

Candidate Information Pack

HEAD OF OPERATIONS



The UK's first
specialist
maths school
for ages 11-18

17
29


Our mission is to identify, nurture and develop world-class mathematical talent.

Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering the role of Head of Operations at 1729 Maths School. We are building 1729 to do something different in UK education: to give exceptional young mathematicians the time, space and intellectual environment they need to flourish from age 11, while operating as a fully formed, well-run school. That ambition demands not just outstanding teaching and curriculum design, but operational excellence. The Head of Operations will be a close strategic partner for the Head of 1729, in turning a clear educational vision into a school that functions smoothly, professionally and sustainably from day one.



This is a rare opportunity to help build a new school, with time to think, plan and get things right. The role sits at the heart of the project, shaping how marketing, admissions, finance, estates, HR and systems come together to support a small, highly specialised community of young mathematicians. We are looking for someone who enjoys complexity, values clarity, and takes satisfaction in building strong foundations that allow others to do their best work. If you are excited by the idea of creating something from the ground up, and of playing a decisive role in the success of a nationally unique institution, I would very much welcome your application.

 **Nick Hamshaw**
Founding Head, 1729 Maths School

About 1729

Located within the stunning Mill Hill School campus in North London, 1729 Maths School will offer an outstanding and rigorous maths-based education to pupils aged 11-18, irrespective of family income, complemented by a broad curriculum and an extensive co-curricular offering that comes from being part of the Mill Hill Schools family. The first cohort of pupils will join in September 2026, with approximately 18 each in Years 7 and 9, building to full capacity of 123-130 pupils in coming years. Two newly refurbished boarding houses on the Mill Hill site will ensure that the majority of pupils can board if they wish.

Excellence at every step

By beginning their journey at age 11 or 13 (our two points of entry) pupils will have the time and space to develop their mathematical talents, while also enjoying the freedoms that come with an independent school education. *From outreach to pastoral care to teaching, excellence inspires all our activity.*

Meritocracy at the heart of our ethos

The 1729 Maths School will have partially and fully-funded places available: family income will never be a barrier for pupils with the potential to thrive here. 1729 Maths School has been initiated and is funded by Alex and Elena Gerko, major supporters of maths education and research in the UK.

A 'school within a school'

1729's 'school within a school' structure will give pupils dedicated space to nurture their maths talent with their like-minded peers, whilst also being fully embedded in the wider community of Mill Hill School and Belmont, Mill Hill Prep. 1729 pupils will join this community for the majority of their school day, including non-maths-related lessons, clubs, activities and meals.



1729 Maths School and the Mill Hill Education Group

Mill Hill School is a leading co-educational day and boarding school, attracting families from across London as well as a significant international student body. Founded in 1807, Mill Hill was created to break the mould and broaden access to education, and this ethos of innovation continues today as Mill Hill now leads a group of 11 schools under the Mill Hill Education Group (MHEG) - the UK's fastest growing, not-for-profit group of independent schools. Mill Hill and Belmont share particularly strong ties, and nearly all Belmont pupils transition to Mill Hill at age 13.

1729 Maths School will share the ethos of its partner schools. Mill Hill and Belmont are known for their emphasis on pupil happiness and well-being, fostering an environment in which every individual feels valued and empowered to achieve excellence. Pupils of the 1729 Maths School will also benefit from Mill Hill's unique 'London in the Countryside' setting, with its impressive estate and facilities providing an inspiring backdrop for learning.

Further information about 1729 Maths School website can be found [here](#).



The Opportunity

The 1729 Maths School offers a rare professional opportunity: the chance to build a pioneering institution for exceptional young mathematicians. 1729 combines the energy of a new venture with the security and support of an established educational group. The Head of Operations will act as the Head's principal strategic partner — ensuring that operational, financial, and marketing elements of the new school are expertly planned and delivered.

The Head of Operations will lead all non-academic functions that underpin the success of 1729, ensuring that the school's vision is translated into effective operations, systems, and delivery. They will oversee marketing, admissions and operational outreach, together with key supporting functions including finance, estates, HR and IT. They will drive continued operational improvement during the initial years of the school.

Reporting directly to the Head, the postholder will form part of the small and tightly knit team currently establishing the school and will work in close collaboration with senior functional leads across the Mill Hill Education Group. The Head of Operations will benefit from the support and expertise of the central functions within the Group, including finance, marketing and admissions, IT and HR, together with a small local team providing marketing and admissions resource.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate evidence of managing complexity, identifying solutions, overcoming unexpected challenges, communicating, negotiating and collaborating with others at a senior leadership level to provide full support to the Head. The role requires ambition, rigour, energy and resilience complemented by exceptional interpersonal abilities and a keen eye for detail. A strong skill set including operational delivery, strategic planning and execution and finance is required. Candidates will have experience of interpreting and analysing financial data and preparing and adhering to budgets, coupled with project management experience and the ability to understand and plan for processes that may need to evolve as the numbers of pupils and staff grow.

