



Teacher of Art



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

Welcome to St Helen and St Katharine

St Helen and St Katharine is one of the leading independent girls' schools in the country – a place where students thrive, and our brilliant staff use their expertise and enthusiasm to go above and beyond.

Our students achieve significant academic success each year, much of which is due to our teachers' ambition and passion, but the students and their parents are very aware that it is the whole staff group that makes St Helen's 'tick', and all staff are valued for their contribution to the school community.

When people start working at St Helen's, they are joining a vibrant community of over 720 students and 225 members of staff. Whether as one of those expert teachers or as one of our skilled support staff, there are many opportunities to become fully immersed in life at St Helen's – from coming along to watch one of the outstanding school productions to taking part in the range of activities we have to support staff well-being and our sense of community.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a range of training and professional development opportunities to support staff growth; our staff training budget is generous and allows for both departmental initiatives and individual development. We look to get outstanding speakers to address both the whole staff and specific groups; we have been delighted to welcome Tom Sherrington, David Didau and David Weston to talk to our teaching staff in recent years and all staff have benefitted from the work we have done with Executive Coach, Simon Scott, as we look to keep life and work and wellness in balance. There is an active Joint Staff Consultative Committee and a regular staff e-zine that shares ideas for things to do in the local area.

St Helen's is an outstanding place to start your teaching career, and we provide comprehensive support for teacher induction. We encourage talented graduates interested in teaching to join us directly and have plenty of experience of guiding them to gain their qualified teacher status through the school-based PGCE from the University of Buckingham.

We are also an excellent school for newly qualified teachers to complete their 2-year Early Careers induction, guided by experienced subject mentors and our Initial Teacher Training Coordinator.

We look to connect both trainee and early career teachers with their peers in our immediate network of both independent and maintained sector schools in Abingdon.





The School

Recently named Independent Girls' School of the Year, ranked the top 5 girls' school in the Southeast (*The Times Parent Power 2026*) and among the top 20 schools for sport in the UK (*School Sport Magazine*), St Helen and St Katharine is one of the leading independent schools in the country. It is an exciting place to work, and appointing the very best staff is integral to our success.

St Helen's School was founded in 1903 and was then joined in 1938 by St Katharine's in Wantage. The School is located on a single campus-style site of beautiful Edwardian and modern buildings set in 22 acres of grounds, on the outskirts of Abingdon, some six miles from Oxford. An extensive school bus network facilitates a large student catchment area that includes Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Hampshire Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Unapologetically focused on girls – their needs, their ambitions and their voices – St Helen's is where futures are shaped *on her terms*. Our students achieve excellent academic results, and our goal is to ensure that every girl achieves success as she defines it, so that she can believe in herself, her talents and abilities, and so that she will feel prepared and equipped for life beyond school.

The School is a thriving community of girls and young women aged 9 to 18, from our Junior Department (Year 5–6) through to Sixth Form. St Helen's offers students an outstanding academic education and a rich and varied life beyond the classroom including excellence in sport, the creative and performing arts and a superb range of co-curricular clubs and societies.

We enjoy collaboration with a range of local partner schools, including Radley College, Abingdon, Larkmead, John Mason and Fitzharrys, providing opportunities to enrich the developmental journeys of our students and build positive connections across genders and experiences.

In 2023, we opened the doors to our new Sixth Form centre, the Benedict Building. The Benedict Building is a physical articulation of the School's vision for Sixth Form – to create an environment for our students that will spark their intellectual spirit and imagination – and provides students with the space and opportunity to grow their academic and co-curricular interests in readiness for the future.

The staff

St Helen and St Katharine is a very special place to work.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do, we celebrate our powerful sense of community, and we take pride in our very high standards and the strength of our performance. We enjoy a working environment and a culture within the School which focuses on development, inclusion and the pleasure of working all together.

