

The American School in London

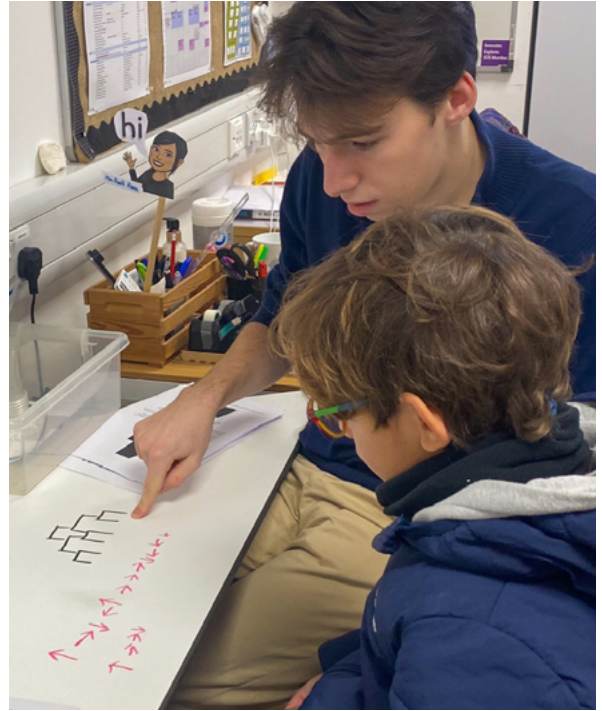


High School Principal Search

Position starts July 1, 2025
London, England



EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE
EXPERTS IN SEARCH, TRANSITION & STRATEGY



About ASL

The American School in London is an independent, college-preparatory, preK-12 day school, providing an exceptional American education to an international student body in the heart of London. We celebrate innovation and individuality, and applaud academic success. Students thrive amid high expectations and the joy of authentic learning experiences. Through the lens of intercultural competency, we inspire students to engage with others across lines of difference in a changing world.

Mission Statement

The American School in London empowers each student to thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character.

Respect

We treat others the way we expect to be treated. We value diversity of thought and expression.

Responsibility

We take ownership of our words and actions. We fulfill our obligations to ourselves and others.

Kindness

We act with compassion. We help others.

Integrity

We are honest. We make the right choice even when nobody is watching.

The Courage to Act

We have the courage to speak up for ourselves and for others. We take positive action to make our community and world a better place.



History



The American School in London (ASL) was established in 1951 by Stephen L. Eckard, an American journalist and former teacher residing in London.



Initially housed in Eckard's Knightsbridge flat, the school began with 13 students. The school quickly gained popularity, prompting a move to larger premises in Chelsea within six months. Over the years, ASL expanded, relocating to various properties and adding facilities such as sports grounds in Regent's Park.

The first high school graduation took place in 1960, marking a significant milestone for Eckard and the school. In 1964, the Board of Trustees initiated a fundraising campaign for a dedicated school building, which was completed in 1971 and inaugurated by notable figures including Margaret Thatcher.



ASL has a rich history, including events such as Elton John's performance in 1973. Notable figures like US presidents Truman, Reagan, Clinton, and Obama have interacted with ASL students.

ASL continued to evolve, with expansions in 2000 and 2008, and further developments such as the Community Arts Building and Aquatic & Fitness Center in 2016.

In 2021, ASL celebrated its 70th anniversary. ASL has more than 15,000 alumni living in 77 countries.



Portrait of a Learner

Our ASL community worked together to identify the traits that exemplify what it is to be a learner at the American School in London. The result of this collaboration is a group of characteristics that are unique to our school.

These essential traits are evident every day at ASL; in our classrooms, at Canons Park, in our hallways, at recess, on field trips and at school events.

There is a thinker, an explorer, a collaborator, an innovator and a communicator within every student. They care about our well-being, and show respect, responsibility, kindness and integrity in the lives they lead. They value and encourage these characteristics in others. More than anything, they have the courage to act.

Intercultural Competency

Intercultural competence is defined as an ongoing process by which individuals and institutions respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures in a manner that recognizes, affirms and values their multiple identities. Intercultural competency is the ability to be your whole self with people who are not like you. As a community, we hold a growth mindset at the center of our beliefs and thus, we are all in the process of moving forward in the intercultural competency continuum.

Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Statement

The American School in London (ASL) is committed to building and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community. Our strength is in our diversity. We are committed to providing equitable access to all facets of school life. ASL is dedicated to fostering an inclusive school environment in which members can thrive and be themselves in a fully authentic manner.

