



Head of Learning Technology

**Candidate Pack**

January 2022

## Introduction

The Girls' Day School Trust is the UK's leading family of girls' schools, consisting of 23 independent schools and two academies. In all of the Trust's schools, academic excellence is a given – the GDST aims to develop character beyond the curriculum.

GDST focuses not only on what is learned but how it is learned. Ensuring their girls are confident and fearless, determined to show what they can do. Nothing holds their girls back – they're encouraged to embrace every role and subject. As a result, the girls trust their own abilities and are alive to every opportunity.

GDST concentrates on creating an environment where all can thrive and learn from one another. Physical and emotional wellbeing is paramount, which is why every GDST school provides an incredible array of extra-curricular activities and wellbeing programmes.

Each of the 25 schools has its own identity and profile in its market, whilst being supported by a lean and highly experienced central office team in areas where a group wide approach can add real value to each school. This includes in the area of educational innovation and learning, which is led by Kevin Stannard <https://www.gdst.net/about-us/senior-management-team/>

Strategically, the GDST's aim of offering an excellent education to as many girls as possible involves looking at ways of optimising each school's offer, not least by virtue of its being part of a network, and also exploring how parts of its offer might be made available more widely. At each of these scales, technology is a vital part of the solution.

## The Opportunity

The Innovation & Learning team at Trust Office exists to support GDST schools and academies in designing and delivering an outstanding education. It seeks to promote creative, collaborative, innovative and effective approaches to teaching and learning.

The COVID crisis has shown that GDST can find creative technological solutions in unexpected situations, and the experience has served to reinforce the importance of collaboration between schools. Building on this, GDST has recently undertaken a major review of its EdTech provision, seeking to ensure that it aligns with and helps deliver on our vision of the 'Future school'. This presupposes more fluid, flexible and adaptive forms of teaching and learning, with technology calibrated to a variety of pedagogies and a spectrum of spaces, formal and informal, inside and outside the school. EdTech is a crucial precondition for the realisation of the 'Future school', and in reality it is inseparable from considerations of curriculum, pedagogy and learning space design.

GDST is now seeking to appoint a Head of Learning Technology, who will report to Kevin Stannard and be a key part of his team. There is an openness from the Trust to welcome applications from candidates who might approach this role in a number of different ways. This is in recognition that there is real potential to shape and mould the role around the particular areas of interest and expertise that the preferred candidate might offer.

At the core of this opportunity is the chance to work with a highly experienced Director of Innovation and Learning in a highly functioning central team at a time when GDST is placing huge value on the role of technology in its current and future educational offering. The Trust is also interested in exploring further ways in which they

might innovate beyond the use of technology to ensure that the way in which they educate girls is at the forefront of educational thinking and remains fit for purpose and able to respond to an ever changing educational and societal landscape.

Each of the schools has a digital lead among its senior leadership team. This Trust-wide role is crucial to realising the ambition of optimizing the advantages of being part of a network of outstanding schools, allowing each school to enhance its offer by virtue of being part of that network.

Previous holders of the post from which the current role has evolved, have been notable for their ability to inspire colleagues and to act as an effective bridge between technological and teaching communities of practice.

## The Role

<b>Post Title:</b>	Head of Learning Technology
<b>Reports To:</b>	Director of Innovation and Learning
<b>Location:</b>	GDST's offices are at Bressenden Place, Victoria, London; but the role will require travel to all GDST schools, which are located around England and Wales <a href="https://www.gdst.net/schools/find-a-school/">https://www.gdst.net/schools/find-a-school/</a>
<b>Direct reports:</b>	EdTech coaches based at Trust Office; and a Consultant Teacher based in one of the schools
<b>Other people post holder works closely with:</b>	Key to success is this person's ability to work closely with the ITS (information technology services) team at Trust Office; as well as key people within each of the schools (e.g. digital leads), and others in the Innovation and Learning team

### Overall objectives of the post:

- To promote, through influence and exemplification, the creative use of digital technologies alongside progressive pedagogies and innovative learning spaces across the GDST group of schools.
- The post-holder will lead on promoting the innovative use of learning technologies in schools; promote the effective design and use of teaching and learning spaces, and support and facilitate teaching collaborations between schools.
- They will lead on the development and implementation of the GDST's EdTech strategy, coordinating the work of digital leaders in schools.
- The post-holder will influence and lead digital developments within the GDST; and is expected to make a substantial impact across the network.

