

Head of History - Maternity Cover Recruitment Pack



SOMERHILL
We grow amazing people



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Welcome to Somerhill

We have a very special school here with a unique offering: the 'best of both worlds', the 'ideal mix' and the 'place I always dreamt of finding' are the comments we often hear from our parents or visitors. With co-educational learning until age 7, Somerhill then offers single-sex classroom lessons until children leave us for senior schools, allowing uninhibited learning and bespoke strategies for the older girls and boys with all the benefits of a co-educational setting.

Our philosophy for the children at Somerhill is straightforward: happy children want to learn. Children are happy if they can play, participate widely and start to master skills of whatever kind, and our stunning setting and outstanding facilities offer endless opportunities for the children to find something that makes them smile.

We believe this offers you the perfect glimpse into our school life. However, to fully appreciate the extraordinary education that we offer and see our vision of confident, curious, and resilient children realised, we invite you to visit us at Somerhill. You will see that this really is an exceptional learning environment where we grow amazing people!



Our unique school

Somerhill is set in a stunning 400-year-old Jacobean mansion surrounded by 150 acres of beautiful parkland. You will be hard-pressed to find a more glorious setting for a school! We have excellent facilities including a multi-purpose sports hall, astroturf, indoor swimming pool complex and purpose-built music suite to name just a few.

Ours is a mixed ability school. Teachers really invest in the children and know them well, with lessons carefully planned to cater to all abilities.

We have very bright and capable pupils and send more pupils to grammar schools each year than any other local school. Destinations include Tonbridge Grammar School, The Judd School, and The Skinners' School. Some pupils are awarded scholarships at independent schools such as Tonbridge School, Sevenoaks School, Walthamstow Hall and Sutton Valence School at 11+/13+.

We also cater to children who find aspects of their learning more challenging and currently approximately 40 pupils receive additional support.

Located just to the south of Tonbridge, we are readily accessed by a slip road off the A21.

Between the ages of 2 and 7 years, girls and boys are together in the classroom. This environment promotes uninhibited development at an age when playing and learning are often synonymous. From 7 to 13 years, children benefit from a single-sex classroom environment, where girls and boys learn in different and bespoke ways. The moment classes finish, everyone is together - at break and lunch as well as for sports, music, clubs and activities. This really is the best of both worlds for our children.

endless opportunities

'Positive mental health is given high priority' and 'the welfare of pupils is given prime importance.'

ISI – February 2024.

Taking a holistic approach to education, we nurture academic, personal, spiritual, social and moral growth, enabling our pupils to become confident, curious and resilient individuals going out into the world.

We encourage our pupils to work hard and take pride in their achievements, to think independently, to face up to challenges, to accept responsibility, to develop a broad range of skills and interests and to show concern for others and the environment.

To put it simply: *we grow amazing people.*

Our school values



pastorally focussed



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Head of History - Maternity Cover

Application process

Formal applications will only be accepted via the official Somerhill Application Form which will be published alongside this pack. All completed applications should be sent to recruitment@somerhill.org.

A tour will form part of the interview process but please visit our website for further information: www.somerhill.org.

Timeline for applicants

- Closing date for applications: 17 June 2026
- Interviews: 25 June 2026
- Start date: November 2026

Competitive salary and benefits (depending on experience and qualifications)

Somerhill is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to enhanced DBS checks and safer recruitment procedures.

We are proud to be an equal opportunities employer. We actively promote diversity within our workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community, regardless of sexual orientation, race, age, gender, disability, religion or belief.

we grow amazing people

Job Description: Head of History - Maternity Cover

Somerhill School seeks to appoint a dynamic, well-qualified and inspirational teacher to lead the History Department on a fixed-term maternity cover basis. The Head of History will provide strong academic leadership, ensuring high-quality teaching and learning and an engaging, well-sequenced curriculum for pupils from Year 3 to Year 8.

Working closely with the Deputy Head (Academic) and other senior leaders, the post holder will play a central role in curriculum development, staff support, and the wider academic life of the School.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and Strategic Development

- Set and develop the strategic vision for History at Somerhill in line with whole-school priorities.
- Lead, manage and support members of the History Department, fostering a collaborative and reflective culture.
- Ensure effective deployment of staff and resources within the department.
- Conduct annual departmental reviews and contribute to whole-school self-evaluation.
- Support and contribute to the School's appraisal process, including conducting appraisals for departmental staff.