We are always looking at ways to develop our people – students and staff. We look to be progressive, imaginative and respectful; we combine the best of long tradition with a commitment to readying our people for the challenges of the 21st Century. We also firmly believe that a diverse workforce is a better workforce which will help us develop ideas, solve problems and ultimately grow St Helen's. Our campus is beautiful and an inspiring place to work. The young people we work with are remarkable and the staff community is welcoming, committed and compassionate.

Every day is different at St Helen's. It's fast-paced but never loses sight of the value of individualised conversations and the need for support. We take our commitment to the well-being of staff very seriously and we offer the resources and training to allow people to flourish professionally.

The contribution of every member of the staff team is valued at St Helen's, and teaching and support staff work closely together, appreciative of the positive difference everyone can make in their varied roles.





The role

We are seeking to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Art to start in January 2027. This is a full-time position; however, a high part-time timetable will be considered for the right candidate.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate extensive subject knowledge and a real enthusiasm for art within a thriving department with a strong tradition of excellence in drawing, painting, printmaking and three dimensional design. The post holder will be required to build upon this tradition. Alongside a meticulous and professional approach to their teaching, they should be able to inspire and motivate pupils to work independently. Candidates should have experience of teaching ceramics, ideally up to Key Stages 3.

All teaching staff are expected to contribute to the pastoral and enrichment programmes of the School. In addition to teaching, the post holder will also have pastoral responsibilities within their allocated year group. All staff share the responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the students, in accordance with the School's Safeguarding policies.

The department

The Art Department is vibrant and successful with a strong, supportive team of staff. There is currently one full-time teacher, four part-time teachers, plus one high part-time Art Technician who supports the work of the department. All of the department are practising artists in their own right. We also work closely with the DT department and their technician.

Throughout the School there are displays of student work from all year groups and in a wide range of media profiling the work of the department. A summer exhibition is held in the second half of the Trinity term to showcase the art and design work of students.

All members of staff are involved with the extracurricular programme, activities within the art department include: Junior and Lower School art club, scholarship clubs, photography, ceramics, design and technology and textiles as well as after-school opportunities for examination classes to continue with studio work and in the Sixth Form there is life class. Throughout the year there are visits, workshops and demonstrations by practising artists, makers and designers.

Students in the Art Department are encouraged to take part in external competitions: Young Art Oxford, Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show and ARTiculation all have enthusiastic uptake. There is regular contact with art education locally and nationally. The School encourages students to apply for Bronze and Silver Arts Award. The department is a member of NSEAD (the National Society for Education in Art and Design).

As well as direct entry to study art in Higher Education, students regularly go on to take an Art Foundation course prior to a degree in Higher Education, and places have recently been offered at Abingdon and Witney, Kingston, Oxford Brookes, Bournemouth, Manchester and Falmouth. Students have gone on to take Art History at Manchester and Design Academy, Eindhoven and Architecture at The Bartlett, Bath and Nottingham universities.

Facilities

The Art Department is housed in several locations, with specialist teaching studios and workshops. There are three dedicated art studios on the top-floor of the School in well-lit, well-equipped rooms, of which one is a dedicated Sixth Form studio enabling students to work outside of lessons within their own work area. There is an art library within the department as well as excellent resources in the School library.

There is a darkroom for silk-screen preparation and photography, an area set up for printmaking and textiles.

We have access to IT suites for whole class teaching, there are desktop computers in Art 2 and computers can be booked in the Design Hub in the D&T department. We have a bank of iPads used for drawing and animation across all subject areas.

Ceramics and three dimensional design (3DD) is undertaken in a fully equipped building. 3DD is an important subject area within the department. Ceramics has their own purpose built area comprising a pottery with throwing wheels, a damp room, a glaze area, two kilns and an external sculpture area which is used for Raku. Students have access to a full range of wood and metal working tools and machinery as well as a laser cutter, vinyl-cutter, a CNC router and a 3D printer. Art has access to the equipment and facilities in 3DD and working across subject areas is encouraged.

