Appointment of Artist in Residence for September 2016

The School
Sevanoaks School is a large, co-educational HMC school. Founded in 1432 by William Sevenoke, the school has over the last 50 years developed an international reputation for innovation and academic success. There are over 1000 pupils from age 11 to 18, including well over 400 in the Sixth Form. All our Sixth Form students study the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Around 50 students take up places at Oxford, Cambridge or Ivy League universities each year, and nearly all go to distinguished universities in the UK and USA.

This year the average IB score was 39.2 (the world average stands at between 29 and 30 points). 99% of Higher Level subjects were graded 7/6/5 and 84% of Higher Level subjects were graded 7 or 6. Sevenoaks School is also celebrating record-breaking examination results for Year 11. Over 94% of the examinations taken by the 139 candidates were awarded A* or A grades. 39 students – over a quarter of the year-group – gained ten A*s or more each, and 118 students gained 9 or more A* or A grades. All but seven results out of 1436 examinations were grade B or above.

About 350 pupils board in the seven boarding houses, including the Girls’ International House, opened in 1977, and the International Centre (for boys) which was founded in 1962. Students originate from some 40 countries worldwide.

The school is situated in the Kent market town of Sevenoaks, and has a prime position at the top of the High Street. The 100-acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole, yet London is only a 30-minute train journey away. Gatwick Airport is only 30 minutes away, and there are good transport links to other London airports and the Channel Tunnel.

Accolades
In 2013 the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) awarded Sevenoaks School the rare accolade of ‘Exceptional’ for its students’ achievement. In 2012, Sevenoaks was top of the Department for Education’s KS4 performance tables, with the highest percentage of pupils achieving all subjects in the English Baccalaureate. It was listed as Top Independent School at A-level or equivalent in the Independent in 2012, and the top co-educational independent secondary school (IB) in the Sunday Times Schools Guide in 2011. Sevenoaks has enjoyed the accolade of ‘Independent School of the Year’ from both The Sunday Times (2008) and The Independent (2007), while regularly topping the co-educational independent league table for the International Baccalaureate.

Teaching at Sevenoaks
The school has over 150 teaching staff, supported by a large number of ancillary staff, and is fortunate to have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff. Some teachers live in school accommodation, others live in the town or surrounding area. Teachers have access to first-class resources and facilities, including a superb sports centre opened in 2005. A new state-of-the-art performing arts centre, The Space, which provides four outstanding venues for music and drama, was opened in 2010. The next major projects will be a world-class Science and Technology and a Sixth Form Centre, which we plan to open in 2018 and new boarding accommodation.

Teaching and learning are the main academic priorities of the school. We want all our pupils to enjoy their subjects, to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, life-long learners, who go on to thrive at top universities and beyond. In order to support our aims, we have developed a number of Sevenoaks School Certificate (SSC) courses, in English, the Expressive Arts and Technology to enrich our
Middle School Curriculum. Also in the Middle School there are two courses in critical thinking: *Critical Perspectives* and *Ten Ideas That Changed the World*. Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development.

**The International Baccalaureate**

All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. No previous experience of teaching the International Baccalaureate, which we have taught since 1978, is necessary; gaining experience of teaching the IB, an internationally recognised qualification which we believe offers outstanding preparation for university and beyond, is stimulating and undoubtedly a valuable career asset. Information about the IB can be found on the website [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

**The Visual Arts & Media Department**

The department is seeking to recruit an energetic artist who is keen to develop their own creative practice within a busy art department while at the same time, inspire and enthuse pupils. The successful candidate is likely to have an interest in art education. The position is open to applicants with any creative specialism.

The Visual Arts & Media Department works within the Expressive Arts faculty alongside, and often with the Music and Drama Departments. The department has a Digital Imaging Studio for teaching the full range of Visual and Media skills. This is a faculty where students enjoy the luxury of self-expression, individual tuition and an expectation for high achievement. We work to help young people become increasingly responsible, independent and self-motivated, and we start from the proposition that Art is a kind of voice, with which to explore and articulate individual points of view within a global context. All the faculty’s aims are informed by the IB’s Mission Statement and Learner Profile.