Prior experience in the education sector is not a prerequisite, and applications are encouraged from candidates from a diverse range of professional backgrounds who can evidence success at developing high quality operational processes in complex organisations through a collaborative and enabling style.

The Role



Key Responsibilities

Strategic and Operational Leadership

- Partner with the Head to plan, coordinate and deliver all operational requirements for the opening of 1729 in September 2026 and the long-term success of the school
- Develop, lead and manage projects across all functional workstreams.
- Monitor progress, identify and manage risk, and report regularly to the Head on readiness and ongoing performance, including supporting the preparation of reports and documentation for board meetings.
- Line manage members of the 1729 team, specifically the Registrar and Marketing Lead and foster strong working relationships with the academic team.
- Be a strong ambassador for the school, building relationships with staff on campus at Mill Hill and Belmont Prep as well as the wider community.
- Develop and nurture effective and collaborative relationships across the MHEG, in particular with the Director of Finance and Resources, Director of Estates, Head of Marketing and Head of Admissions.
- Oversee the development of staff in the 1729 operational team

Finance and Resources

Working with the Director of Finance and Resources, Mill Hill Education Group

- Develop and monitor budgets, forecasts and financial models for 1729.
- Provide clear financial reporting to the Head and relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure robust financial management and control across all operational areas.
- Ensure that 1729 secures best value from contracts and manage the process of procurement as well as supplier relationships in line with MHEG policies.
- Provide operational and financial insights to support the delivery of strategic decision-making and sustainability planning.

Estates and Facilities

Working with the Director of Estates, Mill Hill Education Group

- Oversee planning and delivery of the 1729 buildings to ensure works and developments are completed on time and within budget.
- Ensure facilities for 1729 are maintained to a high level and all regulatory requirements are upheld.
- Work collaboratively with the Head to develop the space requirements for 1729 in readiness for opening and as the school grows over time. This will include dedicated 1729 space and facilities as well as those shared and used by the wider Mill Hill Education Group.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will bring the following qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge, leadership style and personal attributes.

Qualifications and Experience

- Educated to degree level or equivalent.
- Leadership experience in operations, project management, or business management.
- Experience of marketing, outreach or community engagement would be beneficial but is not essential.
- Experience of working within an educational or mission-led organisation is desirable, but not essential.

Skills and Knowledge

- Strong financial and commercial acumen, with an analytical, strategic and flexible mindset.
- Proven ability to lead complex projects and deliver through collaboration and influence.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills – able to balance robustness with constructive, positive discussion and diplomacy with the confidence and personal authority to represent the school with a broad range of stakeholders.
- Highly organised, demonstrating versatility and the ability to manage conflicting deadlines and priorities. Comfortable working in a start-up or fast-evolving environment.
- High levels of accuracy and attention to detail.

Leadership Style and Personal Attributes

- A highly visible, compassionate and charismatic leader who can work both independently and as a key team member to inspire confidence in all stakeholders and encourage and motivate staff.
- Energy, rigour and drive with attention to detail.
- A team player and a commitment to collaborative working, both within 1729 and across the MHEG.
- A commitment to bursaries and partnerships, with a strong sense of social responsibility.
- Dedicated, optimistic and resilient with good humour.
- Willing to participate in all areas of school life and promote the school externally.
- A commitment to the safeguarding of children.
- Values and promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion.



Terms of Appointment

As a partner of the Mill Hill Education Group, 1729 Maths School employees are employed by Mill Hill Education Group.

A highly competitive remuneration package is offered, reflecting the seniority and significance of the position. The salary offered will depend on skills and experience.

This is a full time 52-week post and some flexibility of working hours will be required in light of the role and responsibilities it entails.

The main benefits are likely to include:



Free onsite parking



Pension scheme with Life Assurance



Opportunities for continued professional development



Optional and discounted private medical insurance



Discounted membership at our school gym and swimming pool

Complimentary school lunch provided in term time



Annual holiday entitlement of 25 days plus Christmas closure and statutory bank holidays



Cycle to work Scheme

Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to contact RSAcademics in the first instance, to arrange a confidential discussion with Nina Lambert: NinaLambert@rsacademics.com

Application Deadline: 10.00am on Tuesday 7 April 2026

Applications should be made electronically to RSAcademics. To submit your application please click on “[Apply Now](#)” on the RSAcademics website and follow the instructions provided.

