



Sydenham &
Dulwich Girls

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Brief for the position of

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Sydenham & Dulwich Girls GDST





Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Head of Computer Science at Sydenham & Dulwich Girls GDST. This is a rare and sought-after opportunity to join and inspire our highly-qualified, experienced and successful department.

With two new building developments opening this term, including a maker space and Sixth Form, supporting our educational innovation, this is an excellent opportunity to contribute to and shape the school's next five year strategic plan. We are looking for a forward-thinking leader who is fully committed to delivering an outstanding all-round education for young women to excel now and in their futures. Our teaching and learning is ambitious and adventurous as well as grounded in real world experiences, to be ready for the future employment market.

Sydenham & Dulwich Girls is a selective school with a mission to ensure that every girl reaches her full academic potential. We offer a rich and diverse curriculum, alongside outstanding enrichment opportunities outside of lessons, enabling our students to develop the skills and personal attributes to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing society.

We are forward thinking and innovative, looking to provide an outstanding education to our young people as well as the very best in pastoral care. Our purpose is to empower every girl to forge her own path with courage and without limits. This is evidenced in our Futures Programme and the broad range of careers-focussed events on offer, as well as in our leavers' wide-ranging higher education and future pathways.

Successful applicants need to be able to demonstrate considerable initiative, leadership and innovation both in the classroom and in the field. Above all, they will be a passionate individual with high ambitions for our students, and strongly motivated to make themselves an active part of our thriving community.

I very much look forward to meeting you,

Ms Antonia Geldeard
Head



OUR SCHOOL

Sydenham & Dulwich Girls was founded in 1887 by four pioneering women, becoming one of the last schools to be opened by the Girls' Public Day School Trust. In 1934 the school transferred to its current site in the leafy suburbs of South East London. Sydenham prides itself on enriching young minds in a way that will endure a lifetime. The School's original Anglo Saxon motto, 'Nyle ye drede', means 'fear nothing' and girls are continually encouraged to have a 'can do' approach to all they do. Sydenham is selective but diverse, welcoming girls with wide-ranging abilities, talents and backgrounds into a close community that is large enough to offer choice and flexibility but compact enough to ensure that no girl is overlooked.

THE GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) is a leading family of independent girls' schools in the UK, with 23 fee-paying schools and two academies. A registered charity, it has 19,000 students, 4,000 staff and a network of 70,000 alumnae.

GDST schools share an ethos and heritage of girls-only education and are members of a unique network which adds value to each school, student and member of staff. Networking opportunities across the Trust enable staff to share best practice and develop initiatives that benefit all our schools and students. In addition to supporting the work of individual schools in supplying excellent induction and development opportunities for staff, the GDST network provides access to an extensive training programme. This includes development opportunities (including a Middle Leaders' Development Programme and Aspiring Leaders Programme) and grants for individual courses of study.

"A sense of community pervades the whole school. pupils respect and support each other wholeheartedly."

- ISI, 2024



SITE & FACILITIES

Ongoing investment by the GDST has seen the school's facilities continue to expand and transform. In recent years this includes:

- A new building including gallery and exhibition space, Design Technology, Innovation and maker spaces planned to open in Summer 2026.
- Brand new Sixth Form Centre with common room, study zone, green landscaped terraces also opening in Summer 2026.
- Investment in sports facilities including resurfaced all-weather courts and floodlit pitches at our 8-acre sportsground, complementing our Astro and Sports Hall at Senior School.
- Seven state-of-the-art science laboratories, well-equipped for experimentation and scientific discovery.
- A Performing Arts Centre, comprising a 90-seat Recital Hall and the 152-seat Westwood Theatre, and refitted Longton Hall providing concert and performance facilities.
- Two Mac Suites, specialist teaching rooms and well-conceived social spaces for staff and pupils
- The historic dining hall was refurbished and extended to include a glass orangery, new serving area and new state-of-the-art kitchens.
- New gym and fitness suite opening September 2026.

