A day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 3 – 18. Asking interesting questions since 1915.

A dynamic and rewarding place to work.

Animal Technician

52 week posts on a coordinated rota including weekends, holidays and morning care

Apply by 9am on
Thursday, 3 December 2026

Hello! Thank you for taking an interest in our Animal Technician role. Here at St Chris, we embrace the challenges of the modern world which necessitates the asking of interesting questions.

This job pack contains more details about what this position involves, personal specifications and total reward.



Animal Technician

Salary
21-26 of the Professional Services Scale, dependent on skills, knowledge and competency £26,736 to £31,062 FTE (equivalent to £12.85 to £14.93 per hour)

Contract
Morning Shift 6.00am - 7.30 am Monday to Friday (Potential for some flexibility with starting time)

7.30am to 9.00am and in the late afternoons for 30 minutes on Saturday and Sunday

Location
On-site, Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire

Life at stChris

St Chris is an independent day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 3 to 18 located in Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire. Our School was established in 1915 and, since then, has been working to do things differently if, and only if, it makes things better for our students.

There are currently around 425 pupils on roll and 200 staff.

St Chris seeks to be a continuously developing community of children and adults working together to enable everyone to achieve their best. All are valued as individuals and encouraged to develop curiosity, competence, judgement, kindness and courage.
St Chris seeks to prepare pupils for happy and fulfilled lives in the service of others.

We treat young people as individuals, encouraging them to develop into capable, imaginative, responsible people with a zest for life.

Purpose of the Role
To provide safe, consistent, high-quality animal husbandry and operational support as part of a two-person Technician team. Together the Technicians will deliver scheduled care across all 52 weeks of the year, including weekends, holidays and cover for each other's planned leave. The role supports the educational use of animals while maintaining robust welfare standards, clear records and reliable escalation arrangements.

Line Management Responsibility
This role will have no line management responsibility and will report to the Head of Animal Care and Environmental Studies.



This school is special. It nurtures curiosity, confidence and kindness. I'm honoured to be part of its journey.

Alison
Finance Stategy Lead

What will the Animal Technician do?

Here's an overview of the Animal Technician's responsibilities and how they will be involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

Key accountabilities and responsibilities of the role:

Animal Care and Welfare

- Daily animal care and 52-week rota
- Work as one of two Animal Technicians delivering a coordinated, seven-day, 52-week rota covering weekdays, weekends, school holidays and annual leave.
- Complete allocated morning and evening feeding at the weekend, watering, cleaning, enclosure checks, animal counts, observation, enrichment and settling/security routines for the School's actual animal collection.
- Provide planned cover for the other Technician's leave and agreed absences, subject to safe working hours and rota arrangements; report uncovered shifts promptly so management can arrange competent contingency cover.
- Use a written daily checklist and handover log; accurately record feeding, behaviour, health concerns, treatment, environmental checks and incidents.
- Carry out duties at relevant Junior and Senior School animal facilities, livestock and poultry areas, following approved site access and lone-working arrangements.
- Ensure environment is clean and tidy ready for lessons.

Animal welfare, health and veterinary escalation

- Identify and promptly escalate signs of ill health, injury, distress, abnormal behaviour or environmental failure; provide immediate care within competence and approved protocols.
- Contact the designated Head/specialist emergency contact and veterinary service in accordance with the emergency plan, including urgent escalation when delay would compromise welfare.
- Assist with prescribed treatments, veterinary visits, handling and transport where trained and authorised.
- Maintain accurate species-specific care, stock, medicine and animal-movement records and support inspections and compliance checks.
- Follow welfare, biosecurity, hygiene, COSHH, waste disposal, zoonoses, manual-handling, enclosure-security and animal-handling procedures.







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Facilities, supplies and operational coordination

- Maintain clean, safe, secure and appropriately equipped enclosures, preparation spaces, stores and animal rooms; report repairs and coordinate with Estates.
- Monitor feed, bedding, medicines and consumables; order or request supplies within delegated limits and agreed procedures.
- Carry out basic equipment checks and support environmental monitoring and alarms where installed.
- Work closely with the other Technician and Head to maintain reliable shift handovers and planned welfare cover.