### Specific Accountabilities:

#### Advising schools on the creative educational use of new media resources, digital technologies, and learning spaces:

- Horizon-scanning and identifying trends in learning technology
- Contributing to the development of a 'Future Schools' vision of digitally-enabled teaching and learning, and the design of its associated learning spaces
- Convening the regular GDST EdTech Strategy Forum, involving e-learning leads across the Trust
- Helping schools with their own strategies and with implementation
- Designing, coordinating and contributing to relevant strands of the central training programme, GDST Learn
- Supporting schools in developing Design Thinking in an educational context, bringing together technology, learning spaces and appropriate pedagogies

## **Reviewing and implementing the GDST EdTEch Strategy:**

- Implementing and reviewing the strategy
- Ensuring joined-up thinking between school heads of e-learning and the Trust's Innovation & Learning and ITS departments
- Working with heads of e-learning on embedding digital technology within teaching, learning and curriculum strategies
- Through research projects, evaluating the impact of digital initiatives across the GDST

## **Raising the profile of GDST as a forward-facing organisation:**

- Through publications and conferences, articulating the GDST's approach to educational technology, as an acknowledged expert in the field

## **Promoting the use of technology to support teaching collaborations between schools:**

- Developing appropriate structures and platforms to facilitate sharing of expertise and resources between teachers and between schools
- Working with colleagues to develop educational programmes that can be delivered across and beyond the network

## Person Specification

It is highly likely that strong candidates will have all or most of the following:

### Experience and knowledge

- A degree
- Relevant postgraduate qualification
- Knowledge of educational technology developments and futures, ideally on an international scale
- Acknowledged expertise in educational technology and its associated pedagogies
- Training qualifications and/or distinctions in Apple, Microsoft and Google education communities
- An understanding of statutory regulations and policies with regard to e-safety
- Experience in a teaching position
- Experience in a leadership position in a school
- Leading training/professional development in EdTech
- Management of educational projects/conduct of research into the impact of educational technology

### Personal attributes and skills

- Exemplary in using technology for educational purposes
- Excellent written and spoken English and the ability to communicate at all levels of an organisation
- Excellent presentation skills, and able to translate technical expertise for those who do not have a technical background
- Ability to create, lead and motivate effective teams, often where there is no formal line management responsibility
- Influencing, rather than directing, colleagues in schools
- An absolute commitment to safeguarding children and an understanding of their responsibility in this regard as a member of the GDST team
- Excellent stakeholder and project management skills
- Keeps abreast of developments in educational thinking around Edtech but ideally also more widely

### General requirements

All staff are expected to:

- Work towards and support the strategic aims of the Innovation & Learning division.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with colleagues, pupils, parents.
- Engage actively in the performance review process, and training and development opportunities available.
- Adhere to GDST policies.
- Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time.

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive and will be subject to regular review.

## Terms of Appointment

The appointment is for as soon as possible, but ideally no later than September 2022.

The package will be dependent on experience and be negotiated with the preferred candidate. It will include membership of the Trust's head office pension scheme.

The post will be based at GDST's headquarters in London, but there will require travel to all GDST schools across England and Wales.

GDST is committed to diversity, inclusion and real change: it is a family where every individual is valued, respected and included. The GDST is also committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service and the completion of an application form.

## How to Apply

For more information, please visit [www.minervasearch.com/gdst](http://www.minervasearch.com/gdst)

To apply please send a cover letter, addressed to Dr Kevin Stannard, and CV to [gdst@minervasearch.com](mailto:gdst@minervasearch.com).

For a confidential conversation please contact [gdst@minervasearch.com](mailto:gdst@minervasearch.com).

The closing date for applications is Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.