



Junior School Classroom Assistant

Starting Date: September 2025



**MAGDALEN
COLLEGE SCHOOL**

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
BOYS 7-18 & SIXTH FORM GIRLS



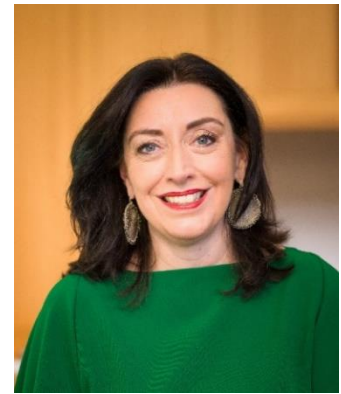


Introduction

from the Master, Helen Pike

Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint.

Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of co-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.



William of Waynflete founded Magdalen College School in 1480: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website (www.mcsoxford.org) including the recent News will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

H. C. Pike



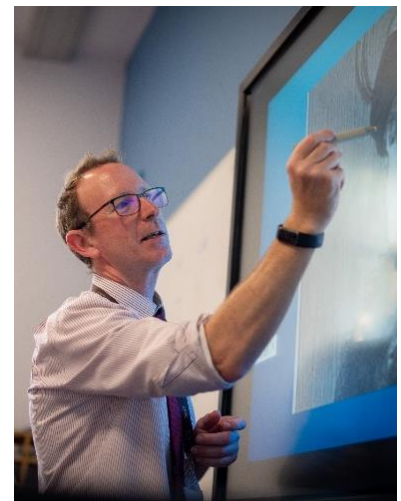


Welcome

from the Head of the Junior School, Tim Skipwith

The Junior School is a remarkable corner of Magdalen College School. We are housed in School House, a stunning Victorian building overlooking the Rose Garden and Cherwell River. This offers us immediate access to the Senior School facilities whilst retaining our own independence for the younger boys; we are blessed here to be essentially two schools with one heart.

We are selective from the outset with a view that any boy joining us should leave the school after completing their Sixth Form. All of our boys sit the 11+ and the vast majority progress to the Senior School at that stage, with a significant number of our boys gaining awards at this transition point.



Our boys are vibrant, lively and have an inherent “can do” approach. There is a wonderfully warm atmosphere in School House and at the heart of this is simply the nature of the boys. They are kind and emotionally articulate, and this forms an underlying camaraderie of mutual support and respect. They are also bright, academically ambitious learners, which makes teaching here exciting and dynamic.

We have a particularly cohesive team of staff who work closely to offer an outstanding provision for our boys. Staff genuinely share a passion for developing every aspect of our children; we also feel that a significant part of this should be fun for all involved.

Thank you for your interest.



Working at MCS

There are many benefits to working at Magdalen College School. Founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete, the school has a rich history and an enviable location at the heart of Oxford beside the River Cherwell.

MCS is one of the country's leading independent day schools. Shaped by its Christian Collegiate foundation and links with the university city of which it is part, it aims to inspire in all its pupils a desire to learn, flourish and serve.

The School will celebrate its 550th anniversary in 2030. The current generation of MCS staff and pupils wish to ensure that we shape a school that is able to flourish for at least another half millennium, and hopefully many more beyond. There are around 950 pupils, boys aged 7-18 and Sixth Form girls, and 350 members of staff who learn and work on the School's central Oxford site.

Academic

The pupils are a joy to teach – gifted academically and talented across a wide range of other pursuits. Pupils wear their considerable abilities lightly; they feel a very strong connection to their school, are kind to one another and are inquisitive and motivated. Public exam results see the school consistently placed among the most successful schools in the UK. In 2024, 44% of A Level grades were A*, 82% were A*-A and 95% were A*-B. At GCSE, 56% of grades were Grade 9, 79% were 9-8, 92% were 9-7 and 98% were 9-

6. Pupils are very successful in their university applications, with the vast majority gaining places at leading institutions, including around 25% gaining offers from Oxbridge.

