



OLA
OUR LADY'S
ABINGDON



APPOINTMENT OF

DIRECTOR OF SPORT

**(WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AS
HEAD OF NETBALL OR HEAD OF RUGBY)**

FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF OLA

Dear Candidate,

This is an exciting time to be joining OLA and a future of opportunity awaits the successful candidate. As the Head of OLA, I am honoured and privileged to be leading a school which is high performing in all areas, and which has the full support of the Governing Board to grow the school pupil headcount, invest in futureproofing the school and develop the staff so that they can empower our pupils to be the best versions of themselves. The value-added for public exam results is excellent; pastoral care is child-centered and consistently of the highest quality, and; the co-curricular programme is growing from strength to strength. OLA is defined by its Catholic ethos and this underpins all that we do:

Each child who joins us embarks on an educational journey, directed by our mission statement, providing for each one in accordance with their needs and encouraged by our ethos summed up in our school motto, "Whatever you do, do it well". Our ethos provides an individual approach that ensures we uncover a child's potential and nurture them to achieve, enabling them to thrive both academically and as people.

Our ethos is reflected in the positive relationships that exist between all members of our school community. We are proud of our distinctive family atmosphere, which fosters a tangible sense of community and happy relationships between staff and pupils.

If you choose to apply for this post, we will give your application all the seriousness it deserves. OLA is a wonderful, vibrant and happy environment in which to work, with a palpable sense of belonging among our staff. The role we are looking to fill is important to the flourishing of the school and I hope you will feel that you are the right person to fill it.

Kind regards,



Mr. Daniel Gibbons
Head of OLA



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

OLA is a Catholic co-educational day school located close to Oxford in the heart of Abingdon, welcoming pupils of all faiths and none. It was established by an Order of Catholic nuns founded by the Venerable Catherine McAuley called the Sisters of Mercy, who came to Abingdon in 1860 at the invitation of Sir George Bowyer of Radley Park. Reverend Mother Clare Moore was a national heroine who had worked closely with Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War - their joint portrait, entitled 'The Mission of Mercy', hangs in the National Portrait Gallery. Recently returned from Constantinople, Mother Clare brought three young Sisters to Abingdon on January 10th 1860 and teaching commenced the very next day. The girls' and boys' schools, now Our Lady's Abingdon School, were actively run by Sisters for almost a century.

Our co-educational ethos provides an atmosphere where pupils are at ease with one another and natural relationships are fostered. OLA is a purposeful, outward- looking school with a happy, family atmosphere that gives children the freedom to develop within a structured framework. As our school motto says:

age quod agis – whatever you do, do it well



MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement reflects the reality of daily life at OLA, and encompasses the vision and values of our founding Sisters at Our Lady of Mercy. 'As God's family we learn to love, respect and forgive - guided by His Word'.

We believe that God created each of us as a unique person with gifts that need to be recognised, celebrated and developed. Inspired by the words of our foundress, Catherine McAuley, "*To each according to their needs*", we encourage a respect for every individual, regardless of background, beliefs or ability.

Our aim is to develop a loving, caring and welcoming community in which all may grow as children of God. In partnership with parents and the wider community we seek to respond to God's invitation to faith, mercy and love. To develop skills for life in an ever-changing world, we cherish integrity, compassion, openness, forgiveness and reconciliation, co-operation and courage. We nurture wisdom, the value of learning, independent thinking, a sense of self-worth and care for each other that all may reach their full potential.

AIMS AND ETHOS

The following are central to our Mission Statement and the school wishes to foster a happy, caring Christian atmosphere in which these aims may be realised:

AIMS

- To encourage respect for the worth of the individual and in this way to develop self-confidence
- To enable all pupils to achieve their full potential
- To guide pupils to make informed moral choices
- To develop independent thinking and a love of learning

ETHOS

We believe that every human being is created to become a unique person with gifts that should be accepted and valued.

Our foundress Catherine McAuley said: "*To each according to their needs*".

We owe it to our pupils to help them recognise and achieve the best of which they are capable to obtain the qualifications they need and to develop a sense of personal fulfilment.

