



Artist in Residence (Part-time, 1 year FTC)

Starting Date: ASAP



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



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, 93% 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 other and with members of staff.

Remuneration

This is a part-time fixed-term position. The school will sponsor the costs of a studio space for an artist for a 12-month period. The AIR will also work for the equivalent of three quarters of a day in the Art Department at MCS during term time, in addition to offering regular twilight workshop opportunities at MRS for small groups of pupils. The $\frac{3}{4}$ day (0.15 Full Time Equivalent) at MCS will be salaried. The full-time equivalent salary is £24,255pa, so



pro-rata to 0.15FTE, this would be £3638.25pa.

Non-teaching staff are automatically enrolled/ can choose to enroll 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

The school is seeking to appoint a part-time Artist in Residence (1 year FTC) from 1st September 2025.

As part of an agreement between Magdalen College School (MCS) and Magdalen Road Studios (MRS), the school will sponsor the costs of a studio space for an artist for a 12-month period. The School will also benefit from access to the MRS gallery space and The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) will offer a series of twilight workshops after school at MRS or MCS for small groups of scholarship pupils leading to two annual exhibitions of pupil work at MRS. The AIR will also produce a piece of work which reflects their practice for permanent display in the school by the end of the academic year. In addition, the AIR will work for three quarters of a day in the Art Department at MCS during term time. This is likely to be from 11am to 6pm on a Thursday (with an hour for lunch) and include joining timetabled lessons, leading Art clubs and societies, and producing materials (newsletters etc.) to inspire pupils.

Department

The Art Department consists of two full time and two part time Art teachers, an Artist in Residence and a full-time technician who form a close-knit team sharing ideas and resources freely. Communication, adaptability, hard work and a good sense of humour

are fundamental to the department's success.

The Art department at Magdalen College School is a busy, vibrant and stimulating area with many pupils choosing to spend a significant amount of time during lunch break and after school working on the development of their projects. We also provide many opportunities for enrichment through photography and scholarship clubs; the weekly life drawing class; trips and visiting artist workshops; the Arts Festival; and entries into local and national competitions. Art is a popular and successful subject and teaching takes place in a suite of four well-lit studios, a darkroom, a computer suite and a DT lab, which are all equipped with interactive screens that wirelessly mirror the teacher's Microsoft Surface. The department has a kiln and three printing presses.

Academic standards are high. In 2024, 44% of GCSE grades were grade 9, 56% were grades 9-8, and 72% were grades 9-7. At A Level, 50% were grade A* and 100% were grades A*-A. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of pupils choosing Art, Art History or Architecture for higher education, with places being offered at the Bartlett (UCL), the

Ruskin (Oxford), Cambridge, Edinburgh, Bath and UAL.

All pupils study Art in Years 7 and 8 for a double period each week, as well as an hour a week of DT. In Year 9 pupils may opt to continue with Art which is then allocated three periods per week. There are usually two or three sets each year for GCSE, and two A Level sets in each of the Sixth Form years. The Lower School classes (Years 7 and 8) cover a broad spectrum of media from drawing to digital media in a range of projects. GCSE pupils follow the AQA Fine Art course and at A Level they follow the AQA Fine Art endorsement. There is no obvious house style at MCS: while a Fine Art stance predominates it is from the premise that developing a traditional skill-set enables pupils to work to their strengths and interests in whichever media suits them – anything is possible, and the final pieces generated range from film, photography, graphics and animation to painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, and site-specific installations.

The Candidate

The successful candidate will:

- take a keen interest in the welfare of pupils;