Co-curricular

Co-curricular activities play a central role in life at MCS. The quality of the provision across sport, music and drama, as well as over 100 clubs and societies, is exceptional. There are around 40 music ensembles and over 70 concerts per year; some at MCS and some at venues around Oxford like the Sheldonian Theatre. There are 10-15 drama productions of various genre each year; some are performed at MCS, and some make use of theatres in Oxford such as the Playhouse and Burton Taylor. There is also a technical theatre academy. Sport is hugely popular and successful at MCS with a dual focus on participation and performance. Last year, 94% of all pupils represented the school in a competitive fixture and over the last few years we have won national titles in hockey, sailing and tennis. There are also numerous successes at local and regional level across all sports and a significant number of individual pupils are supported along talent pathways in various sports.

Pastoral

MCS places great value on the individual and is well-regarded for the quality of the pastoral care. Most teachers are also tutors, responsible for the day to day pastoral and academic care of their tutees under the leadership of the Heads of Year and Heads of Section. Tutor groups are organised through the house system which develops a sense of loyalty and identity and provides many opportunities for competitions from quizzing to football and from debating to singing. Our pupils are happy and have excellent relationships with each and with members of staff.

Remuneration

This is a 1 year fixed-term position from between September 2025 – August 2026, full-time, term-time only with one week for INSET (35 weeks in total); with the standard working hours from 8.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and half an hour for lunch. Salary will be £23,960 pro-rata per annum (FTE £30,687).

Non-teaching staff are automatically enrolled in the school's contributory Group Pension Scheme. This is a defined contribution pension scheme into



which the employee contributes 5% of gross salary and the employer contributes 10%.

Benefits

There is a wide range of benefits available to staff, including a free lunch. The school has a fully equipped gym which is available for staff use, and staff may also enjoy access to the University of Oxford's Rosenblatt Swimming Pool. Tennis courts are available, and there is a comprehensive programme of staff sports clubs.

Staff also have the opportunity to join choirs and music groups, and to get involved in drama productions.

Staff are encouraged to make use of the Senior Common Room within and after the school day, as an area for relaxation and shared discussion outside departments. Tea and coffee are served in the SCR at morning break, and cakes and fruit are available at the end of the school day. Staff socials and guest night dinners are regular features of each term.

School fee remission is available for permanent members of staff whose sons and/or Sixth Form daughters are offered a place at the school following entrance tests and interviews, and is currently 50% pro rata subject to a minimum FTE of 50%. In addition, 20% fee remission is available pro rata for permanent MCS staff who have daughters attending Headington Rye, subject to a minimum of 50% FTE.





The Role

Magdalen College School is seeking to appoint three enthusiastic and versatile classroom assistants for the Junior School on a 1-year Fixed-Term Contract (FTC) for the academic year 2025-2026.

There will be an emphasis on helping in the classrooms with our younger year groups but the list below will offer an idea of what else is to be expected, although it is not exhaustive:

- Work closely with the JS staff in assisting in the day-to-day running of a busy Junior School.
- Take a keen interest in the welfare of all Junior School pupils and contribute to the pastoral wellbeing of boys throughout each day.
- Work with small groups of boys on reinforcement and enrichment tasks.
- Assist in the planning and preparation of specific resources for these groups together with the relevant subject teacher.
- set clear expectations for pupil behaviour within an encouraging classroom environment.
- Provide supervisory support during lunch and break time, and before and after school until 5.30pm; specifically overseeing boys who catch the school buses home.
- Help with sporting fixtures including the occasional Saturday (typically two per term)
- Accompany the J4 residential trip during the Hilary Term (during school week)

The Candidate

The successful candidates will enjoy a varied daily routine as part of a close team in the Junior School. They will have excellent written and spoken communication skills, and sound IT skills. They will have the ability to work collaboratively and display a high level of attention to detail. The successful candidates will also be friendly, enthusiastic, motivated and caring individuals who enjoy 'mucking in' and thrive in the company of children. This role would best suit graduates or someone with some prior experience of working with children.

The successful candidate will also be able to show a clear commitment to safeguarding children.

This is a fabulous opportunity for those considering a future career in teaching with the majority of candidates that join us deciding that this is the route they would like to take.

The Junior School

The Junior School, for boys aged 7-11, is a happy and highly successful part of one of the country's leading independent day schools. It currently has 135 pupils in eight

forms. Although the school has grown substantially in recent years; the intimate size helps to create a family-like atmosphere, where boys demonstrate a spirit of respect and tolerance. We aim to provide an education which enables each boy to acquire an independent and searching mind, to develop a broad range of extra-curricular interests and to take pleasure in the life of ideas. Key dispositions such as kindness, perseverance, resilience and teamwork underpin all aspects of Junior School life.