A sound Christian framework is important as a basis for the whole of their lives

This is the basis of life-long learning

ACADEMIC

OLA promotes a challenging and progressive curriculum, which reflects the learning requirements of each individual pupil. It aims to nurture independent, analytical and creative thinking and to build the confidence in our pupils to articulate clearly their views of the world around them.

The School achieves strong academic results, as a result of effective and well-developed relationships between pupils and staff and a positive attitude to learning. In 2023, an 95% pass rate was achieved at GCSE, with 69% of all grades at 9 to 6. Our 2023 results were higher than 2019, which was a great achievement. In addition, 46% of pupils achieved at least one 9 grade, demonstrating that pupils can achieve at the highest level in any subject for which they have an aptitude and passion. A Level results were equally impressive, with 57% of all grades at A* to B. Similar to GCSE, almost half of our students achieved at least one A grade. OLA's value-added is outstanding, year on year, and belies our raw results which reflect our relatively broad ability intake. Upper Sixth leavers achieved places at a range of prestigious universities, including Cardiff, Bath, York, Warwick, Kings, Leeds and Birmingham.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils study Mathematics, English, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish), Geography, History and Religious Studies as core subjects, alongside other practical-based subjects such as Art, Drama, Music, Design Technology, Food and Nutrition, Latin, PE, Textiles, and Computer Science. Year 9 pupils choose up to four of these practical subjects to study in greater depth.

At GCSE, pupils choose up to three optional subjects in addition to their core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science (Double or Triple) and Religious Studies. There is the option to study Further Maths as an extra GCSE, and also an additional Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).

This wide range of options is also offered at A Level, in addition to Economics, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, Psychology and Business Studies. OLA Sixth pupils study three A Levels, with many choosing the additional option of the Extended Project Qualification. In addition, students can opt for Further Maths as a fourth A-level. University application and career choice guidance is excellent, and the majority of OLA Sixth leavers go on to their first choice of university and to study a diverse range of subjects.



ACADEMIC (continued)

A new faculty structure was introduced from September 2022, the aim of which is to improve the efficacy of the academic leadership structure and create a clear middle leadership level within the School. The faculty structure comprises:

1. **English, Drama and Film and Media** (including responsibility for Academic Enrichment and Literacy)
2. **Mathematics and Computer Science** (including responsibility for Academic Scholarship and Numeracy)
3. **Science** (including Academic PE)
4. **Religious Studies** (including responsibility for Chaplaincy, PSHE and RSE)
5. **Creative Arts** (Art, Design Technology, Food Technology, Textiles and Music)
6. **Humanities** (Business, Economics, Geography, History and Psychology)
7. **Languages** (Modern Languages and Classics) (including line management of the EPQ Coordinator)

Within the above are Subject Coordinators for each subject who report to the Head of Faculty. Academic staff report to the Subject Coordinator who, in turn, report to the Head of Faculty. The Head of Faculty is also a 'Subject Coordinator' and, as such, will line manage the staff within their own subject.

OLA provides academic enrichment beyond the classroom and curriculum. A strong track record exists of enriching pupil experiences by applying their learning in real contexts through a varied trips programme. The School runs a Scholarship Programme, which seeks to enrich pupil experiences and extend their learning beyond the classroom. Lower Sixth pupils benefit from tailored programmes in preparation for life beyond school, and there is a parallel path for those who have expressed an interest in Oxbridge.



THE WHOLE PERSON

OLA offers a growing programme of activities that enable our pupils to explore passions and to develop important skills and characteristics, including teamwork and determination, all within the safety of a caring and compassionate community. The rich programme of activities caters for broad tastes, from creative arts, coding and textiles to a variety of academic clinics.

The School has a particularly impressive offering in the performing arts. Several choirs and orchestral groups provide regular music performance opportunities, and take-up of instrumental lessons is high. Music partnerships with local schools are strong, and visiting musicians provide a series of masterclasses. OLA has its own drama studio and theatre. Pupils across the school community are involved in productions, including an annual inclusive whole-school musical. The School is also a LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) centre through which pupils can develop skill and confidence in public speaking, articulation, presentation and acting skills.

