

St Dunstan's
College

APPOINTMENT OF

Director of Sport

SEPTEMBER 2023

St Dunstan's College is a selective, co-educational day school of over 1000 pupils from 3–18. It has existed on its current site since 1888, and has always been associated with educational innovation. It was an early adopter of science and technology education, being the first school in the country to be designed with laboratories. It has continued to move ahead of the times throughout its history. The current programme of wellbeing is a modern iteration of this approach. Co-educational since 1995, the School embraces gender-neutral opportunities for its pupils, not least in its programme of sport and exercise.

Co-Curricular activity, including opportunities to take part in sport, have always been an essential feature in the character of the school. The second Headmaster, Rev Frank Forder, introduced sport and outdoors activities, believing that both mind and body should be educated together. His influence lives on in the innovative, daily programme of activities which bears his name.

The School remains committed to its stated values of courage, creativity, confidence, compassion and curiosity. These are reflected in all aspects of school life, including the approach to sport.

St Dunstan's College is an ambitious, forward-thinking community that champions individuality through a broad, liberal, and academically exciting education, whilst retaining historic traditions. Its success was recognised at the TES Awards 2022, where St Dunstan's became 'Independent Senior School of the Year'.





SPORT AT ST DUNSTAN'S

Pupils are involved in sport and exercise throughout their career at St Dunstan's. The Sport & Exercise Science Department teaches the importance of healthy, active lifestyles; alongside this, all pupils experience culturally significant games. The sports programme diversifies for older pupils, providing a range of games, sports and exercise opportunities.

It is the school's aim that all children have a positive experience of physical activity, that many commit to school sport and all embrace a lifelong love of movement.

The Forder Co-Curricular programme is central to the life of the school. This provides a daily, timetabled 45 minute period, in which a vast array of activities is offered, including sports team preparation. Additional coaching sessions take place before and after the school day, leading to a full programme of competition across the week and on weekends.

The Core Sports are Football, Hockey and Swimming & Endurance. Alongside these, the college offers a range of Development Sports to provide further competitive opportunities for their pupils. A wide range of additional activity and sports opportunities is provided through the Forder Programme. Co-education remains a priority within a sports programme that provides high quality experiences, performances and outcomes for boys and girls.

GCSE and A Level Physical Education are popular subjects, with uptake of GCSE increasing every year, and many continuing to study at A Level and beyond.