The school is home to over 700 pupils, including the Prep School based in an attractive large Edwardian family house with light and spacious purpose-built modern additions, five minutes' walk from the Senior School.

For more information about Sydenham & Dulwich Girls please visit: sydenhamdulwichgirls.gdst.net.

"Pupils have a sense of fun, warmth and zest for life whilst remaining courteous, polite and living by the school values."

- ISI, 2024



OUR MISSION

At Sydenham & Dulwich Girls, we believe that learning should be adventurous and fun. Joyful voices resound in our classrooms and corridors. This is a happy community – active and alive to the potential within each school day.

Our pioneering spirit, forged by our brave founders whose anglo-saxon motto, Nyle ye drede (fear nothing) underpins our ethos: forward thinking and curious, embracing experimentation and innovation.

This journey, from the magic of our Reception classrooms to the sparky debate resonating from our Upper School spaces, encompasses three key pillars of thought: Academic Expertise, Personal Development, Future Ready, to develop each individual as a whole person, well prepared for life.

We aim to inspire the future generations of creators, independent thinkers and trailblazers. We open eyes and hearts by educating the whole person: to balance mind, body and soul. Our diversity of academic and enrichment opportunities enables every girl to forge her own path, strive to be her best and excel. We seek to empower every girl to discover and nurture her unique talents whether in the classroom, the laboratory, the library, the studio, the field, the water, the community or beyond.

The Sydenham & Dulwich Girls' curriculum is deliberately designed to deliver academic excellence alongside a broad education in critical thinking, problem solving, visual culture, digital innovation and emotional intelligence.

We believe that educating the whole person leads to happy, confident and courageous children who flourish and make a positive difference to their community.

“These energetic, sparky girls are encouraged to be ambitious and go-getting right from the start.”

- Good Schools Guide, 2024

The Role

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

This is an exciting opportunity to join the highly qualified, experienced, and dynamic teaching team at Sydenham & Dulwich Girls GDST.

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic, inspirational, and innovative Head of Computer Science to lead the growth and development of Computer Science across the school. This is an excellent opportunity for a well-qualified and experienced teacher to develop and implement emerging education technology and to lead the school in its quest to be at the forefront of digital learning and Computer Science.

The Head of Computer Science will lead the Computer Science Department of one other colleague at Senior School, and work closely with the school's Digital Innovation Lead and with the Computing teacher at Junior School.

The Head of Computer Science will coordinate trips and clubs from Year 7 and above to extend pupils' learning and promote the department.

This is a full-time role, with a September or January start.



Job Description

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Accountable to: Head via designated line manager

Responsible for: Computer Science department

Job purpose: Overall responsibility for the professional leadership and management of the department in order to ensure high standards of teaching and learning are delivered, resources are used efficiently and effectively and the curriculum is managed and developed in accordance with school policy.

Policy/Strategic direction and development

- Contribute to whole school policy-making and strategic planning as required by the Head.
- Prepare, monitor and update annual departmental plans in consultation with colleagues.
- Take the lead in ensuring that school policies and strategies are embedded in schemes of work and departmental plans.

Leadership & management of others

- Lead and manage the department, recruiting, inducting, developing, deploying, motivating and appraising members of the department to ensure that they have clear expectations of their roles, and that high performance standards are achieved and maintained.
- Empower members of the department to develop their leadership potential to ensure continuous improvement within the department.
- Manage day to day requirements such as examination entry and departmental timetables, delegating as appropriate, to ensure the efficiency of the department.
- Attend school on Examination Results Days, as required by the Head.
- Chair departmental meetings to ensure that they are used effectively to review performance and that actions are recorded and implemented.

Teaching and learning

- Promote excellence in teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop their potential and are equipped for life beyond school.
- Exemplify in own practice the skills of teaching and learning typified by lead professionals, and ensure that good practice is shared throughout the department.
- Ensure that schemes of work are used, reviewed and modified to enable the maintenance and development of high standards of teaching and learning.

