



Schools Direct Course Information

Coundon Court School

Thank you for your enquiry to train within our school. This is an exciting time to be training at Coundon Court School.

I hope that you will be enthused and excited by the prospect of training in an oversubscribed school, where student behaviour is excellent and levels of attainment meet or exceed national benchmarks.

The school has made excellent progress since its 2014 inspection and the resulting "RI status". Ofsted inspected again in November 2016 and we secured "Good" status. Outstanding provision and outcomes is now the challenge. This summer's examination results show that we are on track to achieve this.

Our focus is to secure great teaching across the school and consequently develop resilient learners. Your growth as a teacher is fundamentally important to our journey as a school. From whatever starting point, we will challenge and nurture your professional growth.

Coundon Court has excellent potential to move rapidly into "outstanding" status and to ensure that you will thrive.

- Our NQT and School Direct programme highly successful in securing qualification and progression into jobs at Coundon Court.
- The school is massively oversubscribed and comfortably fills its admission number of 285 places in Year seven. From September 2019 we will be admitting 315 students a year.
- Sixth Form numbers 220 plus students and delivers A Level and Vocational provision. A Level teaching is widely distributed amongst the staff. Last year all Year 13 students secured first choice University provision. All our students go onto positive destinations.
- There is a strong mix of experienced and enthusiastic staff who share a desire to go "the extra mile" to make sure that our outstanding ambition can become a reality for all of our students.
- We have a significant, core CPD programme based around cross subject learning teams that is challenging and extending the staff skills base.

The below information gives a snapshot of our school, I look forward to considering your application.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Clay (Headteacher)



Science

We have an enthusiastic and skilled team of Science teachers who deliver Biology, Chemistry and Physics to all year groups in the school and we have specialists in all 3 areas. Coundon Court Science faculty is well resourced and has ten fully equipped laboratories with an excellent team of three full-time laboratory technicians.

At KS3 our students develop the skills required to be logical, analytical and evaluative in preparation for them to progress onto GCSE and succeed in that qualification.

In KS4 our students build on the skills required to work scientifically and mathematically through a programme which stretches and engages them whilst preparing them for the challenge of linear examinations. Students study the new AQA Combined Science (Trilogy) and the first set of results were excellent with over 50% of students achieving a 5-5+ and nearly 1 in 5 achieving a 7-7+

When our students reach KS5, we broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Our A Level courses which include Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Applied Science attract good cohorts of students who we inspire, interest and academically challenge to prepare our students for undergraduate study. Many students choose to study Science based courses at University including Medicine.

The department is very active with extracurricular opportunities including clubs such as STEM, mini-STEM and Robotics as well as additional learning opportunities such as visits including Universities, Big Bang Show and entering National competitions.

We have a successful track record with Trainee Teachers from a range of schemes and our current staff includes a former PGCE student who has also just successfully completed her NQT year with us and a former Cover Supervisor who is now on the School Direct programme here. The Lead Practitioner from the department supports and mentors all Trainee Teachers who have access to the full School CPD programme as well.

Maths

We have a large, well-qualified maths team at Coundon, who are all committed to developing their teaching skills to enhance the learning experience of our students within maths. There is a wealth of experience within the team, with people who are at many different stages of their careers – from NQTs and RQTs to staff who have been teaching for over 30 years! We are a very friendly and supportive team who work collaboratively to support each other and ensure that every person has the opportunity to continually improve their teaching practice. A number of colleagues have a high level of experience in mentoring both trainees and NQTs, and once staff come here



they tend not to leave. We achieved excellent exam results within maths this year, with 75% of our students achieving at least a grade 4, and a faculty progress 8 measure of +0.28 across the whole cohort. We have a vibrant 6th form with approximately 70 students working towards either A-Level Maths or Further Maths, so we are able to offer plenty of experience at teaching post-16. The comments below from a colleague who recently completed her NQT year at Coundon sum up our team:

"I really enjoyed training here as an NQT at Coundon. The support I got was fantastic. Particularly, from the Maths department where I felt like I could ask anyone for advice and support. Staff members were always supportive and really made me feel part of the team." Maths teacher, RQT.

English

We have a dedicated and passionate team of English teachers who deliver both English Language and English Literature.

Across KS3 we focus on delivering the skills that students need to be analytical, evaluative and construct a coherent argument. Students study a range of texts from 19th century, modern, Shakespeare and poetry as well as focusing on the grammatical skills that students need to produce their own texts.

In KS4, we split the curriculum into Language and Literature: focusing on the specific AOs required for each of the courses and the content that needs to be retained to gain each qualification.

