

FRENCH LANGUAGE ASSISTANT

CANDIDATE INFORMATION ACK
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INTRODUCTION

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and engaging French Language Assistant to join the Modern Languages Department at Repton School. This is an excellent opportunity for a fluent French speaker to help pupils develop confidence, accuracy and spontaneity in spoken French, while sharing an authentic understanding of contemporary French language and culture.

Working principally with GCSE and A-level pupils, the successful candidate will deliver individual and small-group conversation sessions, support preparation for speaking examinations and work closely with French teachers to complement learning in the classroom. The role would suit someone who enjoys working with young people, communicates with warmth and clarity, and is keen to contribute to the life of a busy and purposeful boarding school.

Repton is one of the UK's leading co-educational boarding and day schools. The School combines high academic expectations with a rich programme of sporting, creative and co-curricular opportunities, enabling pupils to develop their interests and ambitions in a community characterised by shared endeavour and a strong sense of belonging.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Repton is a wonderful and inspiring place to work: one of the UK's foremost co-educational boarding and day schools. Set in the heart of the English countryside, yet within easy reach of major cities, the School is strengthened by a history that stretches back over a thousand years, while remaining firmly focused on meeting the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century.

Modern Languages have an important place within Repton's academic life. They enable pupils to communicate with confidence, deepen their understanding of other cultures and develop the curiosity and breadth of outlook that are essential in an increasingly connected world.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic French Language Assistant who will bring authentic language and cultural insight to the Department. Working closely with pupils and colleagues, the successful candidate will help pupils develop fluency and confidence in spoken French and prepare effectively for public examinations.

This role offers a rewarding opportunity to join a collegiate department within a busy and purposeful school community. We are looking for someone who combines strong interpersonal skills with enthusiasm for French language and culture, and who will encourage pupils to communicate with increasing independence, accuracy and enjoyment.

Repton has undergone a significant programme of investment and expansion across both the Senior and Preparatory Schools in recent years. The Repton Family of Schools now includes 11 schools across the UK and internationally - in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, China, and Egypt - with further developments on the horizon.

These connections not only enhance our global outlook but offer staff professional opportunities well beyond the Derbyshire campus.

We are a school with ambition and purpose, and we seek to appoint staff who share our values. From pioneering pastoral care to nurturing excellence across academic, sporting and creative domains, Repton is a community that thrives on shared endeavour and the belief that education should be both rigorous and joyful.

I very much hope that you will read this document with interest, and I warmly encourage you to apply.

Mark Semmence
Headmaster





AN INTRODUCTION TO REPTON

Repton is a school rooted in heritage and shaped by ambition. Founded in 1557 by Sir John Port of Etwall, the School stands on the site of a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbey and, later, a 12th-century Augustinian priory. The ancient village of Repton, once the capital of the Kingdom of Mercia, has been a centre of learning for over a thousand years, and continues to inspire a rich educational tradition.

Today, many of the School's original buildings remain central to daily life. The Guest Chamber, Prior's Lodging, Overton's Tower, Tithe Barn and the iconic Arch, all part of the original monastic estate, provide a distinctive architectural setting that blends seamlessly with state-of-the-art modern facilities. The Arch, once the gatehouse to the Priory, now stands as a symbol of welcome and integrity, echoed in the School's motto: porta vacat culpa - "the gate is free from blame."

Repton educates over one thousand pupils across its Prep and Senior Schools. It is a school large enough to achieve excellence in every sphere (academic, pastoral, sporting and creative) yet small enough to ensure every pupil is known, nurtured and given the opportunity to flourish. At Repton, all pupils - whether day or boarding - belong to one of ten Houses (six for boys, four for girls), each providing a strong sense of identity, belonging and pastoral care.

Academic standards are high and creative activities, including music, art, drama and design, flourish. The School has a national profile in sport, in particular in football, hockey, cricket and swimming. Our pupils thrive both in and out of the classroom and they develop the skills, qualities and values that will lead to a successful life.

We were delighted that the most recent ISI inspection (March 2024) found Repton to have met *all* standards, and highlighted sport as a significant strength of the school. The inspectors praised the inclusive, expert-led provision and its contribution to pupils' physical and personal development, noting that our approach cultivates "self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience to prepare them well for later life." Inspectors also praised the School's "knowledgeable and skilled teachers" who deliver "carefully planned lessons that support and challenge pupils of all abilities." Inspectors noted that pupils are "thoroughly prepared for public examinations and achieve well," with teaching that actively encourages intellectual curiosity and independent thinking.

