

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION



Appointment of Teacher of Philosophy & Critical Thinking (full-time or part-time)

from April or September 2025





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 IB Diploma, with consistently outstanding academic results which are testament to the school's experience of 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.

Ambitious but principled, confident and compassionate, our students are prepared for leadership in an ever more complex world.



'Tough for any university not to be an anti-climax after Sevenoaks.' Good Schools Guide.

We employ hundreds of staff who work in a wide range of different departments. The school is one of the largest employers in the local area and aims to be an employer of choice for top staff from around the world. 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 equity, 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 School

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.

Regular assemblies, tutor group meetings and a programme of talks help the social and emotional understanding in our students, and

a long tradition of voluntary service and local and international charity projects advances a core set of values across the student body.

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 Philosophy Department

The Philosophy department at Sevenoaks is dynamic and flourishing and makes a significant contribution to the intellectual life of the school. Philosophy is a popular subject in the Sixth Form, attracting around 25-30 students per year. Both Higher and Standard Level courses are offered: the Higher Level sets are taught by both Philosophy teachers, Standard Level sets by one. There are usually two Higher Level sets and two Standard Level sets in each year.

The IB Philosophy course includes a mandatory Core theme which investigates a range of philosophical ideas such as the mind-body problem, free will, selfhood and personal identity; and different perspectives on the human condition, for example existentialist, religious, scientific. Students also explore optional themes such as Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion, and study a major philosophical text from a prescribed list including Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals* and Charles Taylor's *Ethics of Authenticity*. Every student submits a coursework investigation of a non-philosophical stimulus, and Higher Level students are expected to develop a deeper understanding of

philosophical activity through reflection on the role of philosophers in the world today.

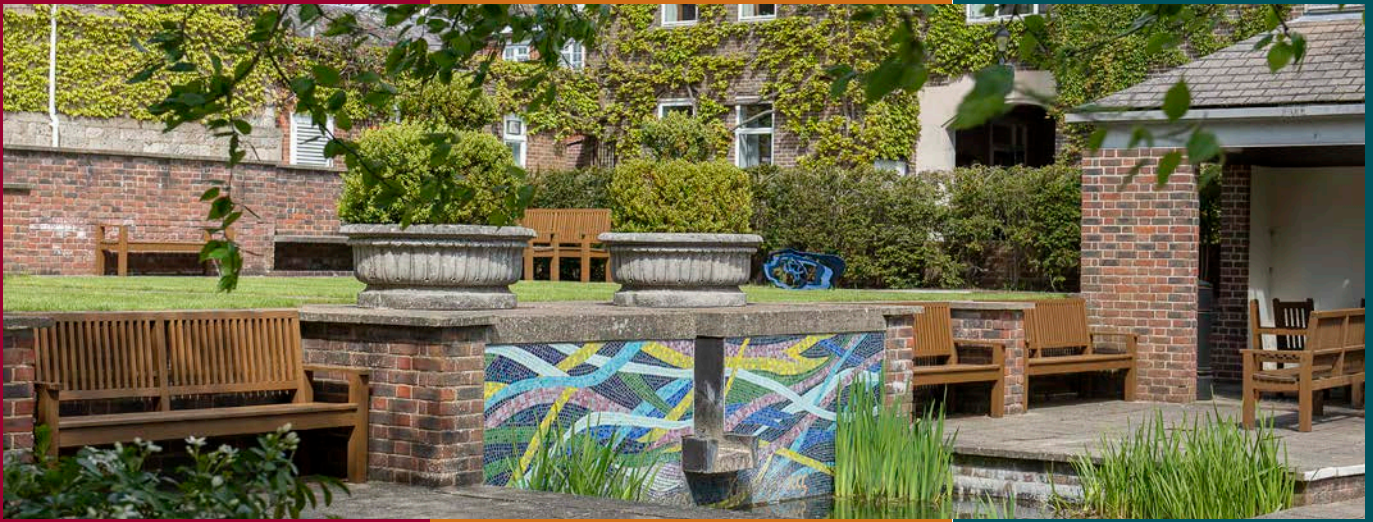
A significant number of students each year require supervision for their Extended Essay on a philosophical topic of their choice, and many elect to continue the subject at university. The department also contributes to the Critical Thinking course that runs throughout the Middle School; and, in the Sixth Form, to Theory Of Knowledge and preparation for university entry.

The department is housed in a suite of well-equipped and pleasant rooms, with impressive resources and an expanding collection of philosophical texts and periodicals. The department arranges regular trips to lectures in London and hosts visiting academic speakers. There are also popular lunchtime discussion groups for pupils interested in exploring ideas, and a Sixth Form extension class covering current issues in Political Theory.

The Post

We are seeking to recruit a temporary teacher of Philosophy, IB Theory of Knowledge and Critical Thinking, starting Easter or September 2025, Full Time or Part Time for up to 1 year to cover for shared parental leave, with the possibility of a permanent position.

The ideal candidate for the post will be knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and an



innovative, dynamic teacher. Love of the subject and an ability to communicate this to students is essential. Knowledge and experience of teaching the IB would be an advantage but is not a requirement. We welcome applications from teachers new to the profession as well as those with teaching experience. A commitment to excellent pastoral care and enriching co-curricular activities is also expected.

Benefits

- Free school lunch
- Free parking
- Membership of the school's fitness centre
- Membership of the school's defined contribution pension scheme is available
- Cycle to work scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- 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)

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 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 Wednesday 4 December 2024**.

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