



Warden Park

'The Best From All'



Information for Prospective Candidates

For the post of

CURRICULUM LEADER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE 1.00 fte

(Required from 1st September 2021)



Warden Park

'The Best From All'

April 2021

Dear Potential Candidates

Thank you for your interest in this teaching vacancy and I hope that the information contained in this pack helps answer your questions about the post and the academy, and that this leads to an application from you.

The most important thing you need to know is that Warden Park Secondary Academy is a fantastic school to work in! The academy is very well respected in the local community, has a long tradition for excellence and our students' outcomes are very strong. Our students are excellent - generally above average ability on intake they have an excellent work ethic, standards of behaviour are very high and they are enthusiastic in their support of the academy evidenced, for example, by the very high numbers who engage in extra-curricular activities. You will therefore not be surprised to hear that the academy is significantly oversubscribed for the 300 places on offer in Year 7 each year. Places in our excellent Special Support Centre (SSC) which caters for 18 students with Education Health and Care Plans are equally sought after.

I have been in post since September 2017 as Headteacher of the academy which, along with two local primary schools, Warden Park Primary Academy and Northlands Wood Primary, make up the Sussex Learning Trust. The three Headteachers work closely and opportunities for partnership work across the curriculum are evolving as the Trust develops.

There is a strong focus in the academy on developing excellent teacher practice. It is our stated intention to become a research driven learning institution and our professional development is focused on reviewing best practice and carrying out our own research in order to improve the quality of teaching in our classrooms. There is excellent pastoral care in the school coordinated by a very experienced team of Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers who contribute to ensuring that, even in a large academy such as ours, every student is known and well-cared for.

Ensuring students leave Year 11 with the best possible GCSE results is a priority for all who work in the academy. In 2019, our Progress 8 score was 0.27. In 2019, 60% achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and Maths and this increased in 2020 to 62%. Warden Park Secondary Academy is one of the highest attaining schools in the county. However, it is also a priority that students leave well-equipped to be successful in the next phase of their learning and, beyond that, to be confident and empowered with the skills and capabilities to go on to be successful employees, citizens, partners and parents. These are equally important outcomes.

The ICT & Computing Department

Our ICT and Computing Department is:

- Committed to sustaining and improving results across all levels and Key Stages
- A highly collaborative and supportive department
- Innovative, creative and student centred.

The ICT and Computing department at Warden Park is at an exciting point in its growth. Our team has embraced the new Computer Science curriculum with eagerness and creativity, as well as not losing sight of our students' digital literacy needs.

The Department currently has 3 staff. We have high aspirations for our students as well as our staff, and firmly believe that the school's maxim, 'The Best From All', should be present in all that we do. We therefore value CPD very highly.

The department is well-resourced, being accommodated in three classrooms and has a designated Resource Room, where staff may work, and socialise during breaks. All our students have mini iPads, and wi-fi access is available in all ICT teaching rooms as well as desktop computers for up to thirty-one students.

The Department follows the OCR syllabus for Computing/Computer Science and WJEC GCSE Media. Students receive two one-hour lessons a fortnight in KS3 and five one-hour lessons a fortnight in KS4. Our subject is optional at KS4 but extremely popular with students and demand is high. We also have some students who follow AS Computing as an extracurricular activity.

ICT nationally is still undergoing a period of significant change and Warden Park's ICT & Computing Department is fully committed to embracing those changes, whatsoever they may be, and adapting to them in the interests of ensuring that all students fulfil their potential in this crucially important subject.

Curriculum Leader post

Excellent outcomes for students in Computer Science are obviously crucial in underpinning the success of the Academy as a whole. However, they are also crucial in securing the successful onward progression each year of 300 students into their academic and personal lives beyond Warden Park. Consequently, we are looking for a candidate that:

- Has excellent subject knowledge.
- Is able to lead and develop a team of outstanding teachers such that they are able to be excellent in all that they do, all of the time.
- Can develop in our students a passion for the subject and all that it has to offer their personal development.
- Can secure outstanding academic attainment, particularly from our most able students, in keeping with the Academy's aspirations and potential for excellence.
- Be an inspiration to other Curriculum Leaders and colleagues such that collectively we are stronger as a community of professionals.

Our success to date has come from a focus on developing excellent teachers and the successful candidate will be able to build on the firm foundations that already exist in the department. Despite our successes to date we are by no means the finished article and therefore a candidate with the vision, skills and tenacity to complete our 'journey to excellence' is being sought.

Job Description

This post is subject to the current conditions of employment for Class Teachers contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act, the required standards for Qualified Teacher Status and Class Teachers and other current legislation.

This job description may be amended at any time following discussion between the head teacher and member of staff, and will be reviewed annually.

Job Purpose

To be accountable for the results of a subject area and other related aspects of the school's work and to support, hold accountable, develop and lead those colleagues within their teams. The scale and extent of this role will be dependent upon the size of the curriculum area.