Whilst Repton is undoubtedly modern in terms of practice and outlook, the traditional values of encouraging pupils to aim high whilst showing respect for all are still of utmost importance. The School continues its strong educational vision, recognising the importance of being able to offer a Repton education to potential pupils from all backgrounds by providing scholarships and bursaries in a wide range of subjects.

Repton Prep, located on its own beautiful campus nearby, is an integral part of the Repton educational journey and a key member of the Repton Family of Schools. It shares our values, ambition and standards, and offers a seamless transition for many pupils into the Senior School. Alongside Repton Prep, the School has developed strong relationships with a growing number of other preparatory schools within the Repton Family of Schools, as well as with a wide range of leading feeder schools locally, regionally and internationally. These relationships are carefully cultivated and mutually valued, enriching our intake and creating opportunities for collaboration and shared development.



A GLOBAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

The Repton Family of Schools represents a bold and ambitious extension of Repton's educational vision, combining tradition and innovation to create a global network of schools committed to excellence. The first international school, Repton Dubai, opened in 2007, making Repton one of the earliest British schools to establish an overseas campus. Since then, the family has grown to include schools in Dubai (2), Abu Dhabi (2), China, and Egypt, with a further four international openings planned in the years ahead.

Repton also has six schools in the UK: Repton, Repton Prep, Marlborough House Vinehall, St Hugh's, St Wystan's and Bowdon Prep - each one offering a distinctive local experience while sharing the core values and educational ethos of the wider group. There is a clear ambition to expand this UK family of schools, increasing access to a Repton education within the UK as well as overseas.

This growth is central to Repton's strategic development. The additional income and intellectual capital generated by the Repton Family of Schools (RFS) directly support the School's aim to widen access through bursaries, invest in outstanding facilities, and strengthen staff development. Furthermore, the group enables Reptonians and staff to participate in collaborative and cultural exchange opportunities across continents, deepening Repton's global perspective and reach.

The Headmaster of Repton School also serves as CEO of the Repton Family of Schools, ensuring strategic alignment, educational quality and a consistent commitment to values across the group. RFS provides a wide range of expertise - from governance and school design to teacher development and quality assurance - supporting both the integrity and ambition of Repton's global brand.





THE ROLE AND THE DEPARTMENT

Modern Languages is a core subject at Repton, with each pupil taking at least one of French, Spanish or German to GCSE and several taking two in B Block (Year 9). We have a dedicated team of well qualified and enthusiastic teachers who teach our amazing pupils.

For all three languages, we teach the AQA GCSE and A Level specifications. We have dedicated language assistants for each language, who support both Lower and Upper School classes.

The successful candidate will support spoken French across the full ability range, from B Block (Year 9) through to Upper Sixth. They will be collegiate in spirit, passionate about language learning and able to encourage pupils to communicate confidently, accurately and spontaneously. They will bring authentic linguistic and cultural insight to the Department, with pupil progress at the heart of their work.

The French Language Assistant is responsible to the Head of Modern Foreign Languages, for the provision of French speaking lessons. A highly collaborative nature and strong communication skills are essential, allowing the development of supportive relationships with colleagues and pupils.

This job pack provides a guide to, and general description of, the duties and responsibilities of the French Language Assistant and may be amended. It is not exhaustive, and therefore the French Language Assistant should be willing to undertake any other related tasks, as may be reasonably required by the Head of Modern Foreign Languages.



KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Teaching

- To prepare and deliver weekly individual speaking lessons for Sixth Form pupils, encouraging them to communicate as much as possible in authentic French.
- To support Sixth Form pupils in preparing their individual research projects and take a leading role in preparation for the speaking examination as a whole.
- To liaise closely with teachers in the French department to ensure that speaking lessons for Sixth Form pupils consolidate on their prior learning in their on-timetable French lessons.
- To work closely with teachers for GCSE year groups in giving pupils practice for their GCSE speaking exams.

Hours

The role is anticipated to involve approximately 16 hours per week. Specific working hours will be agreed with the Head of Modern Foreign Languages and may vary from year to year according to the number of pupils studying French in the Sixth Form.

