



April 2021

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in the **Assistant Headteacher – Teaching and Learning** position at Oakwood Primary Academy. I hope that you find the following information useful. The decision to apply for any Senior Leadership position is a big one and we know that recruitment is a two-way process. The school and organisation must be a good fit for the candidate. With this in mind, if there is any further information you require about the school, the Trust or the role please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would strongly recommend a visit to the school so that you can see first-hand what a great opportunity there is on offer.

### The School

Oakwood Primary Academy opened in September 2012 when it joined Aurora Academies Trust, and its predecessor school closed. There are currently just over 350 pupils on roll and another fifteen in the nursery class. The school serves a diverse catchment area, although pupils are predominantly white British. Levels of deprivation are above national averages.



Oakwood is currently in a category of 'special measures' following an inspection from Ofsted in March 2020. Following the inspection, the Trust acted quickly to appoint an experienced Head of School from another school within the Trust. Two monitoring visits from Ofsted since then have recognised the improvements being made, although there remains much to do to ensure that educational provision is the very best it can be. Significant work has taken place to ensure that the teaching of reading, writing and maths is effective. Staff have been trained in 'Maths Mastery', 'Daily Supported Reader', 'Destination Reader' and 'Read, Write Inc.' phonics as well as 'Talk-4-Writing', and these approaches form the spine of the English and Maths curriculum.

Pupils enjoy coming to school and are keen to learn and do their best. Our new school values of **Knowledge, Equality, Determination** and **Achievement** are being used to drive improvements and create a sense of teamwork and community.



The school is situated in large grounds at the foot of the South Downs. A program of refurbishment is underway and there is scope for the successful candidate to really make their mark on the fabric of the school.

## **The Trust**

Aurora Academies Trust was established in June 2012. It was tasked by the Department for Education with turning around the fortunes of four of the most challenging primary schools, both in East Sussex and nationally. Since then the Trust has grown and we now have seven schools, including an all through primary/secondary school, across four local authorities.

The Trust works in partnership with a global education company, Pansophic Learning. Pansophic operate many schools internationally, in the US, UAE, Switzerland and in Uganda. This international dimension gives a unique perspective for Aurora and the Trust benefits from these in many ways, including the sharing of best practice on a global level.



We are incredibly proud and passionate about our leadership development model. There are numerous examples of staff who have secured promotion as a result of the carefully planned and expertly delivered Global Leadership Institute training that all leaders benefit from. As well as this, our schools collaborate very closely together.

As well as leadership development, the Trust provides a number of 'central' services including a Director of Early Years, a Safeguarding and Attendance lead and a Behaviour, Wellbeing and Mental Health lead. These resources are deployed across Aurora schools as required and provide a valuable resource for school leaders to call upon.

The Trust has an overarching Board of Trustees but each school has local governance exercised through a Local Academy Board (LAB). Oakwood currently has an Interim Executive Board (IEB) in place that is chaired by a Trustee and benefits from great educational leadership experience from its other members. The other Trust Executives are also frequent visitors to every school and there is very much a 'can do' culture within the Trust.

These are exciting times for Aurora Academies Trust and the education sector as a whole. Schools are facing many challenges but these also present many opportunities. This role will be hugely rewarding for the right candidate and really can be considered as a career-defining opportunity.

## **The Role**



Our leadership team has developed over the last twelve months and, as a result, this new role has been created. We now feel the time is right to have a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will lead on maintaining the improvements already made and continue the work that has started on the wider curriculum and associated pedagogy. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to play a significant role in school improvement,

curriculum design and developing pedagogy, whilst enjoying the support of the wider Senior Leadership Team.

The **Assistant Headteacher – Teaching and Learning** will provide leadership for subject leaders and help guide and influence the further development of the curriculum. At the same time, they will provide training and support for staff so that the curriculum is taught in an effective way that results in pupils learning and making great progress. This is a non-class-based role although it is important that the successful candidate is a great teacher with the skills to motivate and inspire others to be the same. The role will provide real challenge but also great rewards!



We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,

James Freeston  
Executive Headteacher for AAT

Ryan Laker  
Head of School