- show clear commitment to safeguarding children;
- be a well-qualified graduate of Art or a related discipline;
- show clear enthusiasm for the subject and be willing to share and discuss their personal practice;
- independently plan and deliver workshops to pupils of a range of ages in an engaging manner;
- have excellent written and spoken communication skills;
- have sound IT skills;
- have the ability to work collaboratively and effectively as part of a wider team;
- display a high level of attention to detail;
- work hard to support pupil progress;
- be willing to take part in continuing professional development;
- respond positively to feedback;
- understand the safe use of equipment and materials used in the Art department and share responsibility for the safe conduct and good behaviour of pupils in the Art department;
- make frequent, regular and serious use of their studio space, and ensure they work in accordance with the requirements set out by MRS to their tenants;
- produce and present a piece of their own work by the end of their residency (August) to the school with the intention of it being used by MCS for permanent display;
- produce a short, half-termly written report/bulletin, providing an update on how they have used the studio over the preceding months;
- plan and run at least 8 'twilight' workshops over the course of the academic year for groups of pupils. It is expected that these would typically run between 4 and 6pm, to a maximum group size of approximately 12 pupils.

These pupils would typically be those holding Art Scholarships, but there may be opportunities to work with other groups or classes. The core aims of the workshop are to allow pupils to gain insight into the work of a professional artist and the use of their studio space, and to encourage pupils to approach art-making in ways than they might not encounter within a school setting: this might involve collaborative group work, or responding to a more challenging conceptual approach. A workshop might begin with pupils being shown the artist's studio space, and some workshops may take place in the school studios for practical reasons. Twilight workshops might offer stand-alone, one-off activities, or be developed into a series of sessions working towards a more ambitious outcome. MCS staff will organise parental permission and a member of teaching staff will accompany the pupils. Running the session will be the remit of the AIR. Basic equipment and resources can be provided by the School's Art Department, through advance planning and discussion;

- work with the pupils, to assist them in curating, hanging, marketing and critiquing their exhibitions (two per academic year) The arrangement MCS has with MRS includes provision of two, week-long exhibitions in the MRS gallery space. Technician support will be in place to help install the work in advance of the private view;
- in addition to the workshops, be based in the Art Department at Magdalen College School for three quarters of a day per week (likely 11am-6pm, with one hour for lunch, on a Thursday) in term time and engage with pupils and staff fully at these

times. There may be times when this would take the form of a few days one week at the start of term for some intensive planning and delivery of workshops and then none for two weeks at quieter times, for example. There can be some flexibility in establishing which day the AIR will work in the department. While it is expected that this would become fixed after initial discussion, there may be points in the year when variations will be considered, through mutual agreement. Further details:

- Art Society at least once per half term – primary responsibility, supported by other departmental staff – lunchtime (1340-1420)
 - Sixth form focus
 - Arrange visiting speakers
- Practitioners directly or indirectly in creative industries or studying (contacts of the AIR, former pupils, parents etc.)
- Format: lunch (with pupils if desirable), then 20 min talk followed by Q&A, in the Art department
- Other content programmed by the AIR (e.g. reading discussion class, discussion/evaluation of a single image, short film screening, etc.)
- Lower School Art Club – weekly except when there is Art Society – independently run with support from other departmental staff as needed
- Weekly, lunchtimes (1340-1420) in the Art Department
- Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils
- Setting challenges/mini projects or supporting independent work/free choice
- Pupil support
- A key part of the role will be opportunities to meet with pupils to discuss and review their projects, or provide stand-alone skills sessions at the request of teaching staff during their lessons.



- Assist the Head of Art with university mock interviews and portfolio preparation, where relevant
- Newsletter
- An email newsletter
- Published monthly for all ages
 - 'What's on' – Oxford/London and the surrounding area
- Podcasts, suggested reading or YouTube links, Instagram suggestions, etc.
- if taking a CSO group, have responsibility for a group of Lower Sixth Form pupils on Tuesday afternoons while they undertake their placement, and writing the associated formal reports
- perform other such tasks as the Head of Art may reasonably request to ensure the smooth running of the department. This may also include some specialist technical work

The Artist in Residence will report to the Head of Art, and ultimately to the Master





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.





Application Process

Candidates wanting to apply to this vacancy should complete and submit the online application form no later than Midday on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.

Documentation

Candidates should submit their application form and digital portfolio of their work (this could be a link to a website) via the website. Click [here](#)

The complete application should be submitted no later than Wednesday 23rd April, at midday; early applications are highly encouraged.

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 in the week commencing 28th April, which will include a practical activity with pupils. 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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