Finally, at KS5, we offer a combined Language and Literature A Level and a Literature only A Level giving students the option between amalgamating the two subjects or staying with just the one.

In the Coundon Court English team, we know that what every trainee will need is time, patience and support which is the reason that our trainees have gone on to be successful teachers. Every trainee will appreciate the trials and tribulations that the teaching profession has to offer (and no doubt you will begin to experience these in your training year) however if you have the right people around you then these are far easier to conquer. Our department is reflective of the huge amount of support that is given to School Directs, PGCEs and RQTs: with four members of staff, including the Head of Department, starting their career at Coundon Court. There will be a wealth of experience available to you if you join the Coundon Court English team who will all help to guide you to become the teacher that you hope to be in your NQT year.

History

The History Department at Coundon Court take immense pride in our supportive atmosphere and real team spirit. We are committed to achieving



the best outcomes for our pupils, but also ourselves. We pride ourselves on constantly challenging ourselves and adapting. We have exciting curriculums that we study across all key stages, reflecting the diverse expertise and interests of our team of outstanding practitioners. We make sure to train our pupils in a wide range of historical topics, from an in-depth study into Coventry's rich heritage, to a broad sweep of the History of Britain and key events in world history such as the First World War and the Holocaust.

We are extremely proud of the achievement of our Year 11s last year, achieving a Value Added score of +0.46, further evidence the outstanding environment we provide for trainees to learn their craft.

In Key Stage 4 we study Weimar and Nazi Germany, the American West, Early Elizabethan England and Crime and Punishment Through Time, popular topics that would give you an excellent basis for transferable knowledge and skills. In Key Stage 5 we study the Tudors, Weimar and Nazi Germany and the reasons for witch hunting in Early Modern Europe. This ensures that we have a very wide range of topics to provide you with familiar and unfamiliar topics for you to learn and teach.

In addition to our wide-range interests in history, we are also a large and diverse team in terms of teaching styles. We embrace the philosophy that there is no 'right' way to teach and there are always a great range of ideas, strategies and tips to learn, as we are always learning from each other!

We have a long and successful history of mentoring PGCE and Schools' Direct trainees, with many experience mentors and always welcome anyone who shares our passion and wants to join us.

Geography

The biggest strength in the Geography department is that we are all passionate teachers who love our subject and aim to support all our students 100% of the time in every aspect of their time with us.

We are a dynamic team who work very well together and the trainees appreciate this collaborative element.

We frequently support students outside the classroom, offering our time for extra revision and support as and when needed. Our teaching styles and techniques are varied and up to date, we often try new things to help inspire and enthuse the students. Our KS4 and 5 results are a testament to our hard work and commitment, and also of our teaching. The resources and lessons at all key stages are well planned and varied – we all take an active role in the continual development of resources.

We teach Geography to develop pupils' understanding of contemporary global issues, encourage thinking about how to become better global citizens, help students develop informed opinions and become better learners through questioning, foster a sense of identity and an increased understanding



of pupils' own position in their own community and the world, develop a range of skills and abilities - particularly those related to cause and effect, being able to describe and explain.

Through Geography we also improve pupils' skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT, develop pupils' thinking skills, promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues and develop pupils as active citizens

We work with trainees to enable them to become the best classroom practitioners they can be, using a wealth of expertise and experience within a team of diverse specialists.

'The Geography department is a welcoming and vibrant team that has provided a sound starting point to pursue my future in teaching. They provide an opportunity to experience a wide variety of teaching styles in a supportive environment' School Direct student 2018-19

MFL

The MFL department consists of seven highly motivated and experienced staff. MFL is taught to all year groups at KS3 and KS4, with pupils studying either French or Spanish and it has become a core subject for the majority of pupils to take at GCSE. There is currently a Year 13 Spanish group and it is our intention to offer both French and Spanish at KS5 from next academic year.

At KS3, pupils develop their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge across a broad range of topics including free-time, family, school, holidays, food & drink and home & local area. Opportunities for pupils to explore Francophone and Hispanic culture are incorporated into the schemes of learning. The KS3 course builds the foundation for pupils to succeed at KS4.

At KS4, pupils further develop their linguistic competence across the four main skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), with each component worth 25% of the whole GCSE. There is a focus on forming and using the present, past, future and conditional tenses, giving opinions and adding detail and depth to written work. The course revises some of the KS3 topics while introducing new themes such as work & future plans, helping the environment and culture & traditions. The first cohort to complete the reformed GCSE course achieved encouraging results with 94.4% of pupils achieving Grade 4+ in French and one third achieving Grade 7+.

