



BRIGHTON COLLEGE PREP
KENSINGTON

Job Title: Head of English

Location: London (Exhibition Road)

Age Range: 2– 13 years **Teaching Commitment:** Years 5 to Year 8

Contract: Full-time

Start Date: September 2026

We are a thriving independent preparatory school in central London, educating boys and girls from the age of 2 to 13. Guided by our core values of confidence, curiosity, and kindness, we provide a broad, ambitious, and enriching education that promotes academic excellence, creativity, and outstanding pastoral care.

As part of the Brighton College family of schools, widely regarded as the leading co-educational school group in the UK, we benefit from a strong shared ethos while retaining our own distinctive character. In 2025, we were proud to be named London Independent School of the Year finalists, recognising the quality of our educational provision, leadership, and pupil outcomes.

Situated beside Exhibition Road in the heart of central London, we make exceptional use of our location to enrich learning, foster cultural engagement, and inspire a lifelong love of reading and language.

As an Apple School, we believe in the thoughtful and purposeful use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Digital tools are used selectively to support drafting, research, creativity, and collaboration; however, we are clear that the pen still reigns supreme, and that fluent handwriting, sustained writing, and deep engagement with texts remain central to our English curriculum.

The Role

We are seeking an outstanding, dynamic, and inspirational Head of English to provide strategic leadership and oversight of English across the whole school (ages 2–13), while teaching predominantly in Year 5 to Year 8.

This is a key middle leadership role with responsibility for ensuring a clear, coherent, and progressive English curriculum, underpinned by strong subject knowledge, high expectations, and excellent pupil outcomes. The successful candidate will demonstrate a secure understanding of curriculum intent, implementation, and impact, and will contribute actively to monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

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COGNITA

Brighton College Prep Kensington is part of the Cognita Schools Group

The Head of English will be well supported, working collaboratively with:

- a Reading Lead,
- the Head of Pre-Prep English, and
- a designated colleague with responsibility for the Upper School curriculum (Years 7 and 8).

As part of a forward-looking academic provision, the postholder will play a central role in shaping a strong whole-school reading culture, including oversight of the school's libraries and new, purpose-built, age-appropriate library spaces and reading nooks. Working closely with the Reading Lead, the Head of English will help design, implement, and embed a clear and effective whole-school reading strategy.

As an Apple School, the Head of English will also be expected to model and promote the effective use of technology where it genuinely enhances learning, while maintaining a clear commitment to traditional academic rigour. The successful candidate will recognise that technology supports excellent teaching but does not replace it, and that the pen remains the primary tool for thinking, drafting, and sustained writing, particularly in preparation for examinations and scholarships.

A strong understanding of the 11+ and 13+ senior school entry processes is essential, including preparation for selective examinations and scholarship-level assessments.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership and Curriculum Oversight

- Hold overall responsibility for the English curriculum from ages 2 to 13, ensuring coherence, progression, challenge, and high standards.
- Articulate and implement a clear curriculum intent for English aligned with the school's values and educational aims.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of the English curriculum through review of teaching, learning, and outcomes.
- Work collaboratively with the Reading Lead, Head of Pre-Prep English, and Upper School Curriculum Lead (Years 7 & 8) to ensure continuity and consistency across all phases.
- Contribute to whole-school self-evaluation and inspection preparation relating to curriculum quality and academic standards.

Teaching and Learning (Year 5 to Year 8)

- Teach English across Year 5 to Year 8, delivering high-quality, well-sequenced, and engaging lessons.
- Demonstrate proven experience of teaching KS3 English.
- Prepare pupils effectively for 11+ and 13+ senior school entrance examinations, including academic scholarships, where appropriate.
- Promote high standards in reading comprehension, analytical and creative writing, grammar, and oracy.
- Use assessment effectively to inform planning, feedback, and pupil progress.

- Make purposeful use of educational technology where it enhances learning, while maintaining high expectations for handwriting and extended written work.

Reading Strategy and Library Oversight

- Provide strategic oversight of the school's libraries, including the development and effective use of new, purpose-built, age-appropriate library spaces and reading nooks.
- Work closely with the Reading Lead to design, implement, and evaluate a whole school reading strategy promoting reading for pleasure, academic reading, and progression from Early Years to Year 8.
- Lead the curation of diverse, challenging, and engaging library collections supporting curriculum delivery and independent reading.
- Champion a strong reading culture through initiatives such as author visits, reading challenges, book clubs, assemblies, and curriculum-linked reading.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of reading provision on pupil engagement and outcomes.

Department Leadership and Professional Collaboration

- Lead, support, and develop colleagues teaching English across the school.
- Promote reflective practice, professional dialogue, and continuous improvement.
- Support consistency of approach while valuing professional autonomy and creativity.
- Keep abreast of developments in English education, literacy, and pedagogy.

Enrichment and Wider Learning

- Promote English beyond the classroom through clubs, competitions, debating, public speaking, and literary events.
- Encourage strong oracy skills through discussion, performance, and presentation.
- Support cross-curricular links with subjects such as history, drama, classics, and modern languages.

Wider Life of the School

- Make an active contribution to the wider life of the school, including co-curricular activities, themed weeks, school events, trips, and residential.
- Act as a positive role model, upholding the school's values of confidence, curiosity, and kindness.

Pastoral Commitment

The Head of English will play an active role in the pastoral life of the school. The successful candidate will be willing to act as a House Mentor or Form Tutor, supporting a small group of pupils and contributing to their wellbeing, personal development, and sense of belonging.

The role also includes a willingness to engage in residential trips, recognising the importance of these experiences in developing pupils' independence, resilience, and social confidence.

Person Specification

Essential

- A degree in English.
- PGCE with English as the specialist subject (or equivalent recognised teaching qualification).
- Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- Proven experience teaching KS3 English.
- A strong understanding of the 11+ and 13+ senior school entry processes, including scholarship preparation.
- Experience of curriculum leadership or significant departmental responsibility.
- Willingness to act as a House Mentor or Form Tutor and to engage in residential trips.
- Excellent subject knowledge, communication, and organisational skills.
- A clear commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Desirable

- Understanding of, or experience in, KS1 English.
- Experience of curriculum oversight across multiple age phases.
- Experience preparing pupils for English scholarships.
- Experience within an independent or preparatory school setting.
- Confidence or interest in using technology selectively and purposefully to enhance English teaching and learning.

The School Offers

- The opportunity to lead English across the full 2–13 age range within a supportive and well-structured leadership model.
- A collaborative team including a Reading Lead, Head of Pre-Prep English, and Upper School Curriculum Lead.
- The chance to shape reading culture and library provision within new, purpose-built facilities.
- A forward-thinking Apple School environment grounded in strong academic tradition.
- Exceptional enrichment opportunities through our central London location.
- Ongoing professional development and leadership growth.
- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
- A vibrant and welcoming school community.

Safeguarding Statement

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Appointments are subject to enhanced DBS clearance and satisfactory references.