Subject Details/Curriculum

In the Junior Department (Years 5 – 6), art is taught on rotation by the art department. The students work in both 2D and 3D and make use of the ceramics studio.

In Lower School (Years 7 - 8) all students study art, ceramics and design and technology. In Year 9 all students have the opportunity to take a creative subject for a double period a week before they start their GCSE courses. The department runs a series of creative activities as part of the schools activities week.

For GCSE, students take the Edexcel Art, Craft and Design or 3DD course. There are currently three teaching groups studying GCSE art and design: one in Year 10 and two in Year 11, and a group studying GCSE 3DD in Year 10 and Year 11. Students have four lessons of art and design each week.

Initially students follow a skills based course in which examples of best practice are shown, practical techniques are taught and students experiment with a wide range of materials and methods. This provides a foundation for longer independent projects. Students are encouraged to develop their ideas using traditional and contemporary techniques and processes, as well as through individual tutorials and class discussions. As the course progresses, more in-depth work evolves and is student driven supported by a strong contextual base.

Recent trips for GCSE have included: a four day visit to West Cornwall, drawing and painting in the landscape visiting galleries and taking part in workshops led by St Ives School of Art, trips to the museums and galleries of Oxford and the Tate.



In the Sixth Form, we follow the linear OCR Fine Art specification and have two groups studying A level Art: one in Upper Sixth and one in Lower Sixth. At the core of the Fine Art curriculum is the belief that students should develop knowledge, how to communicate ideas, understanding and an appreciation of the visual world through aesthetic and practical skills.

This is realised through both the theoretical investigation of Art and individual development of practical experience by investigating a wide variety of processes and a range of traditional and new media. Students work beyond timetabled lessons as they develop their own interests in art and are encouraged to become independent thinkers and learners. Life drawing is taught by department staff as part of enrichment activities and contributes towards coursework throughout the A level course as well as developing skills in drawing. There are further opportunities available for students in the first year of the Sixth Form (Lower Sixth) to opt for a series of short practical workshops in art, craft and design enabling them to continue with their interest in visual and contextual studies outside of an academic course.

A variety of art and design professionals visit the Art Department regularly taking specialist workshops, giving slide presentations on their work and, for the Sixth Form, tutorials designed to help them to bridge the gap between school and art foundation.

The department awards art scholarships in Middle School (Years 9 -11) and in the Sixth Form. There are currently nine art scholars in Year 9 – 11 and three in the Sixth Form. Each one has a mentor within the department and has the opportunity to take on special projects according to their goals. In addition, scholars are expected to enter art competitions, attend specialist workshops and curate an exhibition of their work for the art department summer exhibition.

Role Details

St Helen and St Katharine values the highest level of professionalism in its teachers. It is expected that all teachers will display a high level of knowledge and understanding of their subject area and communicate this enthusiastically to students. Teachers should have high expectations of their students and be able to display evidence of planning, preparation and monitoring of progress.

It is the responsibility of all teachers to create a stimulating and positive learning environment, and to employ a range of teaching strategies, thus enabling all students to fulfil their academic potential. They should inspire trust and confidence.

Specific responsibilities include:

Curriculum delivery

- Planning, preparing and teaching the classes assigned to him/her, using a range of strategies for teaching and classroom management to ensure that individual learning needs are met.
- Ensuring that marking of students' work is both regular and thorough and that full records are kept.
- To regularly monitor the progress of all students in their teaching groups, taking account of individual learning needs to have a positive impact on student progress.
- Liaising with the Head of Learning Support on strategies to support the progress of students on the Learning Support register.
- Keeping abreast of current thinking and development in the subject area(s).





- Assisting the Head of Department with the development of appropriate syllabuses, schemes of work and teaching styles.
- Sharing resources and training materials with colleagues.
- Contributing to departmental activities, e.g. enrichment work, clubs, societies and trips.
- Taking responsibility for professional development and using the outcomes to improve teaching and learning.
- Attending whole school INSET sessions.