Whilst following the broad outline of the National Curriculum, we seek to enrich and extend the boys' interest and achievement in a variety of subject areas. Specialist staff and facilities help boys to reach their potential. Entry is now predominantly at 7+ starting with two small classes to which we add at 8+ and 9+. Boys take the school's 11+ tests and it is rare for pupils not to move on to the Senior School.

One of the many strengths of the school is the level of pastoral care. This is provided primarily by the form tutor, who is the first point of contact for boys and parents. Each boy is also in one of six houses in the Junior School: regular opportunities to meet and take part in house events enable boys to work together with pupils from different year groups. The Junior



School Council, with representatives from each form, has an important role to play in the running of the Junior School.

From J1 (Year 3) boys are coached with specialist staff to perform to a high standard in a range of sports including rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and athletics and football. The school's enviable sports grounds are augmented by the use of university facilities, including the Iffley Road athletics track and Rosenblatt swimming pool. Regular fixtures with independent and primary schools occur, and tours have taken boys to schools and clubs around the country. We currently have a number of county sportsmen in a range of sports.

Most boys in the Junior School learn at least one musical instrument, with an impressive variety on offer. Concerts range from regular informal events to performances in the Jacqueline du

Pré Music Building, the Sheldonian Theatre and Magdalen College Chapel. The annual House Music event includes opportunities for parents and grandparents to join the boys. There are also a wide range of chamber ensembles, Junior School Choirs and in last year's Grand Concert forty-eight performed together as a full orchestra. The 16 boy choristers of Magdalen College Choir are educated at MCS, with the School and College working together closely to manage the boys' commitments. Pupils also take part in art workshops and visit galleries. Recent plays and musicals produced include *The Jungle Book*, *Porridge* and *The Lion King*.

We have recently developed our provision for the boys with an Activities Afternoon where lessons on Thursday afternoons are dedicated to a wide range of activities. Cartooning, Young

Enterprise, Forest School and Sewing are but a few of the activities on offer. Within this afternoon, strategy games have been brought in to run alongside the chess to promote critical thinking, and a much greater provision for Drama now sees each year group have the opportunity to put on an annual play. This initiative has added to the suite of pre-existing lunchtime and after school clubs. Chess remains very popular amongst the pupils, and is played to an exceptionally high standard. Teams regularly win county and national events, and a number of boys go on to represent their country. Tours run in each age group, and the length of these increases as boys progress up the school.

In a lively day school, a willingness to contribute to other areas of school life, whether in the pastoral system, in games, music, drama, or other activities, is always advantageous.







Life in Oxford

Located at Magdalen Bridge, with views toward both the city centre and east Oxford, MCS is close to a wealth of cultural, entertainment, and educational venues.

The City

Oxford, renowned as one of the world's most prestigious university cities, has a rich history dating back over a thousand years. Established in the early medieval period, the city grew around its strategic location on the River Thames, which facilitated trade and transportation. By the 12th century, it became an educational hub with the founding of the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

With its blend of ancient and modern, there is an abundance of activities to enjoy. Whether visiting one of the many historic buildings, colleges, or museums, dining in a restaurant, attending a performance, or exploring local boutiques, Oxford offers a diverse array of experiences for all interests.

The University

MCS shares many links with the University. Staff can enjoy free entry to the Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, watch our choristers perform evensong in Magdalen College Chapel, or use the University sports facilities on Iffley Road.

During the university's full term, Oxford buzzes with activity, hosting numerous talks, performances, fixtures, events, and celebrations throughout the academic year.

The Arts

Oxford is celebrated not only for its academic heritage but also for its vibrant cultural scene. The Ashmolean Museum, the oldest public museum in the UK, showcases art and archaeology from around the globe. The city's theatres, such as the Oxford Playhouse, offer a range of performances, while the annual Oxford Literary Festival attracts renowned authors and literary enthusiasts alike.

In June and July, the School hosts the Oxford Festival of the Arts, a multidisciplinary festival featuring events across the city. Each year, it offers a broad programme that embraces music, theatre, talks, comedy, film, literature, dance, art, photography, and more. OFA celebrates Oxford's diverse communities, offering something for everyone, regardless of age, background, or artistic experience. The festival's success is evident in its ability to attract nationally and internationally renowned artists

and performers, while also serving as an incubator for new works and arts-based initiatives.

