The School and its Buildings

Oundle School is situated in the quintessentially English market town from which it takes its name. Its buildings, dating from the seventeenth to the twenty-first century, are dispersed throughout the town, so that the town itself is, to a large extent, the School’s Campus. This encourages a co-existence that benefits both members of the local community and the School.

The School’s history goes back to 1556 when Sir William Laxton, Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and Lord Mayor of London, endowed and re-founded the original Oundle Grammar School, of which he was a former pupil. In 1876, the Grocers’ Company decided to divide the School into two parts: Laxton Grammar School, mainly for the inhabitants of the town, and Oundle School, mainly for pupils from further afield. However, to mark the millennium in 2000, the Grocers’ Company decided to reunite the two schools under the common name of Oundle School.

Co-educational since the 1980s, Oundle School today offers a considerable range of educational possibilities to meet contemporary needs: co-educational boarding or day education, with Laxton Junior School as a 5-11 day school, and Oundle School as a boarding and day school with entry at 11 and 13 or into the Sixth Form. The School opened the first phase of SciTec, its science and technology development, in June 2007, providing state of the art facilities for Biology and Chemistry allied to extensive display areas. SciTec received a National RIBA Award in May 2008. In 2007, the School added a new athletics track and fives courts and created new dining facilities for two boarding houses and special functions. In 2011, the Library underwent a full renovation. Major works are projected for the next few years to improve several important areas of the School.

The Pupils and Their Care

Currently there are 1102 pupils on roll of whom 651 are boys and 451 are girls. The total number of boarders is 861 and of day pupils 241. The House system is at the
heart of life at Oundle. Oundle has thirteen senior boarding Houses – eight for boys and five for girls. There is also a smaller mixed Junior House that accommodates the 11-plus entrants for their first two years and a mixed day House for 11-18 year-olds. It is in the community of the House that most pupils find the confidence and sense of purpose that lead to fulfilment in the larger community of the School. All teachers coming to Oundle are expected to be interested in tutoring and prepared to contribute fully either to boarding House life or to the pastoral care of day pupils. Tutors have special responsibility for a small group of tutees that they support, guide and encourage throughout their years at the School. Tutors’ duties also include communicating with other teachers and parents on behalf of their tutees and supervisory duties in the House to which they are assigned. Relationships between pupils and staff at Oundle are relaxed and happy; the good humour and friendliness of the pupils is an aspect of the School which is frequently commented on by new members of the Common Room and visitors to the School. By and large our pupils are bright, well motivated, responsive and fun to teach.

The Economics Department

Economics is housed at the heart of the academic life of the School in the Cloisters. Currently with four Economics teachers, it is a popular subject with approximately 110 pupils across the Sixth Form opting for the subject. We offer the choice to pupils to pursue either the Edexcel A-level syllabus or the Pre-U qualification. The department prides itself on providing an economics education that is not purely based through classroom teaching, believing in a philosophy of immersion in the world of economics. In 2011, 80% of candidates gained an A* or A grade at A2 level. There is a healthy level of extra-curricular economics activities, with active Junior and Senior Economics Societies which allow the pupils to experience the subject well beyond the confines of the curriculum. The more able pupils are also stretched by regularly attending public lectures, as well as via an Oxbridge extension programme. This post offers scope for the teacher to both contribute and add further to these activities.

An increasing number of Oundle pupils are pursuing Economics and allied courses at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. As a growing department, this post would suit an applicant looking to expand their teaching experience in an intellectually stimulating and challenging environment, while the department is also more than able and willing to offer all the help and support that a colleague new to the profession may need. The successful applicant will be innovative, competent in the use of ICT, and embrace the use of technology to aid learning. The successful candidate will have a real enthusiasm for the subject which will inform their teaching.

Please contact Mo Tanweer at MT@oundleschool.org.uk if you require any further information about the department.

The Boarding Houses

The Houses are specifically designed to have accommodation for a married Housemaster or Housemistress and approximately sixty five pupils. The Houses
have a friendly, informal, but disciplined family atmosphere. Oundle School is a national boarding school, drawing its pupils from throughout the U.K. with eastern and northern England providing the largest numbers. There is also an international component with about 10% of the pupils coming from overseas, especially from Europe and the Far East.

**Academic Matters**

The Oundle curriculum is complex but flexible. At all levels every effort is made to ensure that pupils are placed in the teaching groups best suited to their needs and abilities. Those that will benefit from a slower pace are often placed in smaller sets so that they receive more personal attention. Average set size is twenty pupils in the Lower School and ten pupils in the Sixth Form. Because we are not obliged by law to follow the National Curriculum, we can adopt a more flexible approach when appropriate. We aim to create an environment in which each individual can acquire a sense of purpose and fulfilment through achievement as well as a firm set of values. Examination results are impressive: in 2011 pupils achieved at GCSE 55.1% A* and 86.5% A* or A grades. At A level, the outcome was 19.4 A* and 90% A* to B grades. Almost all our pupils go on to university degree courses.

