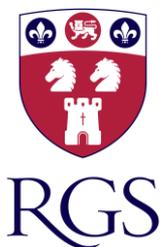


**BIOLOGY  
TEACHER  
JOB  
INFORMATION**



RGS



## **BIOLOGY TEACHER – PART-TIME (0.6)**

**Newcastle upon Tyne Royal Grammar School**

To start in September 2021

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### **THE POSITION**

We have an exciting opportunity for a qualified teacher of Biology to join our dynamic and successful Biology Department. You will be capable of teaching from Y7 through to A-Level, inspiring our students with a love of the subject and possessing a willingness to take them well beyond the scope of the syllabus. There will be opportunities to work with students applying for top universities as well.

Being 'willing to go the extra mile' is a major part of the role for all teachers at the RGS, not merely in specialist activities, but in a huge range of extra-curricular sporting, artistic and cultural work. We are keen to invite applications from those who would like to make their own distinctive contribution to this ethos. We very much value colleagues who are willing to contribute to our extra-curricular programme. An ability to teach in other sciences might also be desirable.

The RGS has its own salary scale (which is above national pay scales for teachers) and provides NQTs with an appropriate programme of induction leading to QTS.

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### **THE SCHOOL**

Thomas Horsley, the original settlor of the Royal Grammar School Newcastle (RGS) pledged his legacy to the School in 1525. Almost 500 years later, RGS continues to flourish as the premier independent school in the North East of England and as one of the country's leading schools. We regularly lead all northern schools in national league tables and pride ourselves on academic excellence, a high level of pastoral support, involvement in a wide range of sports and other the extra-curricular activities, and our commitment to bursaries and partnerships. In December 2020, we were named as the North East Independent School of the Decade by the Sunday Times.

RGS has grown substantially in recent years. There are now some 1,320 students, over 260 of whom are in the Junior School. The Sixth Form of 350 students is one of the largest in the independent sector. We became coeducational 20 years ago and girls now comprise 43% of the school.

The school is based in the heart of the City, immediately opposite Jesmond Metro station. The school occupies over 30 acres of land and has state-of-the-art facilities, including five brand new art studios, a new library, a new Sixth Form Centre, a 25m swimming pool, two Sports Halls, a Performing Arts Centre, outdoor football/rugby pitches at Mooracres, an artificial turf pitch for hockey and the former County Cricket Ground.

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### **THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The department consists of seven teaching staff and two technicians. We are a strong team, but we value independence, and encourage teachers to use classroom practices which play to their strengths. In Years 7-9 we deliver our own KS3 course, and then move onto the Edexcel IGCSE for Years 10-11. Our classes are mixed ability (within the context of a highly selective school), and they contain around 24 students in Years 7-11. Our A-Level course is also with Edexcel (the Biology B syllabus,) and a typical sixth form cohort is between 50 and 60, so we generally have around 100 Sixth Form students studying biology at any one time. These are

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usually split into 5 sets per year group. Staff are expected to teach across the whole age range.



The freedom to be an individual is an important part of teaching at the RGS. That said, we are a friendly and collaborative group, we teach from a common set of resources and we are committed to sharing good teaching practice. The successful candidate will have a love of biology and will want to function as a member of the departmental team, whilst bringing their own unique take to the way that the subject is delivered. Outside of the lab, we run an annual field trip, as well as numerous other trips and activities. The department also hosts a horticultural club.

### TEACHING SPACES AND RESOURCES

We have five spacious and well-appointed labs within the Science and Technology Centre (STC). Standard facilities include digital touch screens in each teaching room and staff are provided with a Surface Pro laptop computer. The department also has an office, a prep room and a large seminar room.

A healthy level of funding allows access to a range of good quality equipment to support practical work. We have a PCR machine, high end microscopes and a dedicated microbiology prep area. The production and sharing of resources and practical ideas plays a central part in what we do. New colleagues are expected to contribute to this culture.

### 2019 EXAM RESULTS

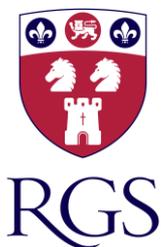
Public examination results are consistently strong.

<b>Biology IGCSE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>&lt;6</b>
	45%	22%	16%	7%	10%
<b>Biology A-Level</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>&lt;C</b>
	20%	30%	26%	17%	7%

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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The following person specification indicates those areas of skills and personal characteristics, qualifications, training and experience that we are looking for.

### Qualifications and Training

- A degree in a relevant subject
- Courses of further study relevant to the post

### Experience

- Experience of teaching in a highly academic context
- Experience of teaching the full 11-18 age range

### Skills

- Experience in teaching A-Level
- Ability to inspire young people to develop a love of Biology
- Ability to think originally and creatively and show initiative
- Commitment to high standards of teaching and learning
- Ability to teach high quality lessons
- Excellent organisational abilities
- Excellent project management skills
- High levels of IT competency

### Personal characteristics

- Ability to cope with pressure
- Ability to communicate effectively with parents, students and staff in a variety of ways
- Understanding of, and commitment to equality of opportunity for all
- Understanding of, and commitment to the ethos of the school as a community
- Tact, discretion and diplomacy
- A genuine liking of people and the ability to show warmth, good-humour, empathy and sensitivity

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## LIVING IN THE NORTH EAST

Whilst the North East is beloved and popular with so many, we know that not everyone will have had first-hand experience of it, so this is a short introduction to a city and region which we love, and believe you will too. Newcastle is a medium-sized city with an historic centre and a vibrant life of its own. There's culture and arts in the form of the award-winning BALTIC Art Gallery and The Sage, alongside several theatres that attract national touring productions. There's music from classical to club and we are home to the Royal Northern Sinfonia. There's also a growing food culture with some fantastic restaurants.