OLA offers a range of sports for all ages and abilities to encourage participation, fitness and an enjoyment of team sport. Sports on offer include swimming, gymnastics, cricket, athletics, rugby, netball, hockey and football. OLA has generous facilities including a heated indoor swimming pool and access to the extensive range of facilities at the Tilsley Park Centre. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is also popular at OLA, with many pupils supported through to the Silver and Gold Awards.

In the development of our pupils OLA pays special attention to pastoral care and spiritual nourishment, promoted by all staff but particularly by our dedicated chaplaincy team that arranges retreats, assemblies and liturgies. Our beautiful Chapel is a real centre for prayer and our Catholic ethos ensures all pupils, whatever their background, have opportunities to step back from the busy school day and benefit from quiet reflection. We have a justified reputation for being a caring, compassionate and nurturing school with a calm purpose that gives all pupils the opportunity to thrive in a safe environment.

OLA prepares children for life. Pupils leave us at 18 as young adults not only equipped academically for university, but as well-balanced individuals with the confidence to make their way successfully in the world beyond school. Following their chosen paths with enthusiasm and confidence, they can use the broad skills they have acquired at OLA to become valuable members of society.



JOB DESCRIPTION

For September 2024, we seek a well-qualified, inspirational and experienced Director of Sport to lead a new and exciting Sports Development Plan at OLA. For an aspiring senior leader, this post will offer invaluable experience for future promotion. This is a new post and 'enhanced Sports provision' is a key area for development for the School.

The successful candidate will also be either Head of Netball or Head of Rugby (see attached job descriptions). An internal Head of Football has already been appointed. Once the Director of Sport appointment has been secured, we will advertise for another PE/Sport Teacher who will be either Head of Netball or Head of Rugby. In time, we may look to increase staffing and create responsibility posts for other posts, depending upon need.

SPORT

Sport is very much at the heart of the OLA experience and we seek a committed, enthusiastic Director of Sport to lead both the newly rebranded Sports Department, and the overall provision of Sport within the whole school (Years 3 to 13). Sport is provided through our Co-Curricular Programme, which supplements the teaching of sports in Academic PE (Years 7 to 9) and coaching of the main sports in Games (rugby, football, netball, hockey, cricket, tennis and athletics). There is an ideal opportunity to develop other sports at the school, and individual athletes and school teams have been successful in a variety of sports eg cross-country, rowing, swimming

At OLA, we have a main Sports Hall and a gym, and also an indoor 25-metre swimming pool. The School playing fields are on a separate site, approximately 100 metres from the School gates. We also use the astro (hockey) and athletics track at Tilsley Park.

ACADEMIC PE

Academic PE sits within the Science Faculty staff, and the faculty itself is a committed and well-motivated team who keep abreast of changes and developments in their subjects. PE has been a very popular subject at GCSE and A level. Pupils study the AQA specification for GCSE. In OLA Sixth, the Lower Sixth will study BTEC Sport and Upper Sixth will complete the OCR A Level course. We have moved away from the A-level course because the BTEC pathway is more appropriate for our students.

PE is taught to all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9, and it is an option for GCSE. Games includes the major team sports such as hockey and netball for girls, and football and rugby for boys, and is part of the curriculum for all year groups.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE POST

All teachers are expected to share in supervision duties, attend relevant parents' evenings, staff/departmental meetings, Open Days etc. and to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Standards

- Sport
 - Coach one main sport to a high standard.
 - Experience of coaching other sports to a high standard.
 - Demonstrable experience of successful managing sports teams.
 - Ensuring high-quality provision of the main sports for all year groups.
 - Maintaining a full and competitive fixtures list.
 - Ensure high-quality provision of minority sports for all year groups.
 - Liaise with relevant staff in either scheduling of fixtures or accompanying teams or individuals to important competitions.
- Teach curriculum PE (Years 7 to 9), GCSE PE and BTEC Sport to a high standard.
 - Plan schemes of work which are progressive, and enable pupils to acquire key knowledge and develop understanding and subject-specific skills throughout their learning.
 - Review choice of exam specifications in consultation with Head of Faculty (Science).
 - Annual review of schemes of work and key assessments in consultation with Head of Faculty (Science).
 - Provide support and guidance for pupils applying for subject-related courses at university.
 - Be lead teacher on subject trips.
 - Coordinate setting in consultation with Head of Faculty (Science).
 - Ensure subject meets requirements for public exams.
- Sports Scholarship Programme
 - Ensure the provision of a high-quality Sports Scholarship Programme.
 - Liaise with the Scholarships Coordinator in reviewing applications and assessing candidates.
 - Monitor the progress of Sports Scholars.

