 course on 15th century English history and a coursework enquiry based around the causes of the Cold War. Politics students again follow the Edexcel course and study UK Politics in Year 12 and Global Politics in Year 13; the latter course is particularly popular and reflects the international outlook and experience of our well informed and well-travelled students.

The department supports three lunchtime co-curricular societies, a KS3 society run by the Second in Department, the Global Issues Network (aimed at KS4) and the History and Politics Society (aimed at Sixth Formers), the latter are student run. We offer a History and Politics Top-Up session each week and offer extensive support to students applying for History and Politics related courses at Oxford and Cambridge. Each year several members of the department support students completing the EPQ qualification.

The College

Dubai College was established forty years ago and has a national and international reputation as a world class learning organisation. We are an independent, coeducational, not-for-profit, selective school following an adapted English National Curriculum and our vision is to be “leading British education overseas”, underpinned by four pillars of sporting, creative, philanthropic and

academic endeavour. This modest ambition is built on a strategy which keeps learning first. As a consequence, we have a generous CPD budget which is used to create and support continuous learning opportunities for staff. The recent appointment of a newly created Deputy Head: Learning and Teaching keeps our core focus at the heart of the school. Supported by Specialist Leaders in Education who mentor and support staff in digital skills, the Harkness method, innovative pedagogies and Dubai College Online, teaching staff are encouraged to undertake action research projects and apply for part-time Masters degrees in education-related fields. Working collaboratively within departments during INSET days as well as increasingly reaching out across a network of other not-for-profit British schools in Dubai the College is continually striving to create systems for the sharing and creation of knowledge and learning. Whilst we do place an emphasis on academic rigour, in the true spirit of independent schools we champion the importance of the flourishing extra-curricular programme to which all staff contribute. Classes are small and the facilities, resources and teaching environment are very high quality. It is therefore no surprise that the College has developed a very strong regional and international reputation for Drama, Music and Sport. We are a member of HMC, COBIS (Council of British International Schools) and BSME (British Schools of the Middle East).

The British Schools Overseas inspection of the College (conducted in January 2016) classified the school as ‘Outstanding’ stating ‘It represents the very best of British education whilst, at the same time, respecting and celebrating the local culture in Dubai’. The key strengths of the school were identified as the progress and attainment of the students; the teaching, learning and assessment; the curriculum; relationships across the school and sense of community; personal development of the students and leadership across the school. The number of students on roll is currently 951 and comprises students in the 11 to 18 age range with more than 250 in the Sixth Form. The College operates an eight form intake of 160 students in Year 7. Approximately 50% of the students are British, but 48 other nationalities are represented. The GCSE and A Level courses followed are those of

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one of three examination boards (Edexcel, AQA, and OCR). Examination results are consistently outstanding and in 2018 Dubai College's GCSE performance was comparable to the **5th best UK co-educational independent school** according to The Telegraph league table. Our excellent A Level results mean that up to 31% of Dubai College leavers now go on to study at the top 1% of universities worldwide (according to THE World University Rankings) and we are yet again the top performing school in the United Arab Emirates achieving 88% A*/A grades at GCSE and 60% A*/A grades at A Level this year.

The College occupies a nineteen-acre site on the coast very close to The Palm Jumeirah at the mid-point between Dubai Marina and the iconic Burj Al Arab. Over the years excellent facilities have been developed and all teaching rooms will soon have generic LCD screens which allow students and staff to project their devices to the class. We have a multi-purpose auditorium which is capable of seating over 900, the Sixth Form centre underwent significant expansion and redevelopment in 2014 and this year we have opened a new flagship English department which serves as a statement of intent for future renovation, as well as a new reception and administration building which will create the space for our regional teaching and learning hub. A new sports pavilion was completed in 2015 and we are fortunate enough to have our grass playing fields and other sports facilities located on site.

