



APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

WREKIN PREP (FORMERLY OLD HALL PREP SCHOOL)





THE OPPORTUNITY

Old Hall is Shropshire's oldest prep school, which today occupies purpose-built facilities on a stunning and extensive campus in the small market town of Wellington. Old Hall is a non-selective day school and educates approximately 220 girls and boys, aged 4 to 11. It is part of the Wrekin Old Hall Trust, and shares the campus with Wrekin College, a senior day and boarding school for pupils aged 11 to 18. Many of the pupils educated at Old Hall move through to Wrekin at 11, and from September 2025 Old Hall will become Wrekin Prep making this close association even more clearly defined.

The Governors and Head of Wrekin are ambitious for Old Hall and seek to attract a prep school Head who will work with them to build on Old Hall's strong reputation and success, increasing numbers, whilst also identifying and realising new opportunities. They are keen to ensure Old Hall continues to move forwards as a vibrant educational environment, building on recent changes and developments made under the current Head's leadership.

Candidates must be excited by the opportunity to lead a school which focuses on enabling each child to fulfil their potential, and one where there is a strong family feel, a real warmth and huge strength of community. They will also understand the strategic ambition around bringing the two schools together and see the critical role that the Prep School plays in preparing pupils for the future as they start their Wrekin journey. They will continue to develop and strengthen the ways in which the two schools work together, which is a particular priority as the school transitions formally to Wrekin Prep. There will be a small teaching element to the role.

Candidates should have an evident enjoyment of prep school communities and educating younger children and demonstrate the ability to build, develop and lead teams effectively. They will also have a warm and engaging style and be excited by the opportunity to have a small teaching role within the school.

The Head needs to be a visible leader and presence in the School and externally, as well as working collaboratively with others at Wrekin College and across the Wrekin Old Hall Trust.

OLD HALL & THE WIDER FAMILY

The Wrekin Old Hall Trust comprises Old Hall School and Wrekin College. The two schools are overseen by a single Governing Body, with both Heads submitting reports to and attending meetings of the Full Governing Body. Old Hall and Wrekin College are located on the same 120-acre campus but retain individual identities and operational control. In addition to attending Governing Body meetings, the Head of Old Hall will also participate in relevant committees of the Board.

From September 2025, Old Hall School will be renamed Wrekin Prep as part of the Trust's strategic move to strengthen its position as an all-through school providing education for children aged 4 to 18. The Head of Wrekin Prep will report to the CEO and Head of Wrekin College, Toby Spence, and be part of his senior leadership team while having the autonomy to provide vision and direction for the prep school. The Trust operates a 'one-school' approach to professional services, with both Heads supported by shared bursarial, admissions, marketing, and enterprise functions. The Head of Wrekin Prep will develop a strong working relationship with the leaders of these areas, including the Chief Financial Officer. The schools also share a Chaplain and Chapel, along with extensive campus facilities such as the sports' hall, fields, astroturfs, and swimming pool.

Old Hall has historically prepared pupils for a range of senior schools across the independent and maintained sectors. Whilst this will, on occasion, continue, the school is formalising its strong existing link with Wrekin College, where most pupils already continue their education and experience a well-supported transition to senior school life. The name change reflects the natural progression many families already choose while ensuring that Old Hall—soon to be Wrekin Prep—retains its own identity and strong feeder relationships with other senior schools. This evolution is evidence of the Trust's commitment to providing a high-quality, seamless education and stability for families as the independent education sector faces increasing challenges.



ABOUT OLD HALL



Founded in 1845, Old Hall prides itself on being a progressive school, which also represents the traditions of all that is best in education; a community committed to a holistic and varied curriculum and the belief that every child has talents which need to be identified and developed. Pupils are encouraged to develop a desire to learn, to think for themselves and to aim high in setting their own personal goals. Achievement and individuality are recognised and celebrated in many ways both inside and outside the classrooms; the children are encouraged to recognise and appreciate each other's achievements, celebrate success modestly and accept disappointment with grace.

We were delighted to receive Excellent in our latest ISI inspection. This is a true testament to every pupil, parent and staff member who is part of the Old Hall family, and reflects what all members of Old Hall already know; that Old Hall is an excellent school which offers children a first-rate education, both academically and pastorally.

To read the full inspection report please click [here](#).



