

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY





THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1432, Sevenoaks enjoys a global reputation as a centre of academic excellence and a flagship school for the International Baccalaureate. A co-educational day and boarding school, it offers a stimulating, intellectually demanding and balanced education for over 1200 students from ages 11 to 18.

Sevenoaks is one of the world's leading IB schools, having taught the International Baccalaureate for over 40 years. For nearly 20 years, all Sixth Form students have taken the full IB Diploma with consistently outstanding academic results which are testament to the school's experience and commitment to the programme.

Sevenoaks is the top large-cohort IB school in the UK and among the top five globally. In recent years it has been the second highest achieving large-cohort IB school in the world. Sevenoaks is also the top fully co-ed all-IB boarding school in the UK, according to Best Schools (Education Advisers Ltd). The Sunday Times named Sevenoaks School Co-educational Independent Secondary School of the Year in 2023.

In 2024, the average Diploma score was 39.6 points, about eight points above the world average. The Higher Education department supported applications of 245 students to universities in the UK, USA, Canada, Europe and Hong Kong with an outstanding 97 per cent progressing to their firm or insurance choice university. The majority attend Oxbridge, London universities, or other Russell Group universities such as Bristol or Durham. We support about 20 per cent of our students

with applications to international universities, with increasing numbers going to North America, specifically Ivy League and top universities in the United States.

Academic excellence is achieved by bright, motivated students, inspired by highly qualified and dedicated teachers in well-resourced classrooms. Sevenoaks delivers a broad, balanced programme of study through exciting teaching. Strengthened by wise pastoral care, Sevenoaks students work hard to satisfy their natural curiosity and extend themselves far above and beyond the core curriculum. The school's international outlook promotes the principles of tolerance and open-mindedness. Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help to foster the social and emotional welfare of our students, while a long tradition of service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

The school is one of the largest employers in the local area, employing staff in a wide variety of roles, and aiming to be an employer of choice for top staff from around the world. We offer our staff a competitive range of benefits and are in the process of developing a range of progressive employment policies and opportunities for personal and professional development. All Sevenoaks staff are encouraged to enjoy facilities such as our sports centre and pool, attend performances at our performing arts centre, and get involved in service activities within the local community. We strive to promote the positive mental and physical health of all staff, and are committed to ensuring that equality, diversity and inclusion are at the very



heart of our culture and community. We believe every member of the school community should feel welcomed, included and valued.

THE CAMPUS

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 several listed buildings and attractive gardens, is beautifully landscaped and adjoins the medieval deer park of Knole. London is only a 30-minute train ride away and the school is in commutable distance from several Kent towns including Orpington, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Bromley, Kings Hill and Dartford.

Recent developments on campus include a superb sports centre, a state-of-the-art performing arts centre, a world-class Science and Technology Centre and a Global Study Centre for the Sixth Form. Our campus has earned several architectural awards, including two RIBA National Awards (2019, 2022).

With eight distinctive and comfortable boarding houses, our boarding community is fun, friendly and busy.

TEACHING AT SEVENOAKS

Teaching here is immensely rewarding: we work in high-performing teams towards a shared endeavour. Everyone appointed to teach at Sevenoaks School is expected to engage actively in all aspects of our broad and well-rounded education, across a six day week, with lessons on Saturday mornings and sport in the afternoons.

We want all our students to enjoy their subjects,

to be inspired by their teachers and to become independent, lifelong learners. Teachers are enthusiastic and well-qualified graduates. We have an exceptionally lively, talented and committed staff body. We welcome applications from experienced teachers and newly-qualified teachers, but can also provide training including PGCE for those joining the profession at whatever stage. All new staff undertake a comprehensive induction programme. Sevenoaks is committed to supporting its staff with training and professional development tailored to staff needs and interests.

All teachers are involved in proactive pastoral care. All teachers participate in the co-curriculum and, as our outreach activities expand, contribute to our work with local students and schools. Teachers at Sevenoaks are innovative and forward-thinking many are involved in the Institutes of Teaching and Learning, Higher Education and Professional Insight, and Service and Partnerships, shaping further development and initiatives for students and staff alike.

CURRICULUM

At every stage, we offer a broad, deep, and integrated curriculum. Every pupil is encouraged to be curious, creative, critically aware, and to develop his or her passion and talent to the full. Life is fast-paced, dynamic, and expectations are high. At the same time, the school seeks to cultivate in its students the habit of reflecting on their learning, and on how they contribute to society more broadly. Ambitious and principled, confident, and compassionate, our students are prepared for leadership and teamwork in the wider world.



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In Years 7-11 all students take courses in critical thinking developed by the school. The Middle School Diploma, launched for Year 9 in September 2017, recognises the learning that takes place both within and outside the classroom and is built around seven core values: creativity, independent learning, critical thinking, international understanding, collaboration, self-awareness, and social responsibility.

All of the 500-plus Sixth Form students pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a programme the school has delivered for 40 years. The Diploma is the best preparation for university and for work in a world of global competition. Even more important, it genuinely develops a rich inner life in our students, opening their minds to connections and possibilities within and across the subject disciplines.

