

Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering applying for the position of part time member of the Facilities Team to work mainly as a gardener. At this time, we are looking for experienced and self-reliant team members as this opportunity has arisen due to the retirement of long-serving member of the team.

We are a successful, forward-thinking, co- educational independent school with a long tradition of developing and promoting individual talent and encouraging high aspirations within an environment of continuous improvement. Our history dates back to the 14th century, but we are also very much an innovative and forward-looking school that combines a strong focus on academic excellence with a rich co-curricular programme to enable our pupils to 'discover who they are' and unlock their potential in a school with a strong sense of community. The School continues to challenge itself on how we deliver our education services (recent years have seen the launch of a kindergarten, the establishment of a transport division, the opening of an international boarding house, and the deployment of iPads).

This role is within the Estates Team within our broad Facilities Department, and will mainly be focusing on tending to the gardens, plants and shrubs although wider support for the Department may be required at busy times. This is a part time contract of 15 hours per week.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a someone to join our team

If this role represents the type of opportunity and challenge which excites you, and you believe you have the necessary skills and experience to work with an excellent team, then we would be pleased to receive your application and give it serious consideration.



Barnaby Rimmer

Headmaster

About the School and location

Wisbech Grammar School (WGS) is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school located near the centre of the historic town of Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, on a green site of 35 acres beside the River Nene which runs through the town. The School offers a broad, high-quality education with excellent pastoral care for around 590 children aged 3-18. It is predominantly a day School but, in recent years, has started to take a limited number of boarders, mainly from China.

The School is located on a single site with the Prep School and the Senior School sharing the same buildings and extensive playing fields. The Kindergarten was established in 2018.

The School is well-equipped with modern facilities for academic learning and co-curricular activities, and it has an ambitious programme for continued renewal. Wisbech is a historic market town with a royal charter in north Cambridgeshire and it straddles the River Nene, roughly halfway between Peterborough and King's Lynn. The town has a population of just over 36,000 and there are good road links to Cambridge, Norwich and Peterborough. The fast East Coast rail line runs twice hourly services from Peterborough to London in well under an hour. There are regular services to the East and West Midlands, and the North. Forty minutes to the north of Wisbech are the beautiful sandy beaches of North Norfolk coastline and the Sandringham estate. Easy access to lively urban centres combined with its proximity to areas of natural beauty, make Wisbech a highly desirable area to live.

History and development

WGS was founded as a school for boys in 1379, making it one of the oldest Schools in the country. It was established by the Guild of the Holy Trinity, a group of scholars who were highly influential in developing the social and economic life of the town in the Middle Ages.

WGS has been a cornerstone of the town over many centuries and its presence was a vital factor in the granting of a Charter for Wisbech in 1549.

Since its establishment, change has been in the DNA of Wisbech Grammar. It has occupied a number of sites within the town over its evolution. In 1905 Wisbech High School was established to provide the same educational opportunities for girls as boys enjoyed at the Grammar School. The two Schools developed concurrently until they were merged in 1970, when the boys school moved across the river Nene to its current location today.

In 2018, WGS launched its International strategy and welcomed its first international pupils the following year as the school evolved once again from a day school to a boarding School. January 2020 saw the opening of a second boarding house and there is now capacity for 28 boarding pupils as well as homestay placements.

September 2019 saw the expansion of our Early Years setting to offer more classrooms and bringing the spaces up to date with the most modern technology available. There has been a demand from the local community to offer more spaces in Kindergarten and Reception.

Application process

To apply please download an application and equality form from our website www.wisbechgrammar.com. Your application should include a letter stating how you meet the job description addressed to Mr Barnaby Rimmer, Headmaster.

Please send postal applications for the attention of HR, Wisbech Grammar School, Chapel Road, Wisbech, PE13 1RH or send by e-mail to HR@wisbechgrammar.com

Closing date: Applications must be received by 1 March 2026

If you are interested, then please make contact with us. The School is happy to accept early applications by CV initially, and can organise an informal conversation to share insight into the role.