In the Middle School, our own Art course offers an exciting new opportunity for the department and is designed to foster a lifelong passion for learning about and creating exciting art. In the Sixth Form, students may opt for a Higher Level or Standard Level IB course. In addition to timetabled classes students, attend a two-hour studio evening session per week, which begins with Life Classes, and progresses through skills-raising short courses in photography, digital imaging, printmaking and sculpture. This is all in support of our main aim for them, which is to help them gain a high degree of independence in functioning as young artists.

A particularly important part of our work is with non-specialist students who want to extend their experience and understanding of the Arts in their free time. To this end we offer opportunities and courses after school and on Thursday afternoons for Lower Sixth students, who may have no particular experience, but who are curious and prepared to be adventurous. We open our doors and it is supervised, throughout the week, to 6pm. The successful candidate will be expected to make a full contribution to these sessions beyond the timetable.
We are currently a team of three full-time teachers supported by a number of part-time staff specialising in sculpture, photography and film. Trips undertaken by the department have included day trips to Paris, and regularly to London galleries and museums, but also residential trips to Barcelona, New York and Moscow / St Petersburg.

Questions about the role can be asked of Mr Charley Openshaw, Head of Art by email, who will be delighted to hear from potential applicants: cwo@sevenoaksschool.org.

**The Role: Artist in Residence**
The Art Department seeks to appoint an Artist in Residence to enhance our pupils’ understanding and enjoyment of the subject and to raise the profile of art about the school. Reporting to the Head of Art, the artist in residence will be responsible for providing general support to the art department whilst at the same time developing their own creative practice. The appointment would be for one academic year. Precise tasks will depend slightly on the interests and skills of the person appointed. It would suit someone with energy and enthusiasm who has a degree Fine Art (or a related field) and would like to find out more about teaching. The successful candidate is likely to have an interest in art education and will be expected to teach some art lessons. The artist in residence may also be offered accommodation in the school and is able to take meals in the school as well as enjoy use of the facilities. These include reasonable use of all the art department’s resources.

Depending on the successful candidate’s specialisms and interests, the role may include:

- Developing own practice within the art department during the course of the residency and holding a celebratory, concluding exhibition on the campus or an agreed venue
- Sharing this practice with pupils and maintaining a regular blog that records progress and offers a forum for discussion
- Taking responsibility for the teaching of some Lower School groups
- Team teaching some groups
- Offering flexibility in taking on occasional extra teaching responsibility
- Within the artist’s own specialism, running a workshop one afternoon a week
- Running occasional art scholars’ master classes
- Taking responsibility for life drawing within the department
- Assisting with maintaining open studio sessions
- Assisting with the display of pupils’ art on the campus
- Offering an informal lecture at the start of the residency to Sixth Form artists and Middle School art historians
- Offering occasional workshops to Sixth Form artists
- Running drawing/creative classes for staff, parents and the local community
- Assisting the department with other tasks appropriate to the role
Information for applicants

This position would be full-time during term time and would involve working Monday to Friday, and would also include our Thursday evening Sixth Form open studio session. This role is offered for the academic year 2015/16 although there is the potential for this to be renewed for a further year. The salary and accommodation would be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Applicants should complete the application form in full. Guidance for completion of the form is downloadable from our website. Note that Part 6 must show a complete history of employment, and should continue on a separate sheet of the application form if necessary. Please submit the completed application form, covering letter, images of recent creative work (or website links) and CV by post to:

The Personnel Dept
Sevenoaks School
Sevenoaks
TN13 1HU
tel: 01732 467740; fax: 01732 456143; e-mail: pa@sevenoaksschool.org

Applications should be submitted by midday on Friday 13 May 2016. The school retains the right to interview and appoint before the deadline.

The post-holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact, and will adhere to and ensure compliance with the school’s Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he or she must report any concerns to the school’s Designated Child Protection Coordinator or to the Head.