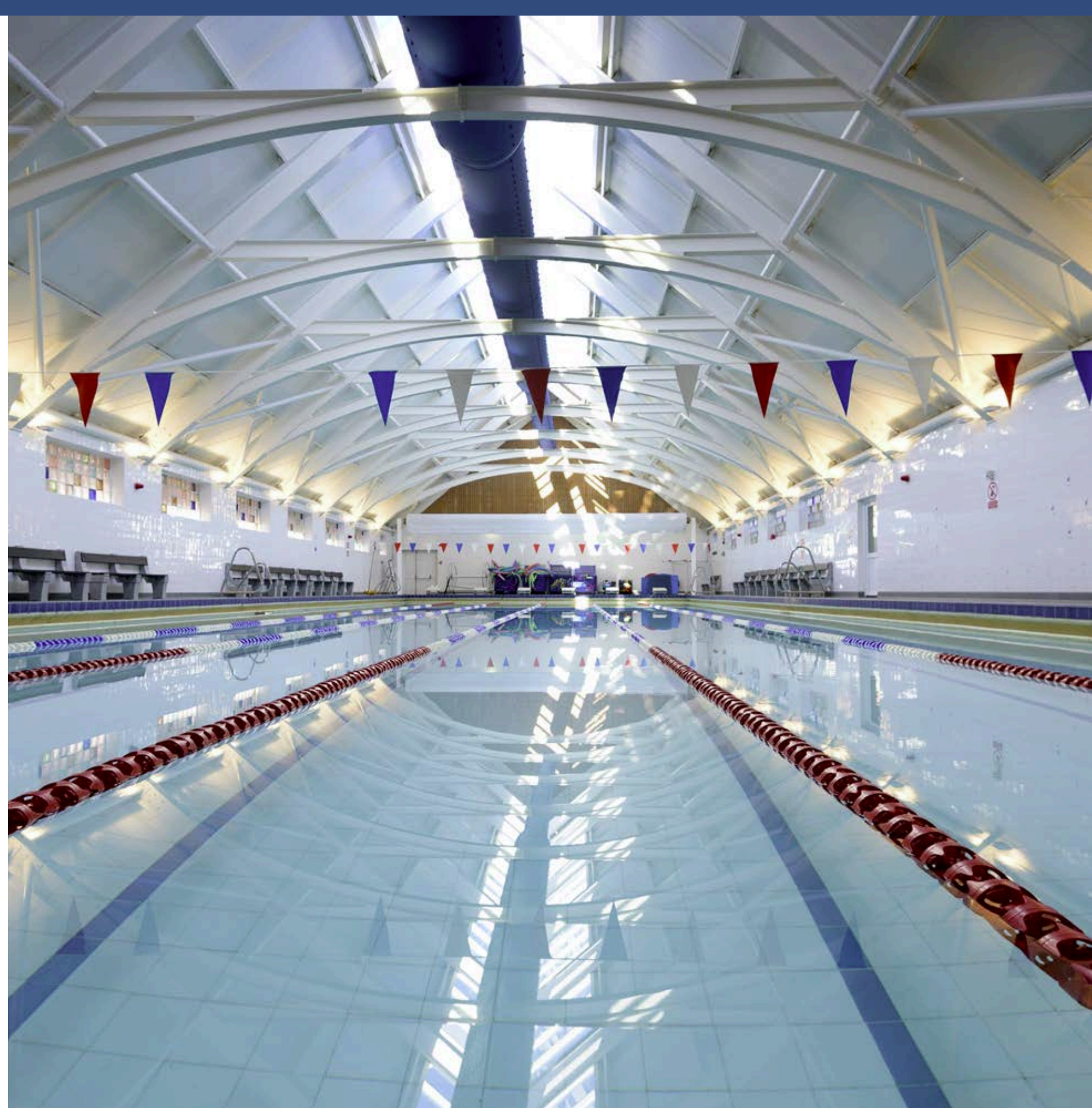
RESOURCES FOR SPORT

The Director of Sport will work closely with the Head of Sport and Exercise Science – who has the status of a Head of Department – and three additional fully qualified teachers of this subject. S/he will also line manage the heads of Core Sports and a team of specialist coaches who contribute to sporting provision, many with strong connections to our local club network. The department are fortunate to have strong support from across the staffroom, with colleagues contributing to the coaching of a diverse array of sports and activities.

Facilities for sport are excellent, and constantly evolving. The main school site has a sports hall, two conditioning spaces, 30m swimming pool, MUGA and grass playing fields. The nearby Jubilee Ground, at Catford Green, developed as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations, has undergone significant recent enhancement. It now features extensive playing fields, all-weather pitches, Hockey AstroTurf, floodlit Netball courts and exercise studio. A large, adjacent pavilion provides bar, café and meeting rooms.

The next stage of development will include a multi-million pound investment, including the building of a new leisure centre on the school site alongside upgrading of other facilities. The incoming Director of Sport will be fully involved in shaping and delivering this project.

St Dunstan's is a forward-thinking school which aims to provide high quality experiences, supported by sector-leading resources.





DIRECTOR OF SPORT ROLE

The Director of Sport will lead on all aspects of the strategy for sport across the College. S/he will have the vision and personality to deliver an outstanding programme of sport and exercise, which impacts positively on all pupils in this high-achieving school. The ability to galvanise a large sports staff behind a coherent ambition will be essential.

The successful candidate will inspire staff and pupils to be fully involved in a high quality programme. Managing parental communications will be equally important. S/he will have a clear commitment to enabling the most able and dedicated athletes to achieve at a high level, whilst maintaining an inclusive environment which provides a broad programme to engage pupils of all interests and abilities. Promoting the profile of health and fitness will be a significant part of the role, alongside encouraging positive attitudes to physical and mental health.

Establishing systems for monitoring and evaluating all aspects of sports participation and performance will be important. This will involve close collaboration with a number of key colleagues, including the Assistant Head Co-Curricular, Head of Sport and Exercise Science and the Head of Sport in the Junior School.

Equally significant will be the management of external relationships with a range of organisations and partners. These will include NGBs, elite player pathways, external users, partner schools and professional organisations. St Dunstan's seeks to maintain a leading place within the world of sport in education and to contribute to the national debate in the subject.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be a dynamic, forward-thinking man or woman. They will have a good understanding of the mechanisms of promoting achievement in competitive sport, together with a knowledge of the pathways and processes of high performance. Experience of sport within education will be an advantage.

The Director of Sport will have meticulous attention to detail, ensuring the efficient operation of an extensive and complex programme. The capacity to manage a large department is essential, leading from the front whilst maintaining appropriate records, processes and accountability. Learning walks, lesson observations and appraisal will be part of this process: experience of this would be helpful.

A degree (in any subject) and teaching/coaching qualifications are desirable. Experience of leading people would be advantageous, as would an understanding of managing parents in a sports environment. A strong work ethic, personal organisation and a passion for teaching are essential. The successful candidate will make a significant contribution to the coaching of one or more of the School's core sports: a history of success as a player and/or coach is desirable.

Ambitious candidates seeking a first leadership role in sport are encouraged to apply. More experienced applicants may be seeking a bigger challenge, in a large, well-resourced and ambitious school. Applications are welcome from candidates from all sporting backgrounds.





THE APPOINTMENT

This salary for this post will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant. Other benefits include membership of the Aviva Pension Scheme for Independent Schools, private health insurance contribution and fee remission for staff children. Accommodation may be available. St Dunstan's is a vibrant community with regular social events.

Please note that the School is working with Independent Coach Education on this appointment. Potential applicants who wish to have an informal conversation about the role are welcome to contact Dan Scargill, to arrange this, dan@independentcoacheducation.co.uk.

Applications should be made on the School's forms, which can be found at www.stdunstans.org.uk/vacancies

The closing date is Monday 30 January at 10.00am.

Interviews are likely to be held later that week, and the following week.

Safeguarding

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check, and the receipt of two satisfactory references, including one from current employer.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to the principles of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. It seeks to attract and retain the very best staff, ensuring that our staff body reflects the diversity of our students and the local community.



St Dunstan's
College

A co-educational, independent
College for ages 3 to 18

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