Leadership

- Implement a new Sports Development Plan, evaluating and reviewing regularly, to ensure high-quality sport is provided for all pupils.
- Liaise with relevant staff:
 - Senior Deputy Head (Sport)
 - Head of Faculty (Science) – Academic PE
 - Director of Marketing – sports news
 - Director of Admissions – recruitment of Sports Scholars and visits to/from feeder schools.
 - Scholarships Coordinator – all matters pertaining to assessing, reviewing and providing for Sports Scholars.
 - Curriculum and Timetable Coordinator – timetable provision for PE and Sport.
- Support the Head of Faculty (Science) in coordinating the Quality Assurance and staff Performance Development systems for PE and Games.

Management

- Produce Sport and Academic PE handbooks.
- Line manage Sports Department (including Academic PE).
- Induction for new Sports and Academic PE staff.
- Chair regular Sports and Academic PE meetings.
- Cover Academic PE and Sport staff as necessary.
- Participate in recruitment of Academic PE and Sports staff.
- Manage Academic PE and Sports resources.
- Coordinate learning resources for staff, pupils and OLA Sixth students

- Make library provision for subject.
- Oversee the organisation of Sports Day.
- Liaise with the Houses Coordinator in the organisation of Inter-House events.

Retention and Recruitment

- Identify and encourage potential internal Sports Scholars.
- Liaise with the Admissions Department in recruiting potential external Sports Scholars.
- Support the Admissions Department in recruitment eg meeting prospective families, visits to schools, running events for primary and prep schools.

Marketing

- Ensure all sports news is communicated to the Director of Marketing.
- Organise events for primary and prep schools.

Curriculum

- Implement school's pedagogical approach to learning within the faculty.
- Liaise with Academic PE staff in annual review of schemes of work and key assessments, and in review of exam specifications.
- Oversee academic enrichment within the faculty.
- Oversee university support and guidance.
- Provide key information for the School's publications eg GCSE Options Booklet, OLA Sixth Options Booklet.

Pupil Progress

- Produce detailed analyses of tracking and monitoring data to ensure that all pupils make expected progress.
- Oversee intervention for pupils to ensure that all relevant pupils are supported in improving their performance.
- Liaise with relevant staff in dealing with academic concerns related to the faculty.

Timetable

- Academic PE – liaise with DH (Academic) in determining setting and staffing needs for faculty.
- Sport – liaise with the Senior Deputy Head in staffing Sport, both Games and co-curricular.

Digital Learning

- Work with the DH (Academic) and HoF (Science) in evaluating and reviewing digital learning, and in identifying strengths and areas for development so that digital learning can be embedded within pedagogy.
- Develop use of digital learning within the faculty, and coordinate with the HoF (Science) so that best practice is shared.

Teaching

- Teach 30 periods per 2 weeks (FT is 40/50 per 2 weeks).
- To be an excellent teacher.



Health and Safety

- Maintain responsibility for ensuring that all faculty staff are aware of H&S requirements.
- Maintain responsibility for ensuring that all necessary risk assessments are in place for the faculty, and are reviewed as per the H&S Policy.

Other

- To report to the Senior Deputy Head upon request.
- Attend regular meetings.
- Liaise with other staff on cross-curricular projects.
- Support the School at School events.



