



TEACHING AT **PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE**



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THE PRINCETHORPE FOUNDATION ETHOS

The Princethorpe Foundation schools pride themselves on providing caring, stimulating environments in which children's individual talents, confidence and self-esteem can be fully developed.

We encourage a lifelong love of learning and an independence of mind grounded in strong moral values and we aim to put young people on the road to happy and fulfilled lives.



“Ours is a spirit of family and a spirit of brotherhood formed by kindness and understanding, by compromise and mutual forgiveness, by gentleness, humility and simplicity, by hospitality and a sense of humour.”

Jules Chevalier, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (founders of Princethorpe College)

ABOUT THE PRINCETHORPE FOUNDATION AND PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE

The Princethorpe Foundation welcomes children of all faiths and backgrounds and provides co-educational, independent day schooling with a strong Christian ethos. We support and nurture some 1,300 children from age two to eighteen years, through Little Crackers Nursery, Crackley Hall School, Crescent School and Princethorpe College.

Princethorpe College is a Catholic, co-educational, HMC independent day school for around 900 pupils aged eleven to eighteen, with around 200 students in the Sixth Form.

The College is renowned for its 'spirit of family' and the way in which it looks after its pupils and its staff. About one-quarter of the children at Princethorpe are Catholic and Christ's teaching in the Gospels on love, service, forgiveness and generosity of spirit is central to the school's character and approach to learning.

The school has a unique history, beautiful surroundings and unequalled character. The atmosphere is warm, open and friendly. We combine academic rigour and hard work with a caring and holistic approach to education. Pupils and colleagues play a full part in the broader aspects of school life.



“Princethorpe College prides itself on being a warm, kind and caring school as well as being disciplined and aspirational. We have an outstanding record of academic success by getting the very best from our pupils. The school has an amazing history, beautiful buildings and grounds, and is made up of people who are incredibly friendly, bright and energetic.”

Ed Hester, Headmaster

IN 2019

30%

of all A-level grades were A* or A and 75% of grades were C or better

48%

of all GCSE grades were 9, 8, 7 grades

28%

of pupils achieved eight or more 9, 8, 7 grades

“All pupils’ behaviour is exemplary in every aspect; they show remarkable respect for one another, for staff, visitors and for themselves, are most courteous towards each other and towards adults and naturally help and support one another. They listen very well indeed, readily give thanks and express their appreciation for all that the school has to offer.”

Archdiocese of Birmingham Canonical Inspection Report 2019

“Good teaching throughout the school is characterised by a high degree of care and support for the pupils’ all-round learning and development.”

ISI Inspection Integrated Report 2014

Our aim is simple: to treat every pupil as an individual, supporting them as they grow into mature, resilient and well-rounded young people with a strong set of moral values to guide them through adult life. Our reward as teachers goes well beyond excellent results: it is in producing strong, creative citizens ready to make a positive contribution to the wider community.

The College has recently been granted planning permission for a new £8m Science Centre, which it is hoped will open its doors in 2022, with a host of further campus benefits. This is the latest in a programme of capital investment in the infrastructure of the College, that has included projects such as the refurbishment of the Clarkson Theatre and the Roundhouse for the Performing Arts, the Limes Building for Modern Foreign Languages, English and ICT and the restoration of the wooded lake area known as Switzerland for outdoor education.



WHAT KIND OF TEACHERS THRIVE AT PRINCETHORPE?

We are proud to have a diverse and talented teaching body with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. Colleagues have joined us from the state and independent sectors, as NQTs or RQTs, and sometimes from careers outside of teaching all together. What unites them all is their kind, caring professionalism, their passion for their subjects, their drive for constant professional development and their commitment to our excellent co-curricular programme.

We have recently become a training school through the School Direct Scheme in partnership with the Lion Alliance and we actively encourage applications from those just entering the profession.



SMALL CLASS SIZES

19 pupils

is the average Year 7 to 11 class size (max 24)

9 students

is the average Sixth Form A-level class size

SUPPORTING YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Princethorpe is totally committed to supporting your professional development at whatever stage of your career you may be. We actively reflect upon and hone our craft as classroom teachers and we encourage and support those aspiring to further challenges and responsibilities.

- + All new colleagues have two induction opportunities before starting at Princethorpe, allowing a smooth and welcoming transition into the Princethorpe family.
- + All new colleagues are allocated a 'buddy' to provide support and advice both before and during the first year in addition to that of their line manager.
- + All new colleagues are given a bespoke CPD programme during the Michaelmas Term in addition to range of CPD opportunities available to all colleagues.
- + All colleagues are encouraged to share Teaching and Learning ideas, supported by our Teaching and Learning Team. We actively promote a culture of educational research as part of our everyday practice.
- + All colleagues are part of the Princethorpe Professional Review programme: a constructive and collaborative process supporting them to set their targets, log their achievements, submit CPD requests and identify areas for further growth.
- + A comprehensive programme of INSET and twilight CPD sessions are offered each year, covering a variety of current topics and issues and linked to the school's Development Plan as well as other areas that colleagues would like to explore.
- + Opportunities are available to attend external CPD for example with exam boards or HMC's ISQAM and Pastoral Leadership Qualifications.



FURTHER BENEFITS OF WORKING AT PRINCETHORPE

The Foundation values its staff and offers a rewarding benefits package, including:

- + A salary scale for teaching staff offering competitive rates of pay, which exceed those offered in the state sector.
- + Generous fee discounts for members of staff whose children attend the Foundation's schools, excluding Little Crackers Nursery.
- + Automatic enrolment in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.
- + An excellent working environment in a beautiful rural location.
- + Single accommodation in school is available for members of staff joining the College.
- + Home-cooked school lunches are available for all staff, all dietary requirements are catered for, and evening meals provided where required.
- + Staff well-being opportunities include sporting and musical activities and access to professional counselling services.
- + Teachers are part of a lively and friendly Staff Association.
- + Other benefits include on-site parking, a Cycle-to-Work Scheme, free eye tests, free flu vaccinations, Microsoft software for use at home and personal accident insurance.