- Monitor pupils' work and the classroom practice of those in the department to ensure high standards are maintained.
- Keep up to date with developments in subject area and education in general to ensure that best practice is adopted within the department.
- Ensure the department's delivery and development of the curriculum is effective in meeting the needs of all pupils.
- Contribute to the broader life of the school by supporting and leading curricular and co-curricular events such as school productions and activity days.

Co-curricular activities

- Actively promote interest in the subject outside the immediate physical and timetabled confines of the department.

Admissions, marketing and external links

- Actively promote the department within the school community to encourage pupils' interest in the subject area.
- Contribute to the positive promotion and marketing of the school and the GDST in the local and wider community.
- Lead the department's contribution to marketing events and external links.
- Lead the department's contribution to school admissions and external partnership links, including attendance at certain key out of hours events.
- Continue to build the strong relationship between Senior School and Junior parents and pupils.

Management of resources

- Monitor and control the department's allocated budget and purchasing arrangements, to ensure the efficient and effective use of all resources.

Job Description

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Identify future resourcing needs and aspirations for the department for consideration in the school budget planning process.
- Ensure that all resources are fit for purpose and used in accordance with health and safety guidelines on the GDST Hub.

Training & development of self and others

- As a lead professional set personal targets and take responsibility for own continuous professional development.
- Be proactive in identifying training needs within the department, ensuring that they are appropriately met, and that all members of the department are active in their own personal and continuous professional development.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Leading the Computer Science department and overseeing the delivery of KS3, GCSE and A Level.
- Developing a whole school curriculum for Computing that will prepare pupils for the use of education technology in their learning at each key stage, including skills such as coding, digital creation, programming and working with emerging technologies.
- Delivering inspirational teaching of Computer Science with the use of innovative resources.
- Taking a leading role in the promotion of online-safety across the school and the promotion of digital literacy across subjects.
- Offering co-curricular activities that will allow pupils to explore the digital world.
- Review and assist with the development of learning spaces that enable the effective use of education technology in teaching.
- Attending and contributing fully to Heads of Department meetings.
- Planning, implementing and reviewing the Computer Science curriculum.
- Cooperating with the Senior Leadership Team in developing links with feeder schools, as well as taking a lead in outreach and partnership opportunities for Computing.
- Implementing a strategic plan to support the ongoing development of this key subject area.
- Contributing to and promoting whole school STEM events.
- Providing extension activities, through co-

curricular activities, such as coding, apps for good.

- Organising trips and activities to enhance the teaching and learning of Computer Science.
- Playing a role in supporting staff, particularly new staff, with the education technology available in school.

The following items are included in the professional duties which a school teacher may be required to perform under the reasonable direction of the Head.

Teaching

Having regard to the curriculum for the school:

- Planning and preparing courses and lessons
- Teaching, according to their educational needs, the pupils assigned to her/him including the setting and marking of work to be carried out by the pupils in school and elsewhere
- Assessing, recording and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils
- Organising and participating in co-curricular activities.

Other activities

- Promoting the general progress and well-being of individual pupils and of any class or group of pupils assigned to her/him
- Providing guidance and advice to pupils on educational and social matters and on their further education and future careers, including information about sources of more expert advice on specific questions; making relevant records and reports
- Making records of and reports on the personal and social needs of pupils
- Communicating and consulting with the parents of pupils as directed by the Head
- Attending assemblies, registering the attendance of pupils and supervising pupils, whether these duties are to be performed before, during or after school sessions
- Communicating and cooperating with persons or bodies outside the school
- Participating in meetings arranged for any of the purposes described above
- Contributing, wherever appropriate, to the wider life of the school.

Assessment and reports

Job Description

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Further training and development

- Reviewing from time to time her/his methods of teaching and programmes of work;
- Participating in arrangements for her/his further training and professional development as a teacher.