Educational and pupil support

- Prepare animals, equipment and facilities for practical BTEC, Environmental Studies and Junior School carousel lessons and support safe animal handling when requested.
- Provide practical advice to staff and pupils within competence; ensure pupils never undertake essential welfare duties unsupervised or as a substitute for rostered staff.
- Support agreed Open Days and enrichment events where rostered and agreed, to ensure compatible with welfare needs.

Working hours, weekend and emergency arrangements

- Work scheduled shifts set out in a published rota, including allocated weekend and school-holiday duties; exact weekly contracted hours, start/finish times, break arrangements and weekend frequency are to be confirmed before appointment.
- Weekend evening animal care will be expressly covered by the rota.
- Any standby/on-call duty, call-out attendance, additional hours, TOIL or payments must be expressly agreed and recorded; emergency response is not assumed to be unlimited availability.
- Comply with working-time and rest requirements; notify the Head of Animal Care and Environmental Studies immediately of staffing gaps or unsafe workload.

Additional Duties

This job description is not contractual or exhaustive but reflects the type and range of tasks, responsibilities and outcomes associated with the role. The post holder will be expected to also complete any tasks, as requested by their manager.









stChris

Person Specification

Qualifications, training and experience

- GCSE Maths and English (or equivalent)
- NVQ/BTEC (or equivalent) in Animal Care / Animal Husbandry or working towards the qualification
- Relevant Health and Safety training, including manual handling and COSHH
- Relevant practical animal-care experience across species represented in the School's collection and a demonstrable commitment to welfare.
- Relevant vocational animal-care qualification (or equivalent substantial practical competence); willingness to undertake role-specific training.
- First aid, animal handling, COSHH or manual handling training or willingness to undertake

Skills and abilities

- Ability to carry out feeding, cleaning, monitoring, safe handling and husbandry to documented standards.
- Reliable record keeping, communication and ability to identify and escalate welfare concerns promptly.
- Ability and willingness to work the agreed rota, including weekends, school holidays and morning/evening shifts.
- Knowledge of hygiene, biosecurity, animal-related health and safety and safe lone working.
- Ability to work safely with pupils and follow safeguarding and supervision requirements.
- Ability to meet the practical demands of the role, with reasonable adjustments where appropriate.
- Ability to work both independently (lone working) and as part of a team
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, follow the School's safeguarding and conduct policies, and complete required safer-recruitment checks and training.
- Promote inclusion, accessibility and reasonable adjustments, including safe participation in animal-related learning.
- Comply with applicable School policies, confidentiality, data protection, health and safety and agreed delegated authority.
- Work collaboratively with academic, pastoral, Estates and operational colleagues, and undertake reasonable duties consistent with the role.

Benefits of Working at St Chris



I love that everyone's opinion is valued and considered.

Angela
Operations Adminstrator

Welcome to St Chris

Schools are - in truth - nothing more than a collection of people working together, and it is on that understanding that all the incredible things achieved at St Chris come to be. So, 'Hello'; and we mean that.

St Chris is a lot of things, all at the same time.

St Chris is an independent school for boys and girls aged 3-18.

St Chris is a community of young people from across the local area, the country, and the world.

St Chris is something unmistakably different from the moment you arrive.

St Chris is an outstanding, modern school with an important, progressive heritage.

1

Pension Scheme

Competitive pension scheme with 8% employer contribution plus an additional up to 4% personal sacrifice matched.

2

Westfield Health Plan

Complimentary opt-in Level 1 Westfield Health Plan with the option to scale up your plan with salary sacrifice.