As part of your online application you will be asked to upload a PDF version of your covering letter addressed to Mr Nick Hamshaw, Founding Head, 1729 Maths School. The letter should be a maximum of two pages and should explain your reasons for applying and outline your suitability for the role.

If you have any questions about uploading your application documents, please contact Jonathan Barnes, Head of Operations (Leadership Appointments) at applications@rsacademics.com. Jonathan can also be reached by calling our Head Office on +44 (0) 204 6269 791.

The process is as follows:

All applications will be acknowledged by email. If you have not received acknowledgement that your application has been received within two working days of sending it, please contact our Head Office by telephone.

- Preliminary interviews will take place with RSAcademics via Microsoft Teams in the week commencing [13 April 2026](#).
- Longlist interviews will take place at the School in the week commencing [20 April 2026](#).
- Shortlist interviews will take place at the School on [Thursday 30 April 2026](#).

The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Applicants will be required to undergo safer recruitment checks, including checks with past employers, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and a review of their social media presence.

The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



RSAcademics is a global executive search and consultancy firm working exclusively with schools. For more than 20 years, we've supported governors and leaders at pivotal moments – whether they are appointing senior staff or making complex strategic decisions.

What makes us distinctive is the depth of first-hand experience in schools across our team – as heads, governors, bursars and senior professionals – combined with specialist expertise in areas such as strategy, research, marketing and finance. This blend is continually enriched by our ongoing consultancy and appointments work with schools worldwide, so our advice is always current, practical and evidence led.

Please visit rsacademics.com for more information.

Mill Hill School in numbers

A Level pupils
achieved

50%

Grade A*-A in 2025



25%

Grade A*

80%

Grade A*-B

1807

The year
Mill Hill was
founded



GCSE pupils
achieved

56%

Grade 9-8



120

acres of beautiful
school grounds



75%

of Mill Hill pupils go to
Russell Group Universities
in both 2024 and 2025

28%

Grade 9

10

miles from
Central London




200

staff members

Meet The Team




Nick Hamshaw is the founding Head of 1729 Maths School. Nick is an experienced mathematics educator and school leader who joins 1729 from his role as Senior Deputy Head at Haberdashers' Boys' School. After studying Mathematics at the University of Oxford, he first taught at Aylesbury Grammar and was a boarding subtutor at Radley College. He was later Head of Maths at Oundle and Haberdashers' Boys' and was Academic Deputy Head at St Albans High School for Girls. Nick is a published author for Cambridge University Press.

 **Nick Hamshaw**
Founding Head, 1729 Maths School



Vladlena Kazantseva, an alumna of School No. 57, a specialist maths school in Moscow and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Maths from Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow. During her career, she has led advanced maths groups and organised Olympiads and educational events. At Jeannine Manuel School and COMPOS Oxford, she drove educational innovation and empowered students through advanced mathematical instruction and curriculum development.

 **Vladlena Kazantseva**
Curriculum Lead




Elena Boguslavskaya is a mathematician and educator with over twenty years of university teaching and research experience. She has worked at City University in London, the London School of Economics, and Brunel University London, where she is currently an Honorary Lecturer. She is co-founder and trustee of We Solve Problems, a UK-based mathematics charity with international reach. An alumna of Moscow's School No. 57, Elena studied at Moscow State University and earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Amsterdam.

 **Elena Boguslavskaya**
Head of Contemporary Mathematics




David Benson is a highly accomplished educational leader with a track record of transforming schools, having founded Kensington Aldridge Academy and led it to Ofsted 'Outstanding' status and top 10% A Level results nationally. Recognised as one of the UK's top ten educationalists by TES, he has a proven ability to drive academic excellence, student success, and institutional growth in both the state and private school systems. Now Head of Mill Hill, he is committed to shaping its future, bringing visionary leadership and a passion for educational excellence.

 **David Benson**
Head, Mill Hill School



Dr Susannah Abbott is a widely experienced educational leader and current Head of Belmont. She was Senior Deputy Head at Queen's College, Acting Head of Queen's College Prep, and taught for a decade at Harrow, becoming its first female Housemaster. With a Ph.D. in History and university-level teaching experience, she combines academic excellence with a commitment to student development. A former Premiership footballer and FA Cup finalist, she has coached England U16/U18 and represents independent schools on the FA Council.

 **Dr Susannah Abbott**
Head, Belmont Mill Hill Prep



**MATHS
SCHOOL**
 | Mill Hill

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1729mathsschool.org.uk

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