Ethos

As a College we are aiming to engineer balance in the lives of students who are academically very able. There is no blueprint for a Dubai College student rather we are aiming for students to discover for themselves who they are and who they want to be. By creating a wealth of opportunities for students to participate in as broad a range of experiences as possible whether they are sporting, creative, philanthropic or academic, we are enabling them to discover their own place within the school community and in time within the world outside. We never lose sight of the fact that our academically gifted students aspire to

perform as well as possible in public examinations and we continuously champion the academic. However, the ability to work as a member of a team, to manage setbacks and failure and to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses will be as important in enabling them to live their life with integrity and is consequently a core focus of what we do here. As a result our students leave us as confident individuals with the knowledge, skill set and outlook to succeed at the very best universities and eventually in their chosen, often very challenging, career paths. When asked what standards we expect of one another as professionals DC staff demonstrate a real sense of vocation, that working at Dubai College is not a job but a lifestyle choice. Teachers believe strongly that they should be able to fulfil their academic responsibilities to their students and must be accountable for the outcomes of every one of their students. The next most important expectation of staff at Dubai College is that they should embrace whole school life and contribute fully to the extra-curricular programme both during and after school hours.

Working at Dubai College is intense; it is not a 9-5 job and for it to continue to feel like a real community staff must be willing to give freely of their time in exchange for working with very able students. Staff believe they should also display excellent professional courtesy to one another and their students: every subject is on the timetable for a reason and no-one should speak out of turn about somebody else's academic discipline; we work in an Islamic country and staff should dress professionally in line with cultural sensitivities and staff should treat one another and their students as they would hope to be treated themselves. Staff also feel that they each have a responsibility to go beyond the baseline: the national curriculum is a jumping off point not an end goal, an exam syllabus is a dot to be joined up to a bigger picture, the working day is the start but not the end of a day's work, an ALPS prediction is a minimum for a student to achieve. As practitioners staff feel they should be looking to develop, to enthuse, to inspire, they should be craftsmen with a passion for their subject and whatever their position in the school they feel they all ought to feel equally responsible for the outcomes of the

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College. As members of a school which feels more like an extended family than an institution we hope to educate well-mannered citizens who are empowered to fulfil their aspirations. The “not-for-profit” structure of our organisation perfectly embodies our ethos: everything is invested in the school and the students with nothing left over.

While this all sounds ideal it is important to understand, however, that Dubai College is not perfect. The post itself is an extremely challenging one and the College is tremendously busy. If you dislike hard work – sacrificing many weekends and evenings for the sake of the students – and are concerned by working with highly able, intellectually demanding students, this post is simply not for you. Equally it must be clearly understood that the College is passing through a significant period of change and we are in a new phase of the College’s development cycle. We are updating our learning approaches, facilities, policies, curriculum and IT capability. The successful applicant must both embrace and play their significant part in contributing to this change but without damaging, in any way, the core essential ethos of the school. It should be noted that, although we certainly embrace change, we do not run with every innovation emanating from the UK – we cherry-pick initiatives that suit our selective and highly able student body. However, it should also be noted that we are subject to whatever changes the UAE government chooses to make on an annual basis which can make for a very fast-paced educational landscape.

The College really does have a great feel about it. It already has an exceptionally strong national and international reputation and if you feel you have the potential to build on our reputation as a centre of excellence on the global stage we would very much like to hear from you.

Remuneration

Dubai College offers an excellent remuneration package and the opportunity to work with our dynamic, highly qualified team in very pleasant surroundings with excellent facilities. The package will be discussed at interview.

How to apply

For further details about the College please visit our website: www.dubaicollege.org. You may also wish to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube.

Applications should be sent by email to headassist@dubaicollege.org using the application form available on our website. The deadline for applications is Sunday 3rd February 2019 with interviews planned for Thursday 7th and Sunday 10th February.

Dubai College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and operates child protection screening which includes checks with previous employers and Disclosure & Barring checks







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