

Post:	Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) – Hockey, Rugby or Netball specialist
Line Manager:	Assistant Head Co-Curricular
Hours of Work:	Approximately 50 hours per 7-day week with a 24-hour period off. Term time only
Salary:	Depending on experience
Start date:	26 th August 2025 (one-year contract with a possible extension for a second year)
Location	Dean Close School

The Role

The School is seeking to appoint a number of enthusiastic post-graduate students, who may be considering a career in teaching. Under the line management of the Assistant Head Co-Curricular, the GTA role is pivotal in providing sporting and academic support for pupils, a top-class evening and weekend activity programme, contributing to the academic life of the school and being an integral part of the boarding community. Graduates from a variety of academic disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Duties

The role demands flexibility and adaptability from the successful candidates, but the main duties and responsibilities include:

Pastoral role

- You will be allocated to a boarding house where you will take a share of boarding house duties during the week, evenings and weekends and supporting the houseparent (HsM) and tutor team.
- You will participate in team tutoring a small group of pupils helping them with their academic progress, co-curricular commitments and pastoral issues.
- You will also be required to assist with duties and pupils in the Day House Village.
- You will be integral in helping the HsMs in organising and supervising House events such as House Evenings and tutor outings.

Co-curricular expectations

- Depending on your personal aptitude and experience, you will assist with the delivery of learning outside of the academic classroom in areas such as sport, music, drama and art.

- A major part of your role will be coaching, running teams, officiating at matches and travelling to away fixtures as appropriate in hockey, tennis, cricket, netball and/or rugby as well as minor sports.
- Alongside fixtures you will also support the scholars programme and support the work of the Director of Strength and Conditioning by supporting sessions and overseeing students work in a gym environment.
- You will be expected to participate fully in the co-curricular programme at the school, running or assisting with societies and extra-curricular activities including some 6th form specific events, as appropriate.
- You will be key in the provision of the evening and weekend activities programme. Availability for most term-time weekends, including soft exeat, is expected.

Academic involvement

- You can expect to be affiliated to an academic department relevant to your degree. Starting with lesson observations and progressing to team or small group teaching you can assess whether a teaching career is for you.
- There will be opportunities to provide academic support to pupils and departments outside the classroom such as field trips, departmental visits and pupil clinics and possibly trips overseas.
- A significant part of your role is the supervision of workrooms and lessons during a teacher's absence.
- You may be required to invigilate public and internal exams.
- Dean Close School is part of the Cheltenham Educational Partnership which includes both state and independent schools. There are likely to be opportunities to get involved in CEP events throughout the year.
- Several internationally renowned festivals take place in Cheltenham every year. As a GTA you will be encouraged to accompany groups to participate in or watch festival events as appropriate.

Whole school commitments

- You will be required to assist with school duties particularly in the Dining Hall.
- GTAs are members of the Common Room so are expected to attend staff meetings and INSET.
- You may occasionally be required by the Health Centre to escort pupils to hospital or other appointments and provide overnight cover.
- There may be an occasional requirement to accompany international pupils to or from airports at the beginning or end of terms.
- Other duties will be required from time to time which are deemed as appropriate by the Deputy Head Pastoral.

Dean Close is a seven-day-a-week boarding school so the successful candidates must be prepared to take a full part in the school community during the 34 weeks of term time. Consequently, this post requires full weekly, evening and weekend commitments, including exeat, however each GTA is timetabled to have 24 hours off during the week.

There will be training, formally and informally, in a variety of aspects of modern teaching and coaching practice. The school frequently requires assistance with lifeguarding (for extra payment) so successful candidates are encouraged to acquire training. Other professional training opportunities may well be available.

Person Specification

- Qualified to degree level or beyond in an appropriate subject.
- Enthusiastic about boarding school life and all it entails.
- A keen interest in education and considering a career in teaching or coaching.
- Able to assist with major (hockey, netball, rugby, tennis or cricket) and minor sports.
- A desire to work with young people and be empathetic to their needs.
- ICT literate.
- Enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised.
- Confident, proactive with a helpful and flexible approach.
- Able to demonstrate initiative and creativity.
- Ability to work well in a team and alone, with minimum supervision, maintaining a professional and enthusiastic approach.
- Ability to communicate effectively with all colleagues.

Terms and Conditions

Accommodation will be provided throughout the year with all meals during term-time. This post requires full weekly, evening and weekend commitments during term-time, however 24hrs time off will be provided during the week. There are substantial holidays at Christmas, Easter and in the summer in addition to Half Term weeks.

GTAs are encouraged to participate in school CPD, and consideration will be given to those wishing to complete sporting or other qualifications away from school.

Dean Close School has both a professional coach and a professional tutor on the staff. GTAs are encouraged to avail themselves of these services if they would like to.

Dean Close would seek to support GTAs who are interested in pursuing a Graduate Teaching Programme with a recognised institution if the subject choice can be accommodated.

Staff expectations

The Dean Close Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

- Work towards and support the Dean Close Foundation vision and ethos.
- Support and contribute to the Foundation's responsibility for safeguarding pupils.
- Work within the Foundation's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, students and visitors.

- Promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff, both current and prospective.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties required that are related to the job purpose from time to time.

Application process

Closing date: 1st March 2025 but early application is encouraged

Initial interviews will be conducted via Teams as soon as possible after application

Please use TES Quick Apply. Any queries regarding the role should be submitted to recruitment@deanclose.org.uk