3

Free Lunch

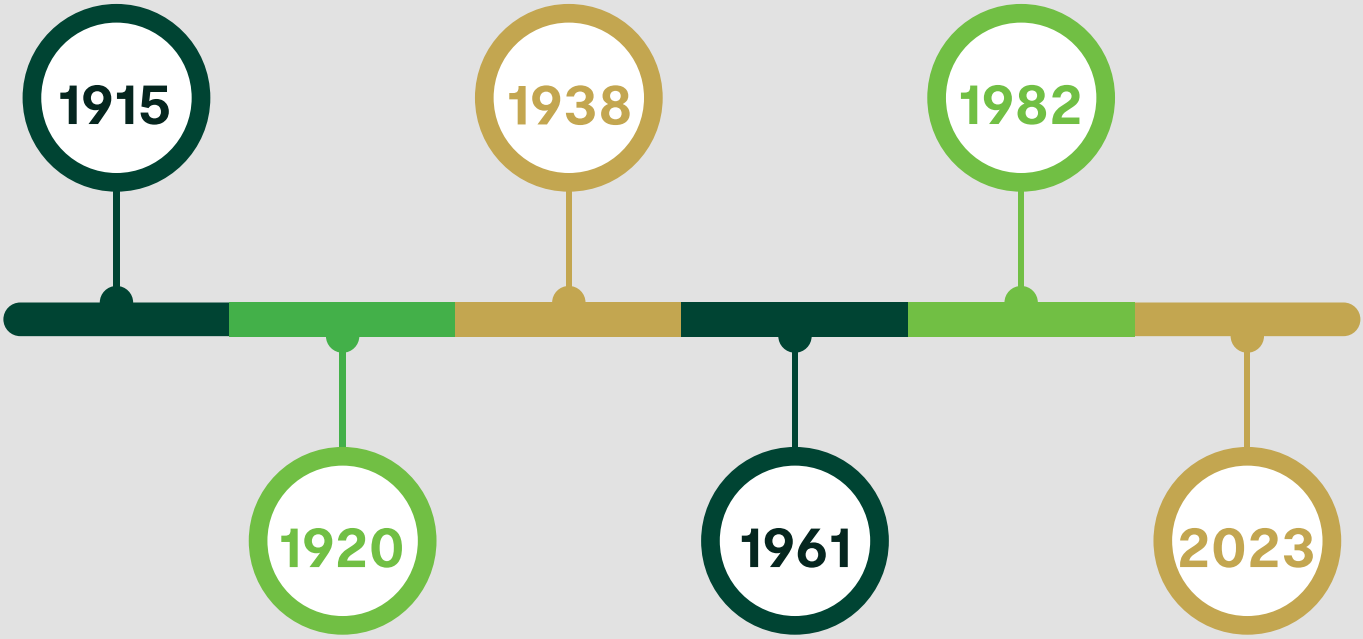
As part of a non-contractual agreement. Free vegetarian lunches are provided to staff during term time.

4

Facilities

Access to the school's on-site swimming pool and gym.

A Brief History of St Chris



St. Chris Established

St Christopher School (then known as the 'Garden City Theosophical School') was established in 1915 by headmaster, Dr. Armstrong Smith, ready for a new style of education.

Initial Meeting of the School Council

The Council consisted of 32 students and staff and met on a fortnightly basis to discuss and legislate on school matters. From December 1920, decisions made by the Council were later ratified by a meeting of the whole school.

Abolishing Uniform

Following a protest in the school magazine, the School Council discusses abolishing school uniforms for boys. The motion is, eventually, passed but no action is taken. During the war, clothing rationing and difficulties for parents meant that uniform was relaxed in 1938.

Swimming Pool Built

Parents contribute an initial £600 towards building the school swimming pool and pupils aim to raise £1000 themselves in 1961. The community pulls together to remove topsoil, excavate and build the pool. By 1968, the pool and changing rooms were completed.

Theatre and Sports Hall Open

A drama festival of eight plays marks the opening in 1982. Over the next decade, the enthusiasm of pupils allowed an average of five school productions each year, ranging from Twelfth Night and *Three Sisters to Blood Wedding and Accrington Paris.*

Present Day

Today, St Chris is a vibrant, thriving community working together. We believe in the benefits of an informal approach underpinned by the belief that all voices, from the youngest member of the nursery to the chair of governors, should be listened to and treated respectfully.

Let's work together.

Piqued your interest? We thought so.

At St Chris, we do things differently to benefit our young people and community. Looking for a new challenge? Looking to have an impact? Searching for a job that gets you thinking?

Apply for this role at www.stchris.co.uk/vacancies.

How to apply

To apply, please complete an application form (we do not accept CVs as an educational institution) and submit this, together with a covering letter to the People team at hr@stchris.co.uk. If you would like a conversation regarding this opportunity, please contact Zoe Weaver, Director of People at 01462 650962.

Please also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring form which will be immediately detached from your application.

St Chris is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants will be subject to child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

St Chris is fully committed to equality of opportunity and diversity and we warmly welcome applicants from all suitably-qualified candidates. We welcome applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, disability or age.

The closing date for applications for this role is 9.00am on Thursday, 3 December 2026. Interviews will take place on Monday 7 December 2026.