**The Arts**

Oundle has a strong reputation in the Arts, with traditions of excellence in Art, Music and Drama. The School has its own Art Gallery, the Yarrow, which exhibits the work of both pupils and established artists. The Stahl, the School theatre, is the venue for many high quality productions both by members of the School and visiting professional theatre companies. The Music School involves large numbers of pupils in a huge variety of orchestras, bands and choirs. Concerts are given weekly by our own musicians and visiting professional artists.

**Sport and Extra Curricular Activities**

Oundle also has strong traditions in Sport, with all pupils devoting three afternoons a week to sporting activities. Almost all staff contribute to the sporting life of the School. The main sports are rugby, cricket, hockey and athletics for boys, and hockey, netball, tennis and athletics for girls. The School has excellent sporting facilities and wherever possible participates in national competitions. Although the top teams are very competitive, the lower teams are less so and all pupils can find an appropriate level at which to compete. Many other team sports flourish here, including fives, badminton, squash, rowing, football and swimming. There are also a host of opportunities to pursue individual sports such as aerobics, cross country running or horse riding. The aim is that all pupils will discover sports which they enjoy and which they will take with them beyond their years at school.

The extra-curricular programme is vast and varied. Car building, broadcasting, weight training, robotics, navigation, clay pigeon shooting, philosophy, cookery, wine tasting and Italian are just a sample of what we offer, in addition to support sessions in all the timetabled subjects. The School has a thriving CCF unit and an
extensive commitment to care in the local community with its Community Action programme. Many pupils participate in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme.

Oundle is committed to providing an all-round education and a wealth of sporting, cultural and leadership opportunities for all its pupils. All members of staff are expected to involve themselves in activities beyond the classroom by coaching or supervising sports and by offering support to CCF, Community Action or other similar activities.

**The Common Room**

There are approximately 145 full-time members of the teaching staff. The large and comfortable Common Room building offers excellent opportunities for relaxation and socialising, and the Common Room Committee organises a range of dinners, parties, trips and sporting events throughout the year for the members of Common Room and their families.

**The Management Structure and Promotion**

The Senior Management Team includes the Headmaster, the Deputy Head, the Senior Master, the Undermaster, the Director of Studies, the Senior Mistress, the Registrar and the Head of Laxton. Members of the Senior Management Team chair various committees that ensure the smooth running, well-being and development of the School. In addition, the Housemasters, Housemistresses and Heads of Department have a role as key middle managers who ensure the pastoral and academic welfare of pupils is paramount. Housemasters and Housemistresses are normally appointed internally. Heads of Department are appointed both internally and externally. There are many other positions of responsibility within the School, the majority of which are filled by internal recruitment. All posts are advertised, if not externally, then internally.

**Accommodation and Salaries**

Approximately 55% of the teaching staff lives in School housing and accommodation will normally be available to newcomers to the School. A discounted rent is payable on School accommodation. Other members of staff prefer to buy their own house and much new housing has recently been built in the town. The Oundle salary scale for staff presently runs from £25,615 in year 1 to £49,569 in year 27. New members of staff enter at a point appropriate to their experience. Some positions of responsibility receive an additional payment. Reduced rate School fees at Oundle and Laxton Junior School are available on application for the children of staff, at a rate set by the Governors.

**The Town of Oundle**

Oundle has a population of around 6000 and is an old market town amidst the rolling countryside of Northamptonshire. The town centre comprises many listed buildings and a range of specialist shops. In addition, the town has a primary school,
a middle school, a senior comprehensive school, churches, restaurants, cafés and a supermarket. The town is attractive to those with young families and staff have the additional bonus of access to all School leisure facilities, including the fitness suite, squash courts and newly renovated swimming pool. Oundle is twelve miles from the large town of Peterborough and forty miles from the historic university town of Cambridge.

**Recruitment Checks**

Applicants for teaching posts at Oundle will be asked to provide evidence to validate the contents of their Curriculum Vitae and to declare any criminal convictions. Confirmation of appointment is subject to a satisfactory outcome to the usual statutory checks. CVs should offer a full employment history and full details of all educational achievements. Applicants should be aware that we may approach any previous employer as a child protection measure. We will also seek explanations for any breaks in employment history. Applicants will be expected to be in sympathy with the aims and ambitions of the School and to have good academic qualifications. Applications, including a full Curriculum Vitae and the names of three referees, should be sent to Mrs Tracy Heath, Brereton Rooms, Oundle School, Church Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4EE.