Educational methods

Advising and cooperating with the Head and other teachers on the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, methods of teaching and assessment and pastoral arrangements.

Discipline, health and safety

Maintaining good order and discipline among the pupils and safeguarding their health and safety both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere.

Staff meetings

Participating in meetings at the school which relate to the curriculum for the school or the administration or organisation of the school, including pastoral arrangements.

Cover

Supervising and so far as practicable teaching any pupils whose teacher is not available to teach them.

Public examinations

Participating in arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations and in assessing pupils for the purposes of such examinations; recording and reporting such assessments; and participating in arrangements for pupils' presentation for and supervision during such examinations in accordance with both internal and external regulations.

Management

- Contributing to the selection for appointment and professional development of other teachers and support staff, including the induction and assessment of new teachers and initial teacher training
- Co-ordinating or managing the work of other teachers
- Taking such part as may be required of her/him in the review, development and management of activities relating to the

curriculum, organisation and pastoral functions of the school.

12. Administration

Participating in administrative and organisational tasks related to such duties as are described above, including the management or supervision of persons providing support for the teachers in the school and the ordering and allocation of equipment and materials.

General Requirements

All staff are expected to:

- Work towards and support the school vision and the current school objectives outlined in the School Development Plan.
- Contribute to the school's programme of extra-curricular activities.
- Support and contribute to the school's responsibility for safeguarding students.
- Work within the school's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, students and visitors.
- Work within the GDST's Diversity Policy to promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff, both current and prospective.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with students, parents and colleagues.
- Engage actively in the performance review process.
- Adhere to policies as set out in the GDST Council Regulations, GDST Hub and GDST circulars.
- Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time.

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive and will be subject to regular review.

Person Specification

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified teacher status • Good honours degree - first or upper second • Post graduate qualifications desirable
Knowledge base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent professional knowledge and understanding • Excellent subject knowledge • Understanding of national and examination curricular requirements of the subject. • Up to date with professional developments in the subject and other aspects of education
Personal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership skills: the ability to lead and manage people to work towards a common goal • Decision making skills: the ability to solve problems and make decisions • Teamwork: the ability to work collaboratively with others • Communication skills: the ability to make points clearly and understand the views of others • Self-management skills: the ability to plan time effectively and organise oneself well. • Ability to enthuse children and adults • Possess a positive attitude and approach to change and development • Flexible and firm with the ability to know when to be either • Enjoy rising to the challenges inherent in a school environment • Lifelong learner
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience as a subject teacher from KS3-5 • Experience of teaching A level and GCSE in the subject for at least 2 cycles. • Experience of teaching • Experience of organising or participating in co-curricular activities. • Experience of participating in or leading a whole school initiative • Experience of a management role e.g. as deputy Head of Department



How to Apply

HEAD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

To apply, please go to

<https://sydenhamhighschool-gdst.schoolrecruiter.com/job/head-of-computer-science-1545306> by **gam on Friday 1 May 2026**. We reserve the right to interview during the recruitment process, so early applications are encouraged.

Starting salary will depend on the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package and a strong professional development programme, including:

- Access to extensive professional development opportunities
- Training grants for qualifications
- Generous pension schemes
- Free life assurance benefit
- Free school lunches
- Financial guidance and support
- Retail and lifestyle discounts
- A discount of up to 50% on fees for children at GDST schools

Interviews will take place at Sydenham & Dulwich Girls GDST. For more details please contact hr@syd.gdst.net or the School Office on 0208 557 7000.

We are an equal opportunity employer and welcome applications from all qualified individuals. To be eligible for employment, candidates must provide proof of their right to work in the UK.

Sydenham & Dulwich Girls and the GDST are committed to diversity, inclusion and real change: a family where every individual is valued, respected and included. GDST is committed to the safeguarding, and promoting the welfare, of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection checks appropriate to the post, including online searches, and checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