ASL upholds the right to an educational experience in which diverse identities, experiences and ideas are recognized and human dignity is affirmed. Diversity develops better collaborators, braver explorers, stronger communicators, greater innovators and deeper thinkers. From the time children enter the School, they learn to celebrate their differences and similarities, confront stereotypes and biases, and develop an understanding of historical and contemporary struggles and victories in the face of injustice. Through this education, students are empowered to advocate for a more just world and acquire the skills to be courageous global citizens.

Creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community is an ever-evolving journey. We challenge ourselves to do this work on a personal and institutional level, with empathy and mutual respect. Building and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community is the responsibility of all. Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion holds the promise of a better future for all our children.





Fundamental British values

As an independent day school, providing an exceptional American education to an international student body in the heart of London, we join with our host country in promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

As citizens of a vibrant democracy, we fulfill our obligations to ourselves and to others. In our classrooms, innovation and individuality are celebrated, and outstanding academic success is applauded. Students thrive amid the joy of authentic learning experiences. High expectations are clearly communicated and students take ownership of their words and actions. We value diversity of thought and experience and we treat others the way we expect to be treated. Within our school community of more than 65 nationalities and numerous faiths, we express mutual respect and tolerance for those with different beliefs. Committed to creating courageous global citizens, we inspire students to engage with others across lines of difference in a changing world.



Sustainability Policy

The American School in London is committed to sustainability and continuously improving environmental performance. ASL has a duty to provide its students and employees with the knowledge and skills to manage its resources wisely.

High School Curriculum

Our school community works collaboratively to encourage and support the healthy development of our students, their social-emotional well-being, and their academic ability. Our faculty and staff in the High School put students at the center of every discussion. Students themselves are expected to play an important role in determining the paths that they will forge during their time in the High School. While evolving their sense of independence, academic acumen, and sense of self, students practice and internalize ASL's core values—respect, responsibility, kindness, integrity and the courage to act.

High school students have access to a wide array of rigorous and exciting courses and diverse extracurricular offerings that challenge them to develop their skills in collaboration, innovation and communication. Additionally, ASL's location in London offers a wealth of experiences and learning opportunities for our students and employees. The academic and extracurricular program is augmented by myriad domestic and international travel opportunities and service-related experiences. The different components of the ASL high school experience combine to prepare our students for the next phase of their lives as responsible citizens of the world. The ASL High School is an experience like no other.

The high school curriculum provides students with a comprehensive and rigorous US secondary education, equipping them for success in and beyond ASL. The required program of study should be considered the minimum; almost all students fulfill more than basic graduation requirements. Most students choose to take four years each of English, math, science, social studies and world language, and they pursue advanced work in academic and elective areas where they have ability and interest. High school students also participate in the 1:1 laptop program.

The American curriculum emphasizes steady progression in core academic areas. ASL offers an unusually wide array of options for students to extend their knowledge in several subject areas. ASL’s curriculum is enhanced by broad offerings in the computer sciences, and in the visual and performing arts. Students learn to make thoughtful choices to achieve the best possible balance between breadth and depth.

Underpinning the subject-based aims of the high school program are several essential skills. In addition to achieving specific curricular goals, every student should graduate with the ability to present ideas clearly and effectively, orally and in writing, understand and apply quantitative reasoning, and think analytically and solve problems.

Furthermore, four years of high school education at ASL offers every student ongoing opportunities to develop in the four domains of the school’s mission—intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character.

In order to develop into courageous global citizens, every student should:

- aspire to and model the qualities of our Portrait of a Learner
- be thoughtfully, responsibly and actively engaged in school, and local and global communities
- demonstrate authentic and effective leadership in school, and local and global communities
- approach learning as an opportunity to be collaborative, engaged, reflective, resilient, respectful and responsible
- demonstrate a curiosity about and respect for other cultures and multiple perspectives



Explore the High School Curriculum and Other:

- To know more about the **High School Curriculum** by grade level as well as subject expectations, graduation requirements, assessments, homework and Advanced Placement courses, click [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for the High School **Eight-day cycle**.
- Click [here](#) for **Rules, Policies and Behavior**



Student and University Advising

The office of student advising (OSA) works collaboratively to support the mission of the school, by empowering students to know themselves and discover purpose at ASL and beyond. We work with all constituencies to help each student craft a balanced high school experience and a vision for their future.

The OSA office is made up of four class deans, one for each class, who travel with their class from Grade 9 through to graduation. In addition there are three university advisors, who begin to work with students at the beginning of Grade 11.