If you like sport then there's certainly no shortage of top class entertainment: from Premier League football being played at St James' Park and EFL at the Stadium of Light to first class cricket at Durham (a mere half hour away), and great rugby at the Falcons, not to mention basketball and even ice hockey, and then there is the annual Great North Run. The North East has also produced some of the country's finest athletes in track and field and there are clubs aplenty to get involved with, most famously in Gateshead.

The coast and the hills are minutes away from the city centre. By car you can be in the middle of nowhere in 45 minutes, the Scottish Borders is only an hour away and the Lake District an hour and a half. The coast is served by the Metro (our version of the Tube), but some of the country's best beaches are up the road in Northumberland, less than 40 minutes by car. There's mountain biking, road cycling, climbing, and endless hill walks in stunning countryside. There are green spaces all over the city too, with plenty of parks for children and dogs alike to run around.

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There are three local teaching hospitals, two universities in the city with another three close by. Some pioneering medical work goes on at the RVI, Great North Children's Hospital and the Freeman Hospital.

History abounds with more castles than you could count and sites of interest for almost every period of English (and border) history. Add that to a proud, independently minded and very friendly local population and we have most things

you could want.

There are some really excellent primary schools in the region and city as well as some good secondary schools too, but staff do get a discount at the RGS. There are also a number of good competitor independent schools as well.

The RGS is on the edge of the city centre, a ten-minute walk from the main shopping areas. The leafy, affluent suburbs of Jesmond and Gosforth are close by with housing ranging from purpose-built flats in terraced streets and conversions of bigger houses to terraced houses, post-war semis and large, family-sized detached houses with big gardens. All of this is within walking distance of the school so no commute is needed. Properties are very affordable both within the city and the surrounding area. If you want to travel to work then you could wake up with a sea view, hop on the Metro and be at school just half an hour later. The region wins tourism and lifestyle awards for very good reasons!

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## HOW TO APPLY

If, having looked through the website ([www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)) and read this job information pack and the Information for Applicants, you think this particular post would suit you, please say so (and why) in a covering letter of application. You must complete the application form, even if you want to also attach a CV. You are welcome to apply electronically, please email all documents to [jobs@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:jobs@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk).

Please read the Information for Applicants with particular care before applying. And please note that the RGS is committed to the safeguarding of children and applies the Government's Safer Recruitment procedures, which will include:

- Checking that the submitted CV provides a continuous record of education and employment from age 16;
- provision of two satisfactory references, at least one of which must be from the applicant's current or most recent employer;
- completion by you of a confidential form of declaration of health (after offer of appointment) and, if necessary, a satisfactory report following a medical examination;
- evidence or other verification of your qualifications;
- a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure Report from the DBS.

Interviews will be held shortly afterwards. We will hope to make the appointment on the day, offering the post and gaining acceptance, so applicants should arrive for interview with a clear idea of what would be involved in moving to the area (if necessary) and working at the RGS. Potential candidates are welcome to come and visit the school.

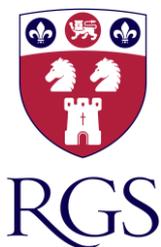
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to email or to call the Headmaster on 0191 281 5711 or the Head of Biology, Phil Heath (same number).

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### **Hours and Benefits**

- Working Hours - Normal working hours will be those necessary to carry out the duties of the post as a part time (0.6) Biology Teacher (including commitment to attending parents' evenings, staff training and meeting deadlines).
- Salary - The salary will be determined by the RGS Teachers' Scale pro-rata to 0.6.
- Pension - The School is part of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and all teachers are automatically included in the Scheme.
- Lunch - School lunch is provided during term time.
- Education - At present the School's policy is to allow all eligible members of staff to educate their children at the school at concessionary rates, subjects to their children meeting the academic entry requirements and subject to a place being available.
- Car Parking - Car parking is provided during term time.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We are looking to appoint staff from a wide variety of backgrounds. Not just because it is the right thing to do but because at the RGS we recognise that those different experiences provide fresh perspectives, opportunities to challenge existing beliefs and provide opportunities to act as excellent role models for our diverse student body. We are committed to creating an inclusive and diverse school culture and our staff are at the heart of this. We are proud to be an equal opportunities employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships. To help us achieve this please submit the equal opportunities form with your application. This will be sent directly to the HR team for monitoring purposes.

### **Safer recruitment**

RGS Newcastle is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. In accordance with our Child Protection Policy we are unable to process applications without a fully completed application form. The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. You must declare any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings that are not 'protected' as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013 and 2020) The applicant may post such a declaration in an envelope marked 'Private & confidential for the Headmaster' which will only be opened should the candidate be shortlisted. The successful applicant must obtain Children's Barred List clearance and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance at enhanced level.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Royal Grammar School Eskdale Terrace Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX

Tel: 0191 281 5711

General enquiries: [hm@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:hm@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)  
or [communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)

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