Pupils have an excellent attitude to their learning and are enthusiastic and eager to learn. In all lessons seen, pupils exhibited very high levels of engagement and concentration, focused very well on their tasks and were eager to contribute their ideas and produce the best work that they could. Leaders and staff effectively promote pupils' positive attitudes towards learning. These, in turn, strongly support the development of pupils' independence, initiative and ability to face up to challenges.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE REPORT 2023



Parents praise the school for being 'nurturing' and 'family oriented' and believe this goes a long way in building confidence and a 'have a go' mentality in their children. They also like the through link to Wrekin College – they share the same site and pupils increasingly use their facilities, notably the sports halls, indoor pool and chapel

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE 2023

APPROACH TO EDUCATION

Old Hall School believes in exceptional, educational experiences for all. With a broad and balanced forward-thinking and innovative curriculum, the School aims to build the foundations upon which all learning will be built. It is these foundations, built from the beginning of a child's educational journey, that will ensure the strength of all that follows them. The vision is to offer an education without boundaries or ceilings, where children can be children in a safe and happy environment. At its core, is the aim of enabling every child and adult in the community to be the very best that they can be. Old Hall offers a stimulating and challenging environment where every child is known as an individual and is well supported to fulfil their full potential. High standards of academic achievement are realised within a broad and balanced curriculum which embraces creativity, the arts and sport.

Old Hall School embraces its own broad and balanced curriculum which is exciting, progressive and holistic. The curriculum is enriched by a first-rate co-curricular programme and specialist tuition. Whilst being proudly non-selective, there is a strong tradition of examination success, with 11+ scholarships being regularly awarded to Old Hall pupils for academic strength, Art, Music and Sport. The School also provides a full time Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). Those aspects of learning established in the Lower School (Reception to Year 2) are consolidated during the initial years of the Upper School (Years 3 - 6), and children are encouraged to develop independent learning and study skills which will help them succeed throughout their educational lives. Increasingly, the curricula of Old Hall and Wrekin College are becoming aligned, and our intention is to continue to develop ever closer ties.

As they mature, pupils are given opportunities to demonstrate these skills in numerous ways: problem-solving activities: project work research; analysing written texts; gathering and interpreting evidence and presenting opinions. In short, our curriculum is thoroughly geared towards preparing pupils for the demands of modern day living. We are supported by a forward-thinking IT Department and recently added Innovation Lab with innovation becoming embedded within the curriculum.

Old Hall is a school which values co-curricular education highly. The School offers a full range of music, drama and sport, all of which see thriving numbers and participation. Outdoor education opportunities, as well as team building experiences and residentials are all part of the rich provision on offer. The pupils benefit from access to outstanding facilities which enable this provision to be delivered to a high standard, such as a 25m swimming pool and a Forest School.

For further information about Old Hall, please visit the School's website

www.oldhall.co.uk.



THE ROLE



The Head of Old Hall is responsible for leading the School successfully and effectively and in a way which reflects its ethos and values. Whilst the Head will work closely with Governors, and report to, the CEO / Head of Wrekin College, who has overall responsibility for the two schools, the Head will have a significant degree of autonomy to provide vision and direction to the Old Hall community. The Head will be responsible for ensuring that Old Hall is always compliant and 'inspection ready'.

The Head will be responsible for the effective day to day running of the School and all that this entails, including but not limited to:

Leadership and strategy

- Working closely with the Governors and Head of Wrekin College to deliver the next steps of the strategy for Old Hall as it transitions to Wrekin Prep.
- To work closely with the Governors and Head of Wrekin College to shape a vision for Wrekin Prep as an outstanding Prep School with strong ties into the wider Wrekin College community. To work with others to see that this is delivered effectively and sympathetically.
- To keep abreast of educational developments across the academic, pastoral and co-curricular spectrum and to innovate and introduce change that ensures Old Hall remains a vibrant educational environment
- To lead the School in a way that enables it to provide an outstanding, innovative and ambitious education to its pupils, whilst retaining and fostering its ethos and values
- Being a visible leader across the Old Hall community and wider Wrekin Old Hall Trust

Educational and ethos

- To promote and nurture the special characteristics of Old Hall as well as support and contribute to the educational journey from Prep to Wrekin Sixth Form
- Ensure high academic standards while fostering curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning in all pupils
- Encourage a culture of continuous improvement, supporting staff development and encouraging the use of innovative teaching methods
- Within a Christian framework, to foster a caring and happy ethos with good discipline based on mutual respect, nurturing children's moral, intellectual, sporting, creative and cultural development through the experience of a wide range of group activities
- Maintain and strengthen the school's identity and values within the wider Wrekin College community