TRAINING TO BECOME A TEACHER AT PRINCETHORPE

As well as employing experienced teachers, the College is interested in recruiting good graduates who have a desire to enter the teaching profession. Opportunities are available in various subjects for the right candidate, whether straight out of university or looking for a career change.

Through our association with the Lion Alliance, we offer a year's training as part of the School Direct scheme, leading to QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). Placements would be at Princethorpe and also other schools within the Lion Alliance. Our training is supported by Warwick University and by our experienced mentors within the college.

Successful applicants are able to apply for bursaries and scholarships for certain subjects.



For more information visit: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk>

Apply via the UCAS website:

<https://find-postgraduate-teacher-training.education.gov.uk/>

For further information and support with your application contact
Dr Liz Pyne, Assistant Head – Teaching and Learning

✉ lizpyne@princethorpe.co.uk.

WHAT OUR TEACHERS SAY



“Having taught at Princethorpe for twenty years now, I have seen a lot of changes and improvements, but the ethos and the pupils remain just as special today as ever. Working within the Sports Department means our classrooms have no doors or windows, so we see the amazing interaction between staff and pupils every day. There’s a fantastic level of team spirit here, the pupils are tremendously engaged and willing to work with you. They really do give of their all in everything they do, whether on the sports field, on the stage or in the classroom and as a result they (and we as teachers) enjoy a lot of fun and success.”

Neil McCollin – Assistant Head – Co-curricular



“I’ve always had a passion for Psychology, after university I spent a couple of years as a Researcher, but working in a lab was a lonely existence and what I really wanted to do was enthuse people about Psychology, which led me to teaching. After my PGCE I stumbled across Princethorpe by happy accident, knowing nothing about the school or the area. As an NQT I was pretty clueless, but I was incredibly well supported and learnt quickly and grew in the role to become Head of Department. Now in my sixth year, I have recently taken on a pastoral role as Head of Austin House, I’m fortunate in that there are excellent robust pastoral systems in place and my team of tutors are incredibly supportive. Princethorpe is everything I had hoped for when I was starting out, the pupils are both interested and interesting and I have the professional freedom and trust to do things my own way.”

Adam Rickart – Head of Austin House and Psychology Teacher



“After ten years in the state sector I moved to Princethorpe two years ago, even though I have taken on a larger role my work life balance has improved enormously. The smaller class sizes has had a huge impact and I now have much more time for planning my lessons and investing in schemes of work. I feel 100% supported and empowered by my line manager who I meet with every week and the children are a real delight to teach, down to earth, enthusiastic, polite and appreciative. One thing that I find really special is the time the College regularly spends away from the curriculum for whole school community activities, you just don’t get that elsewhere. I am definitely a much happier teacher and don’t think there’s any way I could go back to the state sector now!”

Emma Cooper – Head of Science



“I started at Princethorpe in September 2019, having previously worked in a British international school in Thailand and before that a state boys’ school in Oxfordshire. Coming back to the UK I knew I did not want to go back to the state sector, mostly because of behaviour issues. I find the pupils here particularly warm and eager to interact with staff which is a big difference to both my previous schools. As a native French speaker the children take me seriously and are much more receptive to learning a language. The staff have been so kind and welcomed me with open arms, not just the MFL department, but everyone is so supportive and encouraging. Next year when I am fully settled in I am looking forward to setting up a co-curricular after school knitting club.”

Sarah Duran – MFL Second in Department



“I’d been Head of English at a Catholic state school for nearly ten years when I applied to Princethorpe in 2003. I was looking for a fresh challenge, but ideally still within a Catholic environment. To be honest I was a bit wary as I felt it would be a huge change and that the children would be very different in an independent school, but I was quite wrong and I felt very comfortable with them from the outset. Don’t be put off when you come up the drive and see the historic buildings and the chapel tower, it looks very traditional, but in fact the College has a ‘young spirit’ and is very forward looking. Two things that are delightful about teaching here are the small class sizes, I used to teach 34 pupils and now 24 feels big, and the fact that English is based in the new Limes building. We are so fortunate to have teaching facilities that are second to none overlooking the beautiful woods, and that really makes such a difference to the children and my wonderful team.”

Chris Kerrigan – Head of English



“After my Sport and Exercise Science degree I was a graduate sports assistant and then did my PGCE whilst working at a local independent girls’ school. My contract was coming to an end when I saw the Princethorpe job advertised so I emailed the Head of Girls’ Games to ask for a look around. That visit convinced me to apply, the formal interview process was full on, but really enjoyable. I now teach boys and girls from Year 7 to Sixth Form PE and Games, including GCSE Academic PE. The support I get from my two NQT mentors is awesome and the dynamics and sense of humour in the Sports Department is fantastic. I 100% love it here!”

Ellie Callan – PE and Games Teacher - NQT

INTERESTED IN TEACHING AT PRINCETHORPE?

Find out more about teaching at Princethorpe by coming to one of our regular Taste of Teaching at Princethorpe events, contact recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk or call 09126 634269 to find out the date of our next event or for more information.

Or, if you are ready to apply, please send your completed application form with a covering letter to recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk by the relevant deadline date.

If you are interested in working at Princethorpe but there are no relevant opportunities for you at present, please send your CV and a covering letter to the same address and we will keep your details on file should future opportunities arise.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

The Princethorpe Foundation 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 and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.



Princethorpe College

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