Areas of Responsibility and Key Tasks

- To lead in the development of a collegiate approach to pedagogical practice within the curriculum area which supports individual colleagues in their development needs.
- To embed and further the use of iPads and other digital technologies to enhance students' learning.
- To use pedagogical experience and expertise in the curriculum area to help support the development of teacher practice across the Academy.
- To oversee students' progress towards ambitious outcomes in the curriculum area through an inclusive approach that ensures all pupil groups achieve equally well.
- To implement a development plan that supports whole school priorities and secures progress against key subject specific priorities.
- To promote high standards with respect to the learning environment, health and safety and the wellbeing of students and staff.
- To lead Performance Management within the department and hold colleagues to account where performance is less than expected.
- To ensure high standards of student conduct in the curriculum area through a consistent application of the Academies behaviour for learning protocols and related policies and by supporting colleagues in managing students in classrooms.
- To liaise with Line Manager and Link Governor for support and to keep up to date with developments and issues in the curriculum area.
- To regularly review and evaluate standards of leadership, teaching and learning in the curriculum area and to collate evidence from this to inform the curriculum area SEF and development plan.
- To effectively manage capitation for the curriculum area.
- To engage professionally, efficiently and proactively with stakeholders.

Whilst every effort has been made to explain the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified.

Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a line manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description.

Person Specification

Applicants should have the following essential qualities, skills and experience:

1. A passion for teaching their subject coupled with a strong vision of how to engage students in their learning and a record of success based on high levels of student achievement
2. Excellent subject knowledge and understanding of pedagogy in the curriculum area including assessment strategies, recent research findings and statutory guidance.
3. Can lead, motivate, enthuse and inspire colleagues and students, and win the confidence of colleagues, parents and other stakeholders
4. Has the ability to think strategically with imagination, vision, creativity and originality to improve outcomes for students
5. Experience of planning, monitoring and evaluating an area of a schools work
6. An understanding on how data can be used to support student progress and meet ambitious curriculum area and Academy outcomes
7. Has well developed emotional intelligence and can get people on board easily
8. Experience in developing colleagues e.g. through mentoring, coaching or providing CPD.
9. A positive attitude, flexible approach and excellent communication skills.
10. Is an excellent administrator with an eye for detail
11. A willingness to embrace the opportunities offered by academy status and to support our partner schools is essential.
12. A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and a satisfactory DBS disclosure.

In Conclusion:

Securing the best possible outcomes for the young people in our care is the absolute priority for me and in applying for this vacancy you will be seeking to join a highly professional and supportive team of colleagues committed to achieving exactly this. As an individual you will possess a growth mindset, be relentlessly optimistic, enthusiastic and determined with an unwavering energy and determination to make a significant contribution to the on-going success of the academy.

We look forward to meeting you!



Dom Kenrick

Headteacher



Warden Park

'The Best From All'

Candidate information

Individual visits:

Normally we would be delighted to organise individual visits with any potential candidate who wishes to visit the Academy, however, due to Covid we are not currently accommodating this. We hope that the successful candidate will visit the school prior to taking up the post.

Submitting your application:

If you would like to apply for this post:

- Please complete an application form, available on the Warden Park website
- Also submit a letter of application, no longer than two sides of A4. In your letter

please focus on the following:

- ***The skills and expertise that you will bring to the role evidenced through examples of your experience and successes to date***
- ***How you meet the wider person specification***

Your completed application along with a supporting letter should be emailed to jobs@wardenpark.co.uk by Friday 7th May 2021. Please note that we will be considering applications as they are submitted up until the closing date. Our HR Manager, Shirley Batchelor will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this process or vacancy (sbatchelor@wardenpark.co.uk).

Safer Recruitment:

Warden Park Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to DBS checks along with other relevant employment checks

Short listing:

The selection panel will undertake short listing wherever possible on the same day as the vacancy closing date, however if there is no closing date we will contact successfully shortlisted candidates as soon as possible. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by telephone and/or email giving them as much notice of the date of interview as possible. If shortlisted, please bring with you your passport, driving licence (both parts) and a recent bill or statement less than 3 months old along with your degree/educational certificates when you attend for interview. This is for DBS purposes and will save time later should you be appointed.



Warden Park

'The Best From All'

Local information

Location:

The school is ideally situated in the lovely Sussex village of Cuckfield, in a rural location, yet within easy reach of excellent facilities and communications. There are a good range of local amenities, including restaurants, boutiques and pubs found in Cuckfield and the nearby town of Haywards Heath. Haywards Heath lies in the centre of the Mid Sussex District of West Sussex, surrounded on all sides by stunning countryside, which is less than a five-minute drive in any direction from the town centre.

The vibrant seaside city of Brighton (15 miles) offers first-rate shopping, restaurants and cultural facilities.

Transport:

There are regular trains from Haywards Heath to London and the South East (London Bridge/Victoria from 42 minutes). Gatwick airport (14 miles) has a fast rail connection to London (Victoria 30 minutes).

www.southernrailway.com

There is very easy access to the A23/M23 and in turn the M25 and national motorway network.

Schools:

There are a number of highly regarded primary schools in the area:

www.wardenparkprimary.co.uk

www.northlandswood.co.uk

www.harlandsprimaryschool.org

www.holytrinity-cuckfield.w-sussex.sch.uk

www.bolnorevillage.w-sussex.sch.uk