The School reserves the right to close this vacancy earlier than the date above if the right candidate is found, so please act immediately rather than waiting for the final deadline.

Wisbech Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS check, satisfactory references and a medical.

Safeguarding:

Wisbech Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all its staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The post holder must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including reference checks with previous employers and a criminal record check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)



Job Title	Facilities Operative
Reports to	Facilities Manager
Hours of Work	<p>Part time working hours are 15 hours per week, between the hours of 0800 – 1300 Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but the post holder will be expected to work those hours that are necessary to fulfil the responsibilities of the role and the needs of the school. This may require some evening and weekend work (linked to School events). There is an option for standardised weekend/evening working hours in lieu of weekday core hours and this can be effective to enable work to be completed in teaching spaces when the School is not in session.</p> <p>Please note the School may be willing to consider flexibility of hours for the right candidate – especially if willing to work over weekends.</p>
Holidays	<p>School holidays 30 days pro rata less 5 days which will be used when the school closes for the Christmas Holiday.</p> <p>Holiday to be taken at any time in agreement with your Line Manager. As the school holidays are the busiest time for the Estates team, the school prefer staff to take 50% of their Holiday during school term time, so that we can maximise the work we can achieve during the Holiday periods.</p>
Probation	In accordance with School policy, this appointment will be subject to a six-month probationary period.
Medical	<p>The offer of appointment at Wisbech Grammar School will be conditional upon the provision of medical information which satisfies the School.</p> <p>Please note that all School buildings operate a no-smoking policy.</p>
Benefits	<p>Wisbech Grammar School provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Defined Contribution Pension Scheme to which the employer provides a 5% contribution to match the 5% employee contributionFee discounts for dependent children.
Data Protection:	<p>In the course of employment at Wisbech Grammar School, staff may have access to confidential information relating to pupils and their families and are required to exercise due consideration in the way they use such information.</p> <p>Staff should not act in any way which might be prejudicial to the School's interest. Information which may be included in the category covers both the general business of the school and information regarding specific individuals.</p> <p>A strict code of confidentiality must be adhered to at all times.</p> <p>Wisbech Grammar School is registered under the Data Protection Act 2018 and staff must not at any time use the personal data held by the school or disclose such data to a third person.</p>



Principle Role

We are seeking an experienced Grounds Operative with good all-around skills to carry out this role whilst contributing and supporting across the whole Facilities team, and should expect to have interactions with staff, pupils, visitors, external bookings and all school users.

Details Role – specific role grounds task

- Maintaining the grassed areas of the site including Mowing, strimming, edging lawns, turf repair, aeration, seeding and top dressing.
- Maintaining flower beds, shrubs, trees, and hedges including digging, forking, mulching, watering, raking, weeding, edging, pruning, seed sowing, bed preparation and cultivation and seasonal planting.
- Maintain and cultivate site greenhouses and polytunnel ensuring cuttings, seeds, plug plants, planting, bringing on hardening and planting out is kept up.
- Seasonal planting and landscaping, ensuring the school site is at its best at all times of the year including Waste and litter removal, pest and weed control (in line with regulations) and assisting with minor construction and landscaping work.
- Keeping paths, entrances, and outdoor areas safe and clear of leaves, debris and detritus including lawns, paths, playgrounds, steps, drains and gullies and if required sports pitches and playing fields.
- Gritting and snow clearance and salt spreading as required.
- Identifying and reporting hazards (trip risks, damaged surfaces, fallen branches)
- Safe operation of grounds machinery and tools including routine checks, cleaning, and basic maintenance of equipment and, if discovered, reporting faults and arranging repairs
- Use cylinder and rotary mowers, petrol based mechanical tools eg hedge cutter, strimmer, leaf blowers, as required to carry out grounds maintenance.
- Adjust mower height as required to ensure quality of cut in line with growth. Routinely checks mower for damage and oil levels to ensure safe usage.
- Sustainable practices (water use, biodiversity support)
- Regular site inspections and asset identification including external planters, benches, tables, bins, outdoor structures and play equipment.
- Recording work completed and issues identified and identifying and recommending improvements to work systems, staff and machinery utilisation as required.
- Liaising with facilities teams, contractors, or site managers to assist in setting up outdoor areas for events or activities
- Supporting emergency or adverse-weather responses and assisting with wider estates or facilities tasks as required

