Principal: Mrs L Griffiths BSc (Hons) NPQH **Chief Executive Officer**: Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH

September 2021

Dear Colleague

We are delighted that you are considering applying for the position of **Curriculum Leader of MFL (Spanish)** at John Smeaton Academy. This post represents an important opportunity for us to recruit a colleague who is passionate about working in partnership with us to transform the experience of students at John Smeaton Academy and the experience of the wider community.

John Smeaton Academy was the subject of divestment order from the Secretary of State and became a part of The GORSE Academies Trust on 1 September 2021. Over the course of many years the school has underperformed; in 2019 it was classified as the lowest performing secondary school in the Leeds local authority for many measures including, very importantly, the progress that all children make including the disadvantaged. As a consequence of this performance the school has gradually lost the support and confidence of its immediate community. This year only 96 pupils joined us in Year 7 against a pupil admission number of 250.

Despite these obvious challenges there are many things to be excited about regarding the future of John Smeaton Academy and we hope that you will recognise those opportunities as you consider an application for this role. The school sits at the heart of a housing revolution in east Leeds so there should be no reason as we win back the confidence of our community for us to be undersubscribed. Furthermore, with students already benefiting from the improvement in behaviour standards and teaching and learning, John Smeaton Academy's reputation is starting to turn.

The school premises have been exceptionally well looked after and we enjoy an excellent partnership with John Smeaton Leisure Centre which is at the centre of our PE and sports programmes. The pupils who are with us now are increasingly motivated, keen to do well and supportive of the changes already made.

Critically, the successful candidate will become a part The GORSE Academies Trust which is recognised by government as the highest performing academy trust in the country regarding the progress of pupils in all key stages. The trust is renowned for the excellence of its work with less advantaged pupils from poor white backgrounds. John Smeaton Academy's partner school, The Morley Academy was the successful named applicant school in our bid to become Leeds Teaching School Hub, a status which commenced in September 2021. This means that we are directly responsible for the training and development of all teachers in Leeds from the moment that they consider joining the profession through to training for headship and beyond. This presents a tremendous opportunity for any professional joining our academy and trust.

We are entirely confident that John Smeaton Academy will become a great school over the coming years.

We hope that through this letter and the information available on our website we have been able to give you an insight into what an incredible opportunity this is. We seek a candidate who is passionate about ensuring that all students, regardless of background, make exceptional rates of progress and have the opportunity to attend their local school.

Clearly, working in our academy will be demanding as well as very rewarding. We assure you that as our colleague you will be of great value and importance, an importance reflected in the quality of the professional development we are able to provide. If successful, you will enjoy the support and professional expertise that being a part of The GORSE Academies Trust affords. For example, you will have regular

opportunities to work in partnership with other colleagues in the other secondary academies as well as benefitting from Primary and Post-16 expertise to ensure you are well placed to provide an excellent educational platform for life-long learning.

Should you choose to apply then please ensure you submit a completed application form. A CV is not required. Supporting statements should be no longer than 2 sides of standard font and should detail your expertise and the contribution you would make to John Smeaton Academy.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Griffiths
Principal

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