Advisory

The mission of the advisory program is to nurture the well-being of each student by:

- providing opportunities to meet with an adult who consistently monitors and supports each student
- addressing essential and meaningful topics that contribute to adolescent growth and development as a complement to the academic classroom
- developing a peer group through shared experience
- completing important and necessary tasks for academic success and community building

University Advising

University advisors work closely with the class deans throughout each student's high school experience. By the time they reach the university advising process in Grade 11, each student has been guided and advised to build a well-balanced yet challenging high school program that lays a solid foundation for higher education goals. Students work with their advisors, teachers and deans to explore their own strengths and interests; this self-knowledge and understanding helps them discover the right fit for their futures.

Work experience program (WorkX)

The aim of our work experience program, WorkX, is to provide our high school students with productive, varied and thoughtful learning experiences in the real working world.

The office of student advising (OSA) and the PCA's WorkX committee jointly manage ASL's work experience program. The WorkX program includes speakers, workshops, workplace visits and summer work experience opportunities.

Workplace visits, speakers and workshops are open to all high school students, and WorkX opportunities are open to Grade 10-12 students and take place over the summer break. The majority of these work experience placements are exclusive to our ASL students.

Applications for summer placements are made through the WorkX committee, and not directly to employers. Employers review the applications, make the acceptance decisions, and notify the WorkX committee.

Study Abroad Programs

Study abroad programs provide a unique opportunity for students to experience a classroom or learning environment that is much different from ASL. The School supports several semester and yearlong programs for students who wish to study abroad in Grade 10 or 11.

Student Support Services

We offer a variety of support services for students who meet the school's selective academic admissions requirements. Services focus on individualized approaches to learning and social-emotional development. Our aim is to support, guide and teach students to reach their full potential with services geared to help students with different learning needs.

An underlying tenet of our programs is the focus on a growth mindset aimed at fostering resilience. By gaining self-knowledge and building self-advocacy skills, students are able to become productive, confident individuals and more resourceful lifelong learners. The SSST programs are designed to support students for success in the mainstream classroom. Academic support lessons aim to teach a variety of skills and strategies as a foundation to accessing our challenging curriculum. Specialists collaborate and consult regularly with classroom teachers for the benefit of all students.

Our main areas of focus are: [Educational psychology](#) | [English as an additional language \(EAL\)](#) | [K-12 counseling](#) | [Learning support \(SLD\)](#) | [Speech and language therapy](#)

Innovator-in-Residence Program

Our Innovator-in-Residence (IIR) Program is a dynamic and enriching annual initiative that brings in a forward-thinking, creative and knowledgeable individual to collaborate with students, teachers and administrators. The program aims to foster a culture of innovation and critical thinking within our school community. Students get a glimpse into real-world challenges and potential career paths, fostering a stronger connection between classroom learning and the outside world.





Extracurricular

At ASL, we believe that a dynamic and diverse extracurricular program is an essential element of the character and educational development of its students. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for its students in their physical, cognitive and social development.

Athletics

The athletics department provides co-curricular opportunities for students to gain transferable skills through physical activity and athletic competition. We welcome participation by all, with a focus on enjoyment and good sportsmanship. Our aim is to foster lifelong learning and resilience through character-building and teamwork.

ASL is well equipped to support a wide range of sports, over three seasons. Students are able to take advantage of our first-rate sports facilities, which include a state-of-the-art Aquatic and Fitness Center on campus, comprising a swimming pool, fitness room and dance studio, complimented by our two gyms and multi-purpose spaces. And our 22-acre playing fields are located at Canons Park, a short tube-ride away

Our athletic trainers are available to help ASL students with injuries and injury prevention. Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians and specialize in prevention, emergency care, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of sport-related injuries and illnesses.

Grade 7-12 competitive sports

Spring sports:

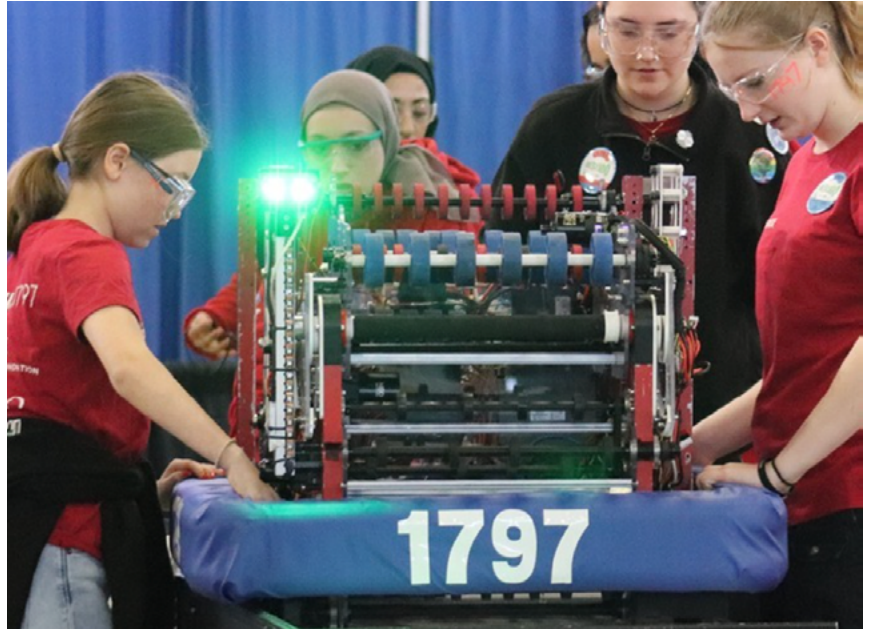
- Baseball
- Crew
- tennis
- Track and Field
- Golf
- Softball