DIRECTOR OF SPORT: PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education and Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
Qualified teacher status		✓
A good degree in PE or Sports Science, or a related discipline.	✓	
Evidence of commitment to personal/professional development	✓	
Relevant coaching qualifications	✓	
Experience	Essential	Desirable
Compelling record of success at middle management level		✓
Proven experience of leading and developing staff teams and in building productive relationships	✓	
Demonstrable experience of coaching and sports team management success	✓	
Experience of using School management systems e.g. QA, performance management		✓
Experience of academic leadership	✓	
Proven track record of ensuring excellent academic standards	✓	
Experience of using data management systems		✓
Knowledge and Understanding	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge of Safeguarding and other child-related legislation	✓	
Ability to analyse and use data effectively	✓	
Clear understanding of academic options systems	✓	
Ensure appropriate guidance and support is provided for students applying for the most competitive undergraduate courses e.g. Oxbridge.	✓	
Skills and Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Ability to establish good working relationships and effective teamwork	✓	
Willingness and ability to embrace change	✓	
Good communication skills	✓	
Excellent role model for staff and students	✓	
Ability to generate ideas and drive initiatives	✓	
Assured communication and presentation skills	✓	
Attention to detail	✓	
Excellent ICT skills	✓	
Outstanding classroom practitioner	✓	
Personal Qualities	Essential	Desirable
Ability to lead, manage and inspire others	✓	
Highly motivated and able to motivate and inspire staff	✓	

Enthusiastic and committed to support others beyond the School day	✓	
A forward-thinking approach	✓	
A passion for teaching and learning	✓	
Excellent interpersonal skills with a range of stakeholders	✓	
Ability to be reflective and self-critical	✓	
Display calmness under pressure and have a sense of humour	✓	
Ability to meet deadlines	✓	
Drive, adaptability and resilience	✓	
Ability to be discrete and understand professional boundaries	✓	
Other Requirements	Essential	Desirable
Enhanced DBS Disclosure	✓	
Ability to understand and demonstrate a commitment to equality and diversity	✓	
Appropriate level of safeguarding training	✓	

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE POST

All teachers are expected to share in supervision duties, attend relevant parents’ evenings, staff/departmental meetings, Open Days etc. and to contribute to the co-curricular life of the school.



WORKING AT OLA

Salary

OLA has its own salary scale. Experience and qualifications are considered when setting starting salaries.

Benefits

Lunch is provided at no cost during term time

Free on-site parking.

CPD and training are encouraged

Staff have agreed access to the School's equipment and facilities, including the indoor swimming pool.

Pension

The School currently participates in the DfE Teachers' Pension Scheme and also offers a generous contributory pension scheme for all support staff.

School Fee Reduction

Teaching staff benefit from a staff discount on basic tuition fees of 50% for full-time staff, pro rata for part-time staff, and qualify for this benefit after completing two years of service.

Non-contractual benefits are given at the discretion of the Governing body and can be withdrawn without notice.

Location

The school is located in Abingdon-on-Thames, an historic market town situated eight miles to the south of Oxford with its world-renowned reputation as a centre of academic excellence. The town supports a mixed, international community which enjoys a good selection of facilities situated a just few minutes' walk away from the river and gardens of Abbey Meadows. The town benefits from excellent bus links to Oxford, which is just a 15-minute ride away and provides a wealth of social and cultural opportunities.



SELECTION PROCESS

- **Application deadline:** **9.00am Monday 13 May.** Early applications are encouraged and the School reserves the right to interview and appoint a suitable candidate before the given deadline.
- **Interview date:** **TBC**
- Applications should be made via the online application form which can be accessed on the TES website at www.tes.com/jobs/employer/-1030286.
- Ensure that your application form is completed in full with no gaps in your education/employment history. Incomplete applications may be discounted.
- Two referees should be provided, one of whom must be your current or most recent employer.
- Applicants will be required to prove their right to work in the UK at interview. The School cannot offer sponsorship to candidates who do not already have the right to work in the UK.
- Candidates should expect to complete other selection exercises in addition to interview.
- The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and social media check, in addition to other necessary safeguarding measures.
- For any outstanding queries please contact Mrs Julie Braley at headspa@ola.org.uk
- Whilst we aim to acknowledge receipt of applications within 24 hours, this is not always possible, particularly during holiday periods.

Our Lady's Abingdon is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young adults and all staff and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. Successful candidates are required to undertake various safeguarding checks which include an Enhanced DBS and social media check.

Full details are available on the school website.

