16 April 2021

Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest in the vacant post of Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) at our school.

I joined Ponteland High School as Headteacher in September 2012 and have thoroughly enjoyed my time working within the school. In recent years we have undergone significant changes with the expansion to become an 11-18 secondary school in September 2019 then the move to a brand new state-of-the-art building in November 2020.

If successful, you will be joining a very good school with significant strengths. The school is calm and orderly on a daily basis and this enables lessons to progress with minimal interruption. We place a premium on relationships and see this is as essential to the smooth running of the school and for effective learning in classrooms. Our students are well presented, keen to learn and make a valuable contribution to our positive ethos and culture. We expect a lot from our students and they rarely disappoint.

The current vacancy involves leadership of an essential aspect of our school, i.e. the pastoral structure and systems. It should come as no surprise that this was the first area of school I tweaked upon taking up my post and, to this point, I have had a Deputy Headteacher leading its development on a daily basis. I believe that the pastoral system, and the values we transmit through it, are crucial in setting the tone for how the school operates day by day and, this in turn, creates the right conditions for effective learning to take place.

You will be joining a Senior Leadership Team comprising two Deputy Headteachers, four Assistant Headteachers (in addition to this vacancy), Headteacher’s PA, School Business Manager and Data & Exams Manager. It is an experienced team that operates on a collegiate and high trust basis. I invite challenge and constructive engagement on all aspects of school improvement as I am keen to avoid colleagues working in isolation or becoming precious about ‘their’ areas of responsibility.

Ultimately, our school exists to serve the needs of our students and this is the driver in our decision making processes. That said, we need to be constantly aware of the importance of recruiting and retaining highly talented and committed staff. We currently benefit from an excellent staff body and they routinely go above and beyond to ensure that our students get the high quality of education they deserve.

We are looking to add another superb colleague to our leadership team to support us in our next phase of improvement.



Kieran McGrane

Headteacher