Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in the Pastoral Assistant Headteacher role at The Bridge Short Stay School.

This role offers the successful candidate an exciting opportunity to help continue to develop and improve provision at our school. The post-holder will be a key strategic leader within the school, whilst continuing to work directly with young people and families to impact on individuals. I believe that our staff are the greatest asset the school has and seek to support every individual to achieve their potential and ambitions.

The Bridge exists to work with students who have been permanently excluded from other schools, we seek to recognise the potential in all our young people, despite the difficulties they may have had elsewhere. As a school we change lives; GCSE results and post 16 destination data outperform the national average for alternative provision settings and continue to improve year on year.

Having this impact isn’t easy work however and the successful candidate will need to share our vision and belief in there being a brighter future for all of our students. They will be energetic, hardworking and possess the skills and resilience to successfully work with young people who can exhibit very challenging behaviours. They will be able to successfully lead and influence others, whilst maintaining the ability to ‘walk the talk’ acting as a role model. This isn’t a desk job and you will be expected to get stuck in; completing home visits, responding to immediate concerns and doing whatever it takes to get students into school feeling safe and secure.

Our students typically face a number of barriers to being successful. They are more likely than most young people to have a history of poor school attendance, to have suffered childhood trauma or to be experiencing mental health difficulties. A significant number of our students need additional intervention from outside agencies, whether that be Social Care, Early Help, Drug and alcohol or missing from home teams. This role is integral to the way in which we work to address those barriers and support students to thrive in all aspects of their life, planning our whole school approach while also working directly with students and families.

OFSTED recognised The Bridge as a ‘Good’ school in May 2018, a judgement that was maintained in our most recent inspection of May 2024. We remain ambitious however to continue to improve and this appointment represents a key step on that journey.

This appointment comes at an exciting time in our journey. There is ongoing work in collaboration with the local Council who are committed to a significant investment in facilities that would see us move into more suitable accommodation with the potential for significant growth. Alongside this, the school is in the process of conversion to academy status as a founding member of The People’s Learning Trust, giving us the opportunity to work closely with a number of local schools who share our commitment to inclusion.

If you are able to contribute to continuing to raise standards in pastoral care for students, we would welcome your application; in return you would be joining a committed staff team and gaining the opportunity to develop whole school leadership responsibilities to support your ongoing career progression.

Visits to the school and informal conversations about the role ahead of applications are encouraged. To arrange these please contact school on 0151 2453877 or enquiries@thebridge.cheshire.sch.uk

Kind Regards



Mr A Stewart

Headteacher