



Lacrosse Coach



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

Ranked the top girls' school in Oxfordshire in the Times Parent Power 2024 and the top 4 girls' school for sport in the UK by 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, 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

We are seeking to appoint a Lacrosse Specialist Coach to start in September 2025. The role will hold contracted weekly hours of between 10-12 hours per week (based on availability). The post holder will coach lacrosse teams and 1-2-1 player sessions, assist teaching in lessons, and attend and umpire fixtures. A full commitment to involvement in our extracurricular programme is essential; this includes lunchtime and after school. Saturday fixtures availability will be discussed at interview.

The hours of work for this role will be variable across the year in line with the demands for lacrosse coaching but will be focussed on the lacrosse season, with majority of availability required across Michaelmas and Lent terms and for the pre-season in late summer. Working hours will be deployed flexibly against the demand for coaching by agreement with the Director of Sport, with a commitment that working hours will average to the contracted weekly level over the course of the academic year.

The successful candidate will have a high knowledge and understanding of teaching, coaching and umpiring lacrosse and proven lacrosse experience at a high level. They will have an enthusiasm and passion for sport and the ability to convey this to students.

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 department currently comprises seven specialist Physical Education teachers, a Head of Athletic Performance and Development and a PE Administrator. A number of professional coaches in cricket, netball, tennis, fencing, dance, tae-kwondo also support the extracurricular provision.

We are very proud of our students, and they are a joy to teach. They are very keen to be involved in sports of all kinds and compete nationally in sports and competitions. All are encouraged to participate in sport and activity and we have a comprehensive clubs programme. Teams are very well supported both by the students and by parents on the sidelines.

Facilities

Our on-site facilities include a fully equipped sports hall (marked for badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball), six all-weather netball/tennis courts and a large field that is used for lacrosse (2 pitches) in the winter, and for cricket and athletics in the summer.

The main sports facility includes a specialist gymnasium, fully equipped fitness suite, ergo suite, group cycle suite, dance studio, dedicated academic teaching room, plus changing areas and staff facilities. Our Church Farm playing fields of 12 acres are used for lacrosse (3 pitches) and cricket. Students are able to walk to the pitches (10 minutes).

Key responsibilities

Reporting to the Director of Sport, the Lacrosse Coach is responsible for:

- Assisting teaching in lessons, taking small groups/aspects of the lesson as appropriate.
- Coaching lacrosse teams and clubs during lunchtimes, after school sessions and at weekends.
- Attending fixtures and umpiring appropriate matches.
- Coaching elite performers 1:1.
- Taking an active role within the department and an appropriate share of responsibilities for promoting sport and healthy active lifestyles.

Subject details/curriculum

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum across the age groups, that motivates and inspires the students. The curriculum in Years 7 and 8 includes athletic development, netball, lacrosse football, gymnastics, dance, health related fitness, cricket, athletics and tennis.

The Junior Department (Years 5 and 6) follow a similar curriculum with modified activities as appropriate. To maintain motivation in Year 9, we incorporate other sports such as basketball, rugby and trampolining as well as use of the fitness suite. The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 is based on a broader choice for the students following activity pathways. These include fitness and performance, team games, individual sports and alternative activities. Some of these activities include trampolining, badminton, spinning and rugby as well as activities that form the basis of health and fitness.

PE in the Sixth Form is compulsory and includes a wider range of activities such as yoga, climbing, golf, spinning, fitness suite, dance, netball and tennis. Physical Education is offered as an examination subject at both GCSE (AQA) and A level (OCR).

There is an extensive extracurricular programme of activities, clubs and team practices and the PE department enjoys consistent success in a range of sports. Lacrosse and netball are played over two terms and compete in national competitions. There are also successful competitive squads in football, gymnastics, swimming, badminton, basketball and cross country. The main sports in the summer term are tennis, cricket, athletics and football continues through summer.

Residential tours and trips are very popular with all year groups. The department regularly takes annual residential trips skiing with lacrosse, netball, football and cricket tours on rotation for different age groups. Day trips to conferences and other sporting events are enjoyed by many students.

A full extracurricular programme and fixtures list is in place, including Saturdays.





The person

Skills/abilities

- Representative experience of lacrosse at a national level.
- Ability to motivate and inspire students across the age and ability range.
- Ability to coach lacrosse.
- Ability to relate well to young people.
- 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.
- Excellent teaching and classroom management skills.

Experience, knowledge and qualifications

- High level of current knowledge and understanding of teaching, coaching and umpiring lacrosse.
- Proven lacrosse experience at a high level.
- A good honours or higher degree in a relevant discipline is desirable.

Personal attributes

- Enthusiasm and passion for sport and the ability to convey this to students.
- A willingness to take an appropriate share of departmental responsibilities.
- High level of personal and professional integrity.
- High degree of self-confidence, dynamism and personal warmth, so able to develop a good rapport with students, colleagues and parents.
- High expectations for student attainment, personal development and conduct.
- A commitment to involvement in an extracurricular programme which meets the needs of all students, including Saturdays where appropriate.
- 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.

Salary and benefits

- This is a permanent role, with contract hours between 10-12 hours per week on average (contracted hours to be agreed against availability) to commence in September 2025.
- Working times will vary by week against the coaching needs for lacrosse and in line with the lacrosse season (and pre-season). Some weeks may involve higher working hours than others but will these will average out to the contracted weekly level over the course of the academic year.
- The salary will be calculated in line with an hourly rate of £32.75 per hour and pro-rata annual leave will be added based on 7.6 weeks for a full-time member of staff.
- 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 vacancies section of our website). The completed and signed application form, along with a brief supporting letter addressed to **Mrs Rebecca Dougall, Headmistress**, 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 **Friday 25 April 2025 at 9.00am**
Interviews will take place on **Wednesday 7 May 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.



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ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

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