Accommodation and transport

Oxford offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit various preferences and budgets. While many colleagues live in the city, a significant number choose to reside in surrounding villages and towns, which provide easy access to Oxford. Commuters benefit from an extensive bus network and park-and-ride services, and the school is well connected by dedicated cycle lanes from all directions. Additionally, Oxford's excellent rail links make it easy to reach London in just under an hour.





Partnerships and Professional Development

Partnerships

We aim to equip our pupils to make a positive and lasting contribution to their communities, both now and in the future.

Each year, the school coordinates and hosts a wide range of partnership projects and events, professional development meetings for fellow teachers, and academic, cultural, and sporting enrichment opportunities for local children. Key elements of this extensive programme include *The Bridge*, a Saturday school for Year 5 and 6 children; an academic extension programme in a range of science and humanities subjects; monthly partnership activity days; and weekly in-school extension classes in mathematics. In all these areas, we aim to support our community by fostering connections between people and by bringing them together in enriching, collaborative activities.

Community Service Organisation (CSO)

Through the school's Community Service Organisation (CSO), Lower Sixth pupils spend one afternoon each week volunteering in the community. Collectively, they volunteer over 7,500 hours each year. The placements vary, offering each pupil an opportunity to discover something that captures their imagination. Activities range from mentoring primary school pupils in Maths and English, running language clubs, providing

reading support, producing artwork for the walls of local hospitals, performing concerts in schools and care homes, to running practical science workshops in our teaching labs. Each year, a number of pupils choose to continue volunteering at their placements beyond the end of Lower Sixth.

Charity

Charity plays an increasingly important role in school life at MCS. Each year, the school votes to select a local charity to support, alongside our partnership school in Uganda, and every year group participates in fundraising activities.

The school's charity committee organises regular events to raise money and increase engagement across the school. Numerous staff and students take the initiative to hold their own fundraising efforts, from sponsored marathons and long-distance cycle rides to staff concerts, pupil-led talent shows, and House quizzes.

Professional Development

The school places a significant emphasis on the professional development of all staff. A half-termly CPD & Teaching Newsletter is distributed by email, which aims to highlight educational research and practical ideas, to share ideas from courses and conferences attended, to offer guidance on opportunities for CPD, and to highlight the work of colleagues in

the area of teaching and learning. All colleagues are encouraged to attend at least one external CPD course each year, and also to visit another school, place of work or university, where appropriate. The Teaching and Learning Group meets before school twice per half term. Its purpose is to consider developments in educational research, to facilitate discussion of teaching and learning, to offer a forum for the sharing of good teaching practice, and to support colleagues in experimenting with new teaching techniques.

Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and the Waynfilete Teaching Certificate

The School has well-established procedures to support ECTs and is the regional hub for ISTIP ECT induction. The School also aims to offer teaching staff joining the school without a teaching qualification the opportunity to develop their teaching craft and reflect on their professional practice through a structured programme of training and support. For such colleagues, the school offers the Waynfilete Teaching Certificate, which may ultimately lead to Qualified Teacher Status through the Assessment Only route offered by the University of Reading.





Application Process

Candidates wanting to apply to this vacancy should submit the documentation outlined below no later than Midday on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

Documentation

Candidates should submit the following two documents to the Recruitment Officer, Miss Yelena Molcanova (recruitment@mcsoxford.org), which can be found here.

1. MCS Application Form for Teaching and Support Staff
2. CV (Curriculum Vitae)

All documentation should be sent no later than Wednesday 6th November, at midday. The school's preferred method of communication is by email and it will not be necessary to send a hard copy of the documents by post.

References

References may be taken up in advance. If you do not wish for your references to be called for at this stage, please make that clear on the reference section of the application form.

Interviews

We anticipate holding interviews on Monday 11th November, which will include an observed session with a small group of boys. We will be in contact with shortlisted candidates by telephone.

Please be aware that all shortlisted candidates will be requested to complete a 'Self-Disclosure' form before attending their interview.

We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the above dates.

Equal Opportunities

Magdalen College School recognises and is committed to ensuring applicants and employees from all sections of the community are treated equally regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, marital and civil partnership status, or pregnancy and maternity. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Safeguarding Policy

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire, plus sight of relevant ID documentation and degree certificate(s). The enhanced DBS check is due to this role being exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.



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