



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Appointment of

Sports Graduate Assistant (one-year contract)

For September 2019



Northampton High School

“Thank you for your interest in our very special school, where we are as ambitious for ourselves as we are for our students. I am confident that you too would find it a stimulating and rewarding place to develop your practice and to move forward in your career.” Dr Helen Stringer, Headmistress.

Northampton High School is a leading independent girls’ day school and one of the oldest girls’ schools in the country, with a tradition of pioneering in girls’ education going back to its foundation in 1878. We are an all through school (ages 2-18) with around 600 girls across the nursery, junior and senior schools, including a sixth form of about 110 students. Our school is situated in Hardingstone, just outside the growing town of Northampton, in a leafy site with extensive playing fields and spacious buildings that were purpose built when the school moved from the town centre in 1992. The transport links are excellent, with easy access from the M1 and Northampton rail station a short taxi ride away. The school is a popular choice in the local vicinity and girls also join us from areas further afield, such as Milton Keynes, Warwickshire and Bedfordshire.

Northampton High is an academically selective school, although our intake is broad across the range of students considered to be above average nationally. Our pupils are determined, sharp-witted, animated and curious. Public examination results are consistently excellent and students go on to study a wide range of subjects at prestigious universities, including Oxbridge, and a range of institutions for the Arts. We are confident that these outcomes come about because of our uncompromising emphasis on the highest quality in everything we do and our ethos of continual improvement for all, students and teachers alike. This is seen in our commitment to developing a 360-degree understanding of each pupil, sustained by particularly warm and supportive pastoral care that weaves its way through all aspects of school life.

As a community we have the skills and attributes within the staff body for excellent continuing professional development and learning. Teachers and other staff members contribute to a thriving CPDL programme and this is supplemented by external speakers and courses as required.

“I would say as a new teacher I had all the usual worries, where, how etc. but all the staff made me forget I was new. Everyone is very caring and the whole atmosphere in the school allows you to gently settle in and learn whilst having the best teaching experience.” Karla: joined in September 2017.

The GDST

GDST schools are experts in girls-only education and are members of a unique network which adds value to each school, student and member of staff. Outstanding networking opportunities across the Trust enable staff to share best practice and develop initiatives that benefit all our schools and students. In addition to supporting the work of individual schools in supplying excellent induction and development opportunities for staff, the GDST network provides access to an extensive training programme. This includes opportunities including a middle leaders’ development course and a programme for those aspiring to senior leadership, as well as grants for individual courses of study.



Sports Graduate Assistant

The Post

Full-time, temporary post available from September 2019, for one year. A specialism in Netball would be an advantage, although this is not essential.

The vacancy provides the opportunity for an inspirational graduate to work in the Sports Faculty and to support the teaching of Physical Education and Games across all age groups from Junior School up to A Level (and Oxbridge entrance). Also to contribute to extracurricular activities within the Faculty, working closely with colleagues across the school.

The Person

The role of Graduate Assistant would be suitable for those who are considering a career in education, coaching or other sports related pathways. The successful candidate will be able to coach at least two of the following at a high level – Hockey, Netball and Athletics. It is expected that the successful candidate will add to the profile of sport at school, demonstrating enthusiasm and energy and inspiring participation at this exciting time in the development of sport at Northampton High School. The Graduate Assistant will work across both the Junior and Senior Schools, working closely with the Sport Faculty and other sports coaches, primarily assisting them in coaching, team management and umpiring, as well as team teaching PE.

The Faculty

Northampton High has a faculty system in the senior school, made up of Mathematics, English, Science, Languages, Humanities, Creative Arts and Sport. Our lessons are challenging and thought provoking with a strong emphasis on creativity and collaboration. Within a supportive environment, we encourage all students to achieve their full potential and we aim to instil a genuine appreciation of the academic side of the subject as well as excellence in individual and team sports, and an awareness of healthy lifestyles.

The Curriculum

Junior School

Junior school students have one Physical Education lesson, one swimming lesson and one Games lesson weekly. In Physical Education, we cover gymnastics, dance, badminton, handball, athletics, tennis, and health related fitness. In Games the focus is hockey in the autumn term, netball in the spring term and cricket in the summer term.