Teaching and Learning

- Prepare pupils for senior school scholarships, in particular scholarship exams for Year 9 entry (Tonbridge school, Sevenoaks and other feeder schools).
- Ensure consistently high standards of teaching and learning in History across all year groups.
- Develop, review and implement coherent schemes of work from EYFS to Year 8, in liaison with EYFS and KS1 colleagues.
- Maintain a clear focus on skills progression and age-appropriate challenge.
- Embed cross-curricular links and encourage participation in local and national subject initiatives.
- Ensure assessment practices are effective and used to track pupil progress and inform teaching.

Curriculum and Enrichment

- Ensure the History curriculum is broad, balanced and promotes fundamental British values.
- Produce and maintain up-to-date curriculum information for parents, in conjunction with the Deputy Head (Academic).
- Oversee educational visits, residentials and subject enrichment activities, including overall organisation and delegation within the department.

Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- Carry out regular scrutiny of pupils' work and provide developmental feedback.
- Conduct annual lesson observations within the department and provide constructive feedback, using agreed school frameworks.
- Liaise regularly with the SENCo to ensure appropriate provision for all pupils, including those with additional learning needs or high ability.
- Ensure Health and Safety requirements are met and understood by all staff teaching History.

Professional Responsibilities

- Contribute fully to the wider life of the School, including staff meetings, INSET, trips, events and extracurricular activities.
- Model excellent professional standards and uphold Somerhill's ethos and values.
- Maintain accurate records and make effective use of ICT to support teaching, assessment and reporting.
- Carry out any reasonable duties as requested by the Deputy Heads and/or Head.

Person specification

Essential

Qualifications and Experience

- A good honours degree in History or a closely related subject.
- Qualified Teacher Status.
- Strong understanding of effective teaching, assessment and classroom management within a prep school context.

Skills and Attributes

- Excellent communication and organisational skills.
- Ability to lead and motivate colleagues while working effectively as part of a team.
- High expectations of pupil achievement and behaviour.
- Confident use of educational technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- A warm, positive and enthusiastic approach with a genuine commitment to pupil wellbeing and safeguarding.

Desirable

- Experience of curriculum innovation or whole-school initiatives.
- Experience of leading or coordinating History, with teaching experience up to at least Year 8.

Additional Information

- Salary: Competitive, according to the Somerhill pay scale.
- Hours: Full-time.
- Reporting to: Head of Somerhill, via the Deputy Head (Academic).

Somerhill School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Employee Benefits



Support

Professional support through regular appraisals and CPD opportunities



Pension

Generous defined pension contribution scheme



Salary

Competitive salary package, regularly benchmarked



Reward

Staff recognition and reward opportunities



Cover

Group life assurance



Well-being

A range of well-being activities including fitness classes, tennis and book club. Free access to all on-site sports facilities on dedicated days



Lunch

Free hot lunches, salad bar and refreshments during term time

Conditions

Format of applications

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Child protection

All staff have a responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children with whom they come into contact and are always required to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Safeguarding Policy Statement. 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Safer recruitment and offer conditions

Somerhill is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be offered the role conditionally, subject to the satisfactory completion of a number of background checks including but not limited to: an enhanced DBS check with the children's barred list check, the taking up and verification of references, the verification of career history and medical 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 and others.

Further information

We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds. We celebrate the diverse backgrounds that make up our community and consider it important that people from a diverse range of backgrounds are represented in our setting.

This job description is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of procedures and responsibilities, but instead sets out the principal expectations of the school in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties. We are looking for an individual who is adaptable, flexible, and willing to carry out the wide range of duties that are likely to be required to make a success of this role. Please note we reserve the right to close prior to the application deadline or extend the deadline depending on the number of applications received. Early applications are encouraged.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jess May at recruitment@somerhill.org for any general queries.



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SOMERHILL

A beautifully unique independent prep school for girls and boys aged 2-13

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