Fall Sports:

- Crew
- Cross country
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Field hockey

Winter Sports:

- Basketball
- Crew
- Rugby
- Swim



Robotics

From after-school program classes for younger students to competitive robotics in the High School, students are encouraged to become thinkers, explorers, collaborators and innovators. In addition to a variety of technical skills, students learn valuable communication skills and have numerous opportunities to demonstrate respectfulness, responsibility, kindness and integrity.

K-12 Learn to Swim

ASL offers a varied program of water activities for students of all abilities in the School's 25-meter swimming pool, located in the Aquatic & Fitness Center. From building water confidence for beginners, to preparation for competition for advanced swimmers, the K-12 pool program has something for everyone.

Community Action

ASL's community action program provides students with invaluable opportunities to learn and grow by taking considered and consequential action in our community. Our program is greatly enriched by our outstanding connections with our local community partners. These links give our students the opportunity to move beyond ASL and connect with and learn from the broader London community.

Community action is integral to our core values, offering opportunities that cultivate respect for diversity, inspire social responsibility, encourage kindness, promote integrity, and empower our students to have the courage to act.

Projects are driven by our students' curiosity about the world in which we live, and draw upon their interests, talents, determination and sense of justice. The program enriches every aspect of the School, extending learning both within and beyond the curriculum.

Summer Program

The ASL Summer Program blends an exciting mix of outdoor and indoor sports, and creative activities for children age 4-18. Based at our Waverley Place campus and at our playing fields in Canons Park, participants discover new interests, build self-confidence, and learn how to work and play as a group. The Summer Program is open to children from all schools.



High School Clubs

Within the High School, there are a large number of activities for students to get involved in and to explore their interests, whether they be academic, cultural, political, service-oriented or athletic. We also have more than 80 student-led clubs, which offer a variety of ways for students to learn skills and make new friends and connections.

Facilities and Services

The Aquatic & Fitness Center

Our top-flight facilities have all you need to help families stay active, including a 25m six-lane swimming pool, a well-equipped fitness room offering free weights and cardiovascular machines, and a multi-purpose room for fitness activities and classes.

Make, Innovate, Learn Lab (MILL)

The state-of-the-art Makerspace is a resource for the whole school, regardless of age or subject. The lab director works with teachers to add modeling, three-dimensionality, and design thinking to elements of the curriculum. Student's imaginations and inventions are brought to life with 3D printers, sewing machines, wood-working materials, laser cutters, and large format printers. The space, which is over 2000 square feet is also a hub for the robotics program.

Library

The mission of the Mellon Library at ASL is to ensure that our students, staff and community gain the knowledge and skills to be effective and conscientious users of ideas and information. We aim to foster a love of literature and learning, and to provide quality print and electronic resources that support the needs and interests of our students, staff and community.

Canons Park

Just a short, direct tube ride from ASL (eleven stops on the Jubilee line), students can be transported to over 20 acres of our very own sports playing fields to train and compete in activities such as baseball, rugby, softball and soccer.



Boathouse

The Boathouse is owned by the University of London Boat Club whom we rent boat racking space from.

There are a number of colleges from the University of London who row out of the facility along with the main University Team as well as London Oratory School. With four launches at the Boathouse, we also have 32 of our own rowing boats with professional equipment such as megaphones, lifejackets, and associated tools. The location of the boathouse allows our rowers to use a beautiful stretch of the River Thames where the tidal flow is slower. We have rowers at the boathouse six days of the week with the Performance Squad, Development Squad and Grade 8 Program alternating across the six days.

School Center

The School Center for Education and the Arts is a flexible teaching and performance space. The design was inspired by the Royal National Theatre and provides seating for an audience of up to 450. The space is rarely empty, hosting assemblies, Speakers Series events and performing arts productions.