It is no surprise that our students leave Sevenoaks to study a wide range of courses in the UK and around the world. Each year all leaving students progress to the world's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and around one in five take places at leading US and international universities. They do so with an enlarged capacity for independent thought and intellectual risk-taking, a strong appetite for learning, and equipped with the skills and personal qualities conducive to a happy and successful life.

THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The Geography department is dynamic, innovative, and forward-looking. We aim to encourage and inspire all age groups within the school to share our interest and passion for this highly relevant subject. There are currently seven teachers in the department. The department is based in specialist classrooms, equipped with SMART interactive whiteboards and projectors. The great challenges of the 21st century all demand geographical analysis. We develop geographical thinking and geographical skills through a rich, international, and interesting curriculum to help students make sense of issues, places and spaces in their world. Fostering a real sense of geographical enquiry is key.

Geography is taught throughout the school. In Years 7 and 8, we foster a curiosity and fascination in Geography by showing its amazing breadth and depth exploring topics including: What are the opportunities and challenges for a Changing Africa? Why is biodiversity under threat? Why should we manage the world's oceans? What is wrong with fast fashion? and Why do people risk their life to move? Skills are developed through digital mapwork, effective communication and presentations and fieldwork enquiry, all incorporated within the Lower School Geographical Skills Award. In Year 9 students follow our internally designed Geo Capabilities course through four main themes – 'Development and Human Welfare', 'Extreme Environments', 'Superpower Geopolitics' and 'The Climate Crisis'. Skills include data presentation and analysis, podcast presenting, infographic analysis and extended writing.



Geography is a very popular subject; there are over 280 students studying IGCSE (Pearson Edexcel) Geography. Fieldwork Enquiry involves Urban and Coastal investigations. Students are stretched beyond the syllabus including with a Decision-Making Exercise and an independent 'Global Geographical Issue' research-based project. Each summer, there is an annual a six-day 'awe and wonder' residential fieldtrip to Southern Iceland which is attended by 90 Year 10 students.

Approximately 100 students take IB Geography in the Sixth Form, the majority at Higher Level. At IB level, there is an urban field trip to East London, a three-day, project based residential trip to Dorset, and a ten-day residential fieldtrip to Morocco (Marrakech, High Atlas Mountains, Essaouira and the Saharan desert fringe). The department has strong fundraising and community links with the NGO 'Education for All Morocco.'

There is a weekly, popular Middle School Geography Club and Sixth Form Geography Society - both develop students' critical thinking beyond the syllabus. Academic standards are high: most students achieve the top two grades at IGCSE, and most achieve the top IB grade. A good number of students are supported each year when choosing to study Geography or Geography related degrees at top universities.

THE POST

We are seeking to appoint a well-qualified full time Geography Teacher. The successful candidate is likely to have studied Geography at degree level or beyond. They will teach the subject across the

11-18 age range and have high standards. Passion for the subject and an ability to inspire and stretch motivated and able students is essential. They will be committed and enthusiastic, have strong ICT skills and a willingness to contribute to the development of Geography at Sevenoaks including the day and residential fieldtrip programme. They will work well as part of a dynamic and forward-looking department team. We welcome applications from teachers new to the profession as well as those with teaching experience. The School encourages action-based research into teaching and learning and there are excellent opportunities to work with highly academic staff and students. A commitment to excellent pastoral care, enriching co-curricular activities and outreach activities is also expected.

BENEFITS

- Membership of the school's defined contribution pension scheme is available
- Membership of the school's fitness centre
- Other benefits such as free or subsidised tickets for school music and theatre productions and access to an employee discount scheme
- Fee remission policy (terms apply)
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Cycle to work scheme
- Free School lunch
- Free parking (subject to availability)

CHILD PROTECTION

All staff have a responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children with whom they come into contact and are required to



adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Safeguarding Policy Statement at all times. If, in the course of carrying out their duties, a member of staff becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, they must immediately report their concerns to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

OFFER CONDITIONS

Sevenoaks School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, therefore, the offer of employment is subject to the satisfactory completion of a number of background checks including but not limited to an enhanced DBS check with Children's Barred List check, the taking up and verification of references and the verification of career history and fitness to undertake the role. The complete list of required checks will be provided to the successful candidate.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent legislation, the school is obliged to provide you with a workplace and working conditions which so far as is reasonably practicable, are safe and without risk to health. You are required by health and safety legislation to take reasonable care for your own health and safety and for the health and safety of others.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Sevenoaks School has its own generous salary scale. Accommodation or relocation expenses may be available, and a fee remission for the children of members of staff are available (subject to the usual school entry requirements).

Further information about the school can be obtained from the school's website: www.sevenoaksschool.org, including more about working at Sevenoaks: www.sevenoaksschool.org/about-us/work-at-sevenoaks/.

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 and CV by e-mail or post to:

The Human Resources Department
Sevenoaks School
High Street
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1HU

Tel: 01732 467740;
email: pa@sevenoaksschool.org.

Applications should be submitted by midday on Thursday 26 February.

The school retains the right to interview suitable applicants and appoint before the deadline.