The department offers annual trips to Madrid and Paris, allowing pupils to experience the lifestyle and culture of these major cities as well as practise using the language that they have been learning in lessons.

Two members of the current MFL staff have successfully completed their NQT year within the school and we have had a number of other trainees or NQTs who have since gone on to take up roles and responsibilities elsewhere. Trainees are guaranteed a warm welcome from a friendly and supportive team who are always willing to share ideas and offer advice.



Design and technology

Design and Technology at Coundon Court is an exciting, supportive, creative and very well resourced department with a committed team of colleagues offering expertise across the wide remit of D&T and Food teaching alongside outstanding technical support. The department benefitted from a significant refurbishment in summer 2018 to create modern multi material workspaces plus a dedicated CAM area with Food also set to benefit from a similar investment in summer 2019. Training with our team will enable you to develop your knowledge and skills across the breadth of the subject in preparation for demands of teaching and learning in the modern D&T and Food curriculum. The D&T team have a depth of experience mentoring both trainee and newly qualified teachers from all areas of the subject and you will be well supported and encouraged whilst developing your practice.

"As a trainee within the D&T team at Coundon, my experiences were extremely positive due to the supportive team, great resources and fantastic mentorship. The whole team were very generous with their time, advice and expertise throughout the year." Trainee D&T Teacher 2017-2018.

Music/Drama

At Coundon Court we have a vibrant and engaging department. We deliver an engaging curriculum that seeks to develop student's natural curiosity about a wide range of musical styles and genres. In KS4 We follow the OCR GCSE music specification, which continues to be a popular option choice for students. We also have a number of visiting peripatetic music teachers where we experience a high uptake on a range of instruments.

We facilitate many performances and enrichment opportunities throughout the academic year including a Christmas & Summer concert, school show and GCSE showcases. If you train with us we would actively encourage you to get involved in one of our many ensembles.

The music department at Coundon School hosts fantastic facilities and equipment in order to deliver high quality lessons in a range of musical fields. We have two fully equipped teaching classrooms hosting a class set of keyboards, African and Indian instruments, drum kit and range of classroom tuned and untuned percussion in each. In a purpose built performing arts block we also have a Mac suite (31 computers) and separate recording studio.

Train with us and you will have the facilities, opportunities and guidance to develop your teaching practice in a supportive and open environment. Our Performing Arts team consists of two music and two drama teachers all experienced and passionate about high quality teaching and learning.

Art and Photography Department



The Art and Photography Department at Coundon Court is a vibrant, exciting, ambitious highly successful department with outstanding results across KS4 and KS5. We are a committed team of colleagues offering an engaging curriculum

In the Art department we provide a rich source of experience and understandings-imaginative and creative solutions.

In order to communicate ideas, students learn a wide range of techniques and processes as well as critical/cultural aesthetic values. Learn to analyse/interpret work. Role of Arts in particular cultures or societies. Develop their intellectual, imaginative and expressive potential. Develop critical skills to support the development of their own work. We want Art to be enjoyed by all students in a safe creative environment inclusive of everyone. We pride ourselves on the relationships we build with our students. We build self-confidence and self-esteem.

Our trainees can work with a broad curriculum which explores the use of a wide variety of media and techniques including textile/mixed media based work. We have a very supportive environment and experience of helping trainees both thrive on their success and overcome their difficulties.

Physical Education

We have an experienced and dedicated team of staff who deliver PE across all key stages as well as teaching a variety of exam classes in KS4 and 5. We have numerous indoor facilities including two gymnasiums, a sports hall, multi-gym suite, and extensive playing fields and tennis court areas.

KS3 students follow a varied curriculum with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activity and the extracurricular programme offered by staff at the school is open to any student wishing to develop their skills in most activities. Intra and inter school competition is encouraged and our reputation for extracurricular sport is high within the City.

KS4 students can opt for examination GCSE PE or the OCR National qualification. We have a large uptake for these courses and expectations to commit to school sport is expected. Results have shown a positive climb recently and data suggests this will continue for current cohorts.

Students at KS5 can study A Level PE and results are superb and among the highest in the City.

The PE department has a strong reputation for training prospective teachers and over the last 12 years we have worked closely with leading teacher training institutions such as Newman College, Warwick University and the University of Wolverhampton. All trainees have gone on to forge successful teaching careers after leaving Coundon and we pride ourselves on providing an excellent opportunity for prospective teachers to develop within a strong



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and experienced team of staff, with different specialisms across a range of activity.