Physical Resources and Safety

- Meeting the health and safety requirements of the School.
- Working with the other members of the department to ensure that all resources are well looked after and that departmental areas provide a stimulating environment for teaching.

Pastoral and Whole School Support

- Being a form tutor if required.
- Contributing to the pastoral care and personal development of students.
- Carrying out a share of supervisory duties in accordance with published schedules.
- Ensuring that a register of attendance in lessons is kept and taking appropriate action in cases of student absence.
- Supporting the ethos of the School through maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.
- Attending assembly or chapel and whole school services.
- Contributing to whole school activities, e.g. clubs and expeditions.

The person

Skills/abilities

- Ability to inspire students across the age and ability range.
- Ability to relate well to young people.
- Ability to build students' confidence in art.
- Ability to work well on a day-to-day basis in a supportive and collaborative manner as part of a departmental team.
- Ability to contribute to the development and implementation of departmental policies and goals.
- Effective communication skills – oral and written.
- Effective ICT skills, including subject specific software, such as procreate, blender and photoshop.
- Excellent teaching and classroom management skills.
- An awareness and understanding of the issues and current developments in teaching art in schools.
- Working with others as part of a team.
- Be a practising artist (candidates will be invited to bring examples of their own work to interview).
- Experience of teaching A level art would be an advantage.

Qualifications

- A good honours or higher degree in art or an art-related subject.
- QTS or PGCE.

Personal attributes

- Enthusiasm and passion for art and the ability to convey this to students.
- A willingness to take an appropriate share of departmental responsibilities, including trips.
- A commitment to involvement in an extracurricular programme which meets the needs of all students.
- A reflective practitioner; ability to self-appraise and manage continuous professional self-development.
- A commitment to safeguarding our students in line with the School's Safeguarding policies.
- A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Salary and benefits

- Teachers are paid a salary that reflects their knowledge and experience. St Helen's offers competitive salary levels and has its own salary scale which offers scope for pay progression.
- This is a permanent, Teacher of Art position to start in January 2027.
- St Helen's will be introducing fee remission of up to 50% on tuition fees for children of staff members at the School from September 2026 (pro-rated for part-time staff).
- Teachers may join a staff Pension Scheme with an employer contribution of 23.6% and default employee contribution of 7% of gross pensionable pay. Salary sacrifice is also available for pension contributions. Members of the Scheme will also receive Income Protection cover should they be unable to work due to long-term sickness or injury.
- All staff are covered by a life assurance scheme, paying out three times annual salary in the event of their death whilst employed by the School.
- A range of other staff benefits are available via external providers such as an Employee Assistance Programme, access to GP and dental advice lines amongst other services.
- Teachers are entitled to take the normal School holidays.
- The School currently operates a cycle to work scheme.
- Employees are entitled to free lunches when the kitchens are operating.
- There is free car parking on site.
- Employees may use the fully equipped Sports Centre facilities including a fitness suite, ergo suite and group cycle studio.
- Free eye tests and annual flu vaccination.
- Access to a well-stocked school library.

St Helen and St Katharine is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers, the Disclosure and Barring Service and overseas Police checks, if applicable. Employment is subject to these checks



The process

These job details should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding policies, available within the vacancies section of our website.

Please then complete an application form (available within the vacancies section of our website). The completed and signed application form, along with a brief supporting letter addressed to **Mrs Sarah Rollings, Head**, should be submitted via email (recruitment@shsk.org.uk) in the first instance and then sent to:

Human Resources Department
St Helen and St Katharine
Faringdon Road
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 1BE

Please note that any application form submitted electronically must be completed in the existing application form format, within Adobe.

The closing date for this post is **Tuesday 2 June 2026 at 9.00am**.
Interviews will take place during the **week commencing 8 June 2026**.

Please note that due to the volume of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback.

We look forward to receiving your completed application.



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Independent day school for girls aged 9–18
Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1BE

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