Health & Safety

- Ensure all COSH, Risk Assessments and Method statements (RAMS) are up to date and relevant to the materials and task being completed and ensure all staff are fully aware of the RAMS and follow them when working.
- Ensure that you are fully trained on the equipment and understand the COSH for the Materials used.
- Ensure that CDM regulations are followed at all times in all our larger or complex projects



Other duties

- Maintenance operatives are expected to be on the school Call out list for out of hour's emergency call outs, to respond to Intruder and fire alarm activations. They will be supported in this by school staff living on site and Custodians.
- The wider Facilities team often need to be set up in different configurations of seating and table layouts to meet the demands of the school timetable. This is usually completed by the Custodians, but at times the Maintenance Operatives are required to assist with this.
- Any other tasks of a similar nature which might reasonably be requested by the Senior Team

Meetings and staff

- Daily team meeting with Estates Services Team, weekly Facility Manager Meetings.
- Work closely with other Facilities team staff to ensure work is allocated fairly.
- Support facilities staff, school staff and pupils when required.

Initiative and flexibility will be key attributes of the successful candidate. Initiative is required to ensure the impact of issues arising are analysed and managed, and where needed information passed onto the Facilities Manager for appropriate action to be taken as necessary. Proactivity is required to ensure processes are continually under review to deliver high quality services across the team, and provide timely and useful information to aid whole school decision making.

The School is very busy and involves periods of working to tight deadlines and schedules. It offers diverse and varied duties and a friendly and supportive staff.

We expect all members of staff to act as ambassadors for Wisbech Grammar School in promoting the School positively when interacting with pupils, parents, staff and visitors.

This list of duties and responsibilities is not exhaustive; it is an indication of the main areas of focus and responsibility. It may be amended in consultation with the holder without change to the level of responsibility or remuneration appropriate to the post.



Attributes	PERSON SPECIFICATION Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge and Experience	Excellent Computer Skills in Excel, Outlook, Word		x
	Experience of grounds maintenance		x
	Excellent Health & Safety Knowledge and ability to apply this to all work	x	
	Excellent Training skills.		x
	General gardening skills	x	
Personal job related skills	Excellent communication skills including adjustment to meet the needs of the target audience (staff, teachers, parents, pupils).	x	
	Able to communicate accurate, timely and digestible information to senior staff together with explanations and recommendations	x	
	Able to deal confidently with internal and external people, in person, by phone and by email	x	
	Excellent numerical and literacy skills		x
	Desire to continually improve in all that is done	x	
	Management of a diverse workload, prioritise and keep to deadlines	x	
	Ability to work on own initiative and as part of a team when required	x	
	Flexibility to react to the high pace demands of school life	x	
	High professional standards	x	
	Energetic, enthusiastic and hard working	x	
	Good sense of humour and endless patience	x	
	Understanding and appreciation of confidentiality	x	
Qualifications	GCSE Maths , English		x
	Trade qualification in landscaping, grounds management		x
Other	Commitment to the priorities and values of the School	x	
	The work is at times is Physically demanding, therefore staff need to be Physically fit and in good health.	x	
	Able to work at height on occasions		x
	Excellent time keeping.	x	
	Understanding, acceptance and commitment to the school's policies on equal opportunities, health and safety and quality assurance.	x	
	Knowledge and understanding of customer care and commitment of excellent customer care throughout the school.	x	

