



Teacher of Design Technology

The position will be a full-time two-year renewable contract starting August 2019

We have invested in classroom design and facilities which replicate some of the best university learning environments. Led by a Head of DT who is focused on creating design briefs that emphasise the circular economy and sustainability, our young people are inspired as much about their own learning as they are about bringing real solutions to the world. We are looking for an equally talented and passionate teacher of design technology who can fulfill the following brief:

Essential

Excellent teacher

Experience of teaching across the age and ability range (Year 7-13)

Knowledge and experience of teaching MYP, iGCSE, IB Standard and Higher Level or their equivalent (Experience of teaching IBDP is not a necessity, applications are welcome with experience of equivalent programmes such as A level.)

Worked as part of a team to interpret, create and write meaningful assessments

Understands how inquiry learning is applied in the discipline of Design Technology

Knowledge of CAD / CAM or willingness and ability to learn

Desirable

Knowledge and experience of teaching Btec or vocational qualifications

Flexibility and experience to teach across all material areas

Passion for and ability to enthuse students in new and emerging technologies

All teachers at West Island School are tutors to a group of approximately 15 students within a particular year group.

Our students

Our students are well motivated, ambitious for themselves and for the whole school community. There are 882 students pre 16 and 334 students split evenly between Year 12-13 in post 16. Together they represent over 37 different nations: 31% British, 16% Hong Kong Chinese, 11% Indian, 9% American, 8% Canadian. The main ethnic backgrounds are 31% Chinese, 24% Caucasian, 16% Indian and 15% Eurasian.

The majority of our students come from our partner school, Kennedy Primary School, also located in the Pokfulam area. 150 students will transfer to Year 7 each year and a further 30 applications will be accepted from a healthy waiting list to establish year groups of 180 learners.

Entry to the school is automatic for learners who are already enrolled in Kennedy School or other ESF primary schools. For external applicants, our only criteria is that learners must be able to benefit from an English medium education assessed through a maths and English comprehension paper. That said, we admit students who are not native speakers and can clearly acquire English through our EAL programmes by the time they reach external examination points in Year 11 and Year 13.

Due to the nature of our expatriate population, a number of students will return to boarding schools (in the UK after Year 9 and in Australia and New Zealand after Year 10). About 160 learners will continue from Year 11 into Year 12. In any one year between 10-20 students will be new joiners to the school in Year 12 to begin their post 16 learning pathway. Typically, there are between 160-170 learners in both Year 12 and Year 13 cohorts.

Our students have an ability profile similar to a typical independent school, however, there is a full spread of ability and teachers must differentiate across the full ability range of learners needs. Notably, a number of students have profound learning needs as we have 24 student places in our Learning Centre. Learners will have needs across the SEN spectrum including Autism, dyslexia, ADHD. Students follow personalised programmes and varying levels of integration into our mainstream.

Our diversity is our strength.

Student achievements

In 2018, the average IB score was 36, significantly ahead of the world average and very strong progress measures using CEM benchmark data. 56% of grades at iGCSE are A*-A.

We also cater for a cohort of students who achieve highly in Btec Qualifications and the vast majority attain D*-D grades. We are committed to a vocational alternative in the upper school with qualifications offered in Engineering, Performing Arts, Business, Hospitality and Sports. We value flexibility and personalisation to aid student choice at all times. Post 16 students in our Learning Centre will have highly personalised pathways drawing from all of our programmes.

As a result, our students are able to access the universities of their choice.

Our accreditations

The school has been accredited with CIS/WASC since 2012 and is currently undergoing a further accreditation under the International Protocol after a successful preparatory evaluation.

Our teaching staff

We employ 174 full time staff at the school who represented over 16 different nationalities.

101 staff are faculty members, 77% English 9% Chinese.
73 further support staff with 64% Chinese, 20% British, 6% Filipino.

You will find your colleagues to be pro-active, passionate about our students, adaptable and supportive of you in both the school and Hong Kong. It is indeed, an exciting place to live and work.

Our wider foundation

The English Schools Foundation is the largest foundation in South East Asia. Altogether there are 22 schools including 5 Secondary Schools, 2 all through schools, Kindergarten and Primary Schools – all of which are distributed throughout the territory.

The Foundation enjoys a special place in the history and culture of Hong Kong and educates over 19,000 students annually. Our size means that we benefit from a large network of motivated and willing professionals who share across the foundation and learn from each other. It also means that there are growth opportunities within the same education system to develop your career.

CPD opportunities

West Island School is a rewarding environment to pursue your career as a teacher and leader. We prioritise professional development and are engaged in appreciative inquiry developing our own practice as a community of teachers who learn from each other.

As part of ESF, we also benefit from an extensive CPD programme provided through ESF Centre which draws from the world's best researchers and trainers to upskill our leaders and teaching teams.

Recent History at West Island School

We are currently in our candidacy year for MYP which will be a three year programme between Year 7-Year 9 so it would be useful but not essential if you are able to make an active contribution to this change. You do not need a detailed knowledge of the curriculum, but a willingness to learn and an empathy for inquiry based learning approaches. Students complete iGCSE courses in Years 10-11 before moving onto the IB or IBCP Programme in Year 12. Some of our students will complete Btec only programmes depending on their destination and interest.

Finally, there are a range of extra-curricular events and activities which every teacher is expected to contribute to. Many activities are based on teacher's own interests or in support of students who are leading activities within school. We would be interested to know what you may be able to contribute to the wider life of our school.

In return for your passion and delivering a quality education, English Schools Foundation offer a highly competitive salary, gratuity, housing allowance, passage, healthcare and subsidised school places for your children. Our strength as part of a foundation means that we offer security and the opportunities that are inherent in an established organisation of our size.

Please refer to the ESF recruitment website as well as our own school based website for further information. Do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information about the school or living in Hong Kong.

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