Years 7-9 (Upper Third, Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth)

In Physical Education we teach dance, gymnastics, badminton, handball, health related fitness, basketball, swimming, and athletics. Through the Games programme, we focus on hockey in the autumn term, netball in the spring term and tennis and cricket in the summer term. In addition to this, we develop games such as football, tag rugby, water polo, lacrosse, and cross-country.

Year 10 (Lower Fifth)

Students in Key Stage 4 have a weekly Games lesson for year 10, this is in line with Key Stage 3 and focuses on hockey in the autumn term, netball in the spring term and tennis and cricket in the summer term. In addition to this, we develop games such as football, tag rugby, water polo, lacrosse, and cross-country.

Year 11, 12 and 13 (Upper Fifth, 6-1, and 6-2)

These students have a weekly Games afternoon. They choose half-termly from a wide variety of activities. The list is constantly updated but includes activities such as hockey, netball, swimming, trampolining, gymnastics, dodgeball, handball, ultimate Frisbee, spin, Zumba, boxercise, badminton, squash, lacrosse, tag rugby, football, basketball, rounders, cricket, tennis, fitness, yoga and pilates.

GCSE (Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth)

We teach GCSE Physical Education and follow AQA for this. The course offers a good variety of practical and theory components.

A Level (6-1 and 6-2)

We deliver A Level Physical Education and follow OCR. The course covers, anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and socio-cultural factors.

Facilities and Equipment

Our indoor facilities include, a 4 badminton court sports hall, a 5 lane 25 metre swimming pool, 2 squash courts, a dance studio and a fitness suite. Outside we have a floodlit astroturf and 6 netball courts (two of which are floodlit). These change purpose in the summer term to provide us with 9 tennis courts. There are numerous grass hockey and football pitches, in summer we also have 4 rounders pitches or 3 cricket pitches and a 400 metre grass athletics track, as well as a long jump pit and shot putt throwing circle and an astroturf cricket wicket.

We have sports equipment to aid the delivery of all activities and provide school kit for fixtures to enhance the corporate image of the school.

Terms and conditions of the post

The GDST offers attractive salaries and pay progression and has its own pay and grading structure, and system of career progression. Leadership and excellence are recognised and rewarded in our schools.

This role would be placed on Grade 3 of the support pay scale, circa £18k (term-time only, 81% FTE = approx £14.5k). Please see the link below to download salary details.

<https://www.gdst.net/careers/rewards-and-benefits>

Benefits include:

- Membership of Standard Life defined contribution pensions scheme
- Access to the GDST central training and development programme
- Up to 50% discount on fees for children at GDST schools
- Training grants for obtaining further qualifications
- Computer Loans: Interest free loans are available to staff to enable them to buy a computer for personal use at home or school
- Cycle Scheme: the school is part of the scheme which enables staff to purchase bicycles and equipment at a tax advantageous rate and pay for the equipment over 12 months
- Lunches: free lunches are provided to all staff during term time

Application and Interview Process

Applications should be submitted by **12 noon on 21 June** at the latest; however, applications may be considered in advance of the deadline.

Candidates should complete the application form provided with comprehensive details of qualifications and experience (including any periods of time out of employment, giving reasons for these) and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two professional referees, one of whom should be the Head of their present or most recent school. Candidates should also include a covering letter outlining their motivation for applying for the post. Applications which are not completed on the application form provided will not be considered.

Completed applications should be emailed to admin@nhs.gdst.net or sent to:

Mrs Dee Brown, PA to the Headmistress
Northampton High School
Newport Pagnell Road
Northampton
NN4 6UU

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview week commencing **24 June 2019**. As part of this process, there will be a formal interview and candidates will meet with some pupils and discuss ideas about training and sports development more generally.

All adults employed at the school are cleared for working with children and young people through the Disclosure & Barring Service. Please see attached information regarding the Girls' Day School Trust guidelines on the Safeguarding of Children.

Further information about the school and the application form can be found on our website at:

www.nhs.gdst.net