



Financial Accountant



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

Welcome from the Headmistress

Hello and thank you for showing an interest in working at St Helen and St Katharine. I am enormously proud of this great girls' school, and I know that this sentiment is shared by colleagues across the staff body.

The students are at the heart of this energy and positive ethos. They are wonderful to work with; enthusiastic, clever, funny, kind, silly, earnest and possessed of an unselfconscious enjoyment of learning and the pleasure of finding out more. They are excited by subjects and delight in their teachers demonstrating their ongoing love of a specialist discipline. They, and their parents, also look to us to work in support of personal development and we continue to evolve our pastoral systems to meet the challenges that the students will encounter in school, in Higher Education and in the world of work and adult life.

Our extra- and supra- curricular programmes are busy and exciting. There is an expectation that students will be busy and that opportunities will be created to harness their enthusiasm. Opportunities to learn beyond the classroom are vital and staff involvement in trips and expeditions is expected.

We have a fantastic support team in these endeavours, and all staff members are valued in whatever role they play in keeping things on track, happy and purposeful. Each staff team reflects the pride we feel collectively in our school.

Our work takes place on a beautifully developed and maintained campus and we are fortunate in the working environment we occupy. The stunning Benedict Building, which houses our sixth form, has further enhanced the site and provides space for even more opportunities for both students and staff, as we develop these for ourselves and in partnership with local schools.

We are fortunate to be over-subscribed and, therefore, selective at each student entry point, but we are not a place that likes to rest on laurels and our departments continually reflect on how they can develop things further. The staff community is very supportive.

We enjoy a very positive relationship with our parent body and don't take for granted their advocacy for St Helen's as a school of choice for a daughter. We have a broad catchment area for a day school with a transport network that spans six counties.

Our Board of Governors is very supportive and interested in the work that we do. They ask challenging questions and delight in our many successes. They have overseen a significant development of the estate and provision in recent years and want to ensure that momentum continues. To that end, we welcome ambitious and energetic applicants who share in the excitement of our mission and who want to develop their careers, working with outstanding students and colleagues.

I do hope that you will apply. St Helen's is a school which both builds on the finest elements of great girls' education and challenges itself to deliver an education that allows our students to encounter their 'now' with confidence and pleasure.

It is a great place to work.



Mrs Rebecca Dougall
Headmistress





The School

As one of the leading independent schools in the country, St Helen and St Katharine 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, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire.

St Helen's is a school where success is celebrated but not revered. 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 years including a small Junior Department comprising one Year 5 and one Year 6 class. 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 extracurricular 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 extracurricular 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 and St Katharine. 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 and St Katharine. 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 and St Katharine, and teaching and support staff work closely together, appreciative of the positive difference everyone can make in their varied roles.





The role

Job Role: Financial Accountant

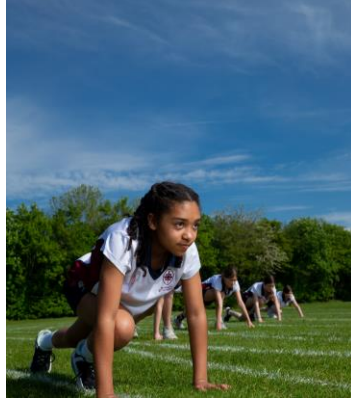
Reporting to: Finance Manager

This is a varied role encompassing many tasks within the accounting function of the School Bursary, with the aim of ensuring provision of accurate and timely processing of prime documents, through to management accounts. The basic data inputting is shared with an Accounts Assistant.

The Bursary team is led by the Director of Finance and Operations, with the day-to-day accounting function managed by the Finance Manager who is supported by a full-time Financial Accountant (this post holder), a part-time Accounts Assistant and a Payroll & Finance Officer. The wider Bursary team also includes Operations, Commercial Lettings, Compliance and Health and Safety personnel.

Key responsibilities

- Coordinate and produce termly fee invoices.
- Act as primary point of contact for billing enquiries from parents, to include payment reminders and statements.
- Coordinate other sales invoices as required (lettings are managed by the Lettings and Events Coordinator).
- Act as primary point of contact for day-to-day finance enquiries from internal and external stakeholders.
- Prepare quarterly VAT returns and year-end adjustments including the CGS claims.
- Assist with the annual budgeting process. Request, collate and review budget submissions from all departments.
- Monitor budgets and liaise with budget holders and respond to their queries.
- Review and authorise departmental spend where it exceeds departmental authority.
- Control account reconciliations (excluding bank).
- Manage prepayments and accruals.
- Maintain the fixed asset register and lease schedule.
- Assist with the preparation of termly management accounts and financial pack.
- Assist with the preparations for the annual audit.
- Guide and support the Accounts Assistant.
- Work with the Finance and wider Bursary team to identify and support in implementing improvements to financial systems and processes.
- Provide ad hoc finance support and guidance as required by the School.
- All staff share the responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the students, in accordance with the School's Safeguarding policies.



The person

Skills/abilities

- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Strong numeracy skills.
- Ability to organise and create information from data.
- Strong attention to detail and high level of accuracy.
- Good Microsoft Office software skills with excellent Excel skills.
- Ability to prioritise and to meet deadlines.
- Ability to work under pressure whilst remaining calm.

Experience, knowledge and qualifications

- Educated to A level (or equivalent) standard.
- Professional accountancy qualification or working towards professional qualification (AAT, ACA, ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA or equivalent).
- Proven experience of working in a finance function is essential.
- An understanding of accounting practice within an educational environment is desirable.
- Experience of Charity/Not for Profit accounting and statutory reporting would be an advantage.
- Good working knowledge of VAT.
- A sound level of commercial awareness.

Personal attributes

- An independent, logical thinker.
- Good at problem solving.
- Adaptable and flexible; prepared to respond to requests at short notice.
- A strong team player, willing to contribute as part of the wider Bursary team.
- Reliable, honest and trustworthy.
- A commitment to safeguarding our students in line with the School's safeguarding policies.

Salary and benefits

- This is a permanent, full-time post. Hours of work are 37.5 per week, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm with a one-hour unpaid lunch break.
- The salary for this post is £42,299 to £52,324. Starting salary within this range will be dependent on qualifications and experience.
- This role benefits from 6 weeks leave per year, plus all statutory public holidays (total of 7.6 weeks). In addition, at the discretion of the School, this role attracts a 20% reduction in working hours during school holiday periods with no impact on pay.
- Employees may join a staff Pension Scheme.
- 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 gymnasium/sports facility on site.
- Employee Assistance Program via confidential telephone service.

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 Working at St Helen's section of our website.

Please then complete an application form (available within the Working at St Helen's section of our website). The completed and signed application form, along with a brief supporting letter addressed to **Mrs Nicola McAvoy, Director of Finance and Operations** 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 **Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 9.00am**.
Interviews will take place on **Tuesday 11 March 2025**.

Please note that due to the volume of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback except to those candidates who attend an interview.

We look forward to receiving your completed application.



www.shsk.org.uk

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ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

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