Marketing and admissions

- Taking the lead role in marketing Old Hall, working alongside the marketing and admissions departments to deliver on marketing strategies
- Be responsible for pupil recruitment and growth in pupil numbers as well as overseeing the majority of pupils transitioning seamlessly from Year 6 into Wrekin College.
- Meeting and assessing prospective pupils and their families
- Recognising and delivering on the important role which Old Hall plays in Wrekin College's pupil recruitment and seeking to continue to build strong relationships between the two schools
- Providing a welcoming and engaging environment for prospective and current parents, as well as for their children and any other people with whom the School comes into contact

Staff

- Providing the leadership and management structures which ensure that Old Hall's staff are enthused, motivated and equipped to deliver at a high standard
- Providing direct leadership and development to Old Hall's senior management team

- Fostering a culture where professional development and sharing of best practice are celebrated and where strong performance management systems are in place
- Developing systems of management to ensure that the recruitment, development and appraisal of staff is done to a high standard and in a way that befits Old Hall's culture

Regulation and safeguarding

- Ensuring that the School is compliant across all regulatory areas, including safeguarding, working with and through others where appropriate to ensure this is the case
- Leading a culture where the safety and well-being of children and staff is fully understood by all and is effectively delivered
- Leading the School through the inspection cycle and ensuring that the School is 'inspection ready'

Finance, estates and facilities

- Working closely with the Chief Financial Officer, Operations team and other staff to ensure that all financial and other non-teaching related matters are afforded the necessary importance and focus
- Ensuring that Old Hall is run in a financially responsible way with a close eye to recruitment, budgets, scholarships and bursaries.
- Working with the Director of External Relations by thinking commercially about ways in which Old Hall might develop its income streams alongside the wider Wrekin College community.

Other

- Looking outward as well as inward to ensure that Old Hall is engaged with its community in ways which are appropriate for a prep school
- Working as part of a 'one-school' culture and playing a meaningful part in contributing to and developing effective working relationships across the Trust. This includes being part of the Wrekin College senior leadership team

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of responsibilities.

PERSON SPECIFICATION



The Governors and Head of Wrekin wish to encourage applications from senior leaders in schools who are excited by the idea of working with them to lead Old Hall through the next phase of its existence. It is likely that strong candidates will demonstrate the following:

Experience and knowledge

- Leadership experience, gained as part of a school's senior management team, and a strong track record of having managed others effectively; this is likely to have been gained in a junior or prep school, possibly within an 'all-through' educational setting.
- Knows of what excellence looks like in non-selective schools
- Evidence of strong intellect and critical thinking skills and a desire to reflect and better themselves through CPD
- Knowledge of the educational needs of children aged 4 to 11, and has been an inspiring and successful teacher in a junior / prep school
- Experience of innovation
- Strong knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children
- Experience of developing and/or implementing strategic plans
- Change management experience

- Strong understanding of marketing and pupil recruitment
- Business acumen and experience of financial and other resource management
- Experience of the EYFS would be seen as helpful but not essential, but candidates must understand the differences between this phase and other parts of the School

Personal attributes and skills

- Genuinely committed to running an outstanding prep school and ambitious to achieve results which are child-centred
- Strong communication skills
- Excellent relationship builder with a genuine warmth
- Committed to ensuring that the School has a strong culture of safeguarding and has a strong understanding of their own role in ensuring that children are kept safe
- Down to earth and grounded whilst committed to delivering quality and having high standards
- Enjoys close-knit communities and being a visible presence
- Values human relationships and the family feel of a school like Old Hall
- Innovative and creative with the ability to translate ideas into action
- Keeps abreast of educational developments
- Recognises the importance of continued professional development and excellent at developing others
- Naturally collaborative as well as the ability to be authoritative and decisive
- Resilient and able to deal with pressure
- Supportive of Old Hall's ethos, including an understanding of and sympathy with its Christian ethos

APPLICATION PROCESS



Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Wrekin College & Old Hall School on this appointment. Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code TBSNA.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter.

The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 24th February.

Key dates in the process:

- First Round: Tuesday 25th March at the school
- Final Round: Tuesday 1st April at the school

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

Safeguarding

The Wrekin Old Hall Trust Ltd is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to providing equal opportunities in employment. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring list check and other checks appropriate to the appointment. This will include two satisfactory references, as well as checks on prohibition from teaching and prohibition from management of an educational establishment.