CANDIDATE QUALITIES

Qualifications/Attainment	
A fluent French speaker	***Essential***
Experience of working in a school	***Desirable***
Skills Required	
Ability to create and maintain strong, supportive relationships with pupils and staff.	***Essential***
Strong communication and interpersonal skills	***Essential***
Excellent organisational skills	***Essential***
Collegiality	***Essential***
Willingness to take action to confront issues and overcome problems	***Essential***
Ability to inspire, motivate and support pupils	***Essential***
Clarity of thought	***Essential***
Personal and Professional Qualities	
Willingness to be fully involved in the life of a busy boarding school	***Essential***
Aspirational and empathetic, with a genuine belief in the potential of every pupil.	***Essential***
Resilient, determined and pragmatic.	***Essential***
A creative practitioner	***Essential***
An effective and collaborative team player	***Essential***

WORKING AT REPTON

At the heart of Repton's success is the calibre and commitment of its teachers. The School places great value on its staff and the essential role they play in shaping pupils' academic and personal development. As such, Repton is deeply committed to the professional growth of its staff and invests significantly in their ongoing development as teachers and educators.

Repton combines the historic and the modern with exceptional teaching facilities across its beautiful campus. The heart of the School is a 12th-century Augustinian Priory, but following a major investment programme, teaching now takes place in outstanding, purpose-built environments - including a new Science Priory, the School Theatre, a Mathematics and PE block, the Digital Priory and our new DT and MFL classrooms.

The School also benefits from a world-class Sports Centre, featuring two full sports halls, a strength and conditioning suite, gym, swimming pool, café and hospitality areas - opened in 2019 by Olympic gold medalist Adam Peaty.

Staff at Repton work in well-equipped, spacious classrooms and benefit from a collaborative and supportive staff culture. All are actively involved in boarding and co-curricular life, contributing to the strong sense of purpose and community that defines the School.

In its most recent inspection in March 2024, the ISI inspection praised the School's "knowledgeable and skilled teachers" who deliver "carefully planned lessons that support and challenge pupils of all abilities." Inspectors noted that pupils are "thoroughly prepared for public examinations and achieve well," with teaching that actively encourages intellectual curiosity and independent thinking.



IN AND AROUND REPTON

The Repton Village Community

Repton village itself is a thriving community. The village contains a number of shops, pubs, restaurants and takeaways. It also has its own Post Office and a butcher's shop. There is an active village hall community which has its own community-run café. In addition, Repton School has its own café at the School Sports Centre.

Places of Interest

Repton is situated in the heart of Derbyshire on the northern edge of the National Forest area in rolling countryside. There are many places for walking locally and the Peak District and White Peak area are within easy reach of the village. There are also a number of National Trust properties close by. Places of national interest, such as Chatsworth House, are less than an hour away by car.

Transport Links

Both Derby and Burton-on-Trent have train stations which allow for fast connections to major cities. This includes direct trains from Derby to London. Lichfield Trent Valley also has a direct line to London. There are also excellent links to local airports, including East Midlands and Birmingham.

Close to Major Cities

Repton is within easy reach of a number of major cities. These include Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Candidates should apply through the Repton Recruitment Hub. To submit your application please upload your documents by visiting https://jobsearch.repton.org.uk/

Your application should be accompanied by a covering letter and include the names and addresses of two professional referees. The closing date for applications is **Friday 27th November at midday**.

Interviews will take place in person during the week commencing Monday 30th November.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role please contact Mr Ben Page (Assistant Head Academic, Head of Higher Education and Teacher of French and German), via bpage@repton.org.uk.

SAFEGUARDING AT REPTON

In accordance with the Children Act any appointment to the Repton staff is conditional on criminal records clearance, and the successful candidate will be required to supply the necessary information and documentary evidence. References will be obtained on all candidates called for interview and applicants should be aware that the interview will contain questions relating to the candidates' suitability to work in a post involving children.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment, therefore the following shall be deemed to be included, in addition to the duties that you may be required to perform:

Promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom you are responsible and with whom you come into contact

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 it is a criminal offence for a person over 18 (e.g. teacher, matron, sports coach) to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if the relationship is consensual. This applies where the child is in full-time education and the person works in the same establishment as the child, even if s/he does not teach the child. Moreover, whatever the age of the pupil, a sexual relationship between an employee and a pupil will be considered an abuse of a position of trust and gross misconduct, likely to result in dismissal.





REPTON

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