School Services

School services at ASL include catering, security, health and transport.

Technology

We recognize the importance of technology in the modern world; information technology education is therefore an integral part of our curriculum. We also strive to ensure our students have the resources they require to thrive.



Board of Trustees

The American School in London is governed by a Board of Trustees, which oversees the school's adherence to its mission and values; appoints, supports, evaluates and works closely with the Head of School; oversees financial and institutional affairs; and conducts periodic strategic planning for the growth and evolution of the School. The Board works in partnership with the Head of School and delegates the responsibility for the day-to-day administration, programming and operations of the School to the Head.

Parent Community Association at ASL

The mission of the PCA at ASL is to foster a strong sense of community among parents, students, and staff while supporting the school's mission and values. This typically involves organizing events and activities that promote parent involvement, communication, and collaboration within the school community. The PCA often works closely with the school administration to address the needs and concerns of parents and students, and to enhance the overall educational experience at ASL.



Accreditation

ASL is accredited by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Middle States Association (MSA). ASL has been accredited by MSA for several decades and by the Department for Education (DfE) since 2006. ASL is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Council of International Schools, the Independent Schools Association (ISA), and the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE).





Leadership Profile for the Next High School Principal

The High School Principal is a member of the School's senior leadership team, answering directly to the Head of School and responsible for all activities that affect the education and the lives of students in the High School.

Leadership of the High School faculty and staff, numbering roughly 90 faculty and staff members, is a central responsibility for the Principal. The High School leadership team consists of the Assistant Principal, the Director of Student Life, the Director of Academic Advising and College Counseling, and the Director of Athletics.

The opportunity to serve as the High School Principal at ASL is an exciting and challenging one. The High School is home to a top-notch faculty who embrace positive growth for themselves and the School. They are eager to keep momentum going in a variety of areas. Students and parents are highly engaged and positive about their school, and outcomes by any measure are excellent.

Essential qualifications/experience:

- Substantial experience as head of a large academic division, preferably a related senior leadership role within a High School in an international or US public or independent school setting
- Evidence of successful High School teaching/counseling/instructional coaching experience
- An advanced degree, as well as evidence of a commitment to continuous professional development, demonstrated by appropriate professional memberships, conference attendance, and presentations
- Significant involvement in leading High School curriculum and program development
- Demonstrable experience in developing successful and supportive relationships with parents and students
- Evidence of holding significant management responsibilities, including recruitment of staff and performance evaluation
- A proven commitment to the safeguarding and welfare of children
- Experience with developing and or maintaining a robust advisory program
- Experience in managing student and parent expectations



Desired Qualities And Attributes For The Next High School Principal At The American School In London

- A visionary, experienced, and reflective leader who can articulate a clear, futuristic vision aligned with ASL's mission and values
- A leader who empowers faculty and staff towards achieving the vision by supporting their professional and personal growth
- A compassionate, warm, visible, approachable, and ethical leader who has the ability to engage with all constituents: students, faculty, staff, parents
- An experienced team and bridge builder who is willing to work across grade divisions to achieve alignment leading to excellence in education
- A leader who enjoys working with adolescents, interacts with them, and serves as a role model for them
- An inspiring, effective, and transparent communicator who will build a collaborative and trusting environment in the HS
- A leader with demonstrated experience in working with parents, and is sensitive to their needs, while maintaining the mission and values of the school
- A culturally competent and sensitive leader who will enhance an inclusive, diverse community and ensure that there are learning opportunities for all
- A leader who is open to new ideas and has demonstrated ability to manage change
- A leader who has proven ability to organize all aspects of a school division



Summary of the Search Process

Candidates interested in this position are asked to submit the following materials in a single merged pdf file to Mary Seppala and Pilar Cabeza de Vaca as soon as possible. Dossiers will be reviewed upon receipt.

- EC Summary Sheet (Contact Mary Seppala or Pilar Cabeza de Vaca for this document)
- Letter of Interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current Resume
- Statement of Educational Leadership Philosophy
- A list of five or more references with contact information (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email address)
- Disclosure Statement (Contact Mary Seppala or Pilar Cabeza de Vaca for this document)

Send application materials via email to:

Mary Seppala, Partner, Educators Collaborative

Email: maryseppala@gmail.com

Phone: 610-772-7625

Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, Partner, Educators Collaborative, LLC

Email: pcdevaca31@gmail.com

Ph: 593 99-741-6854

Front Cover: Big Ben London, <https://shorturl.at/Y60iB>, June 7, 2024

**The
American
School in
London**

One Waverley Place
London NW8 0NP
United Kingdom

www.asl.org

