

Sir John Thursby Community College

Eastern Avenue, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 2AT
Tel: 01282 682313
Headteacher: Mr R. Browning
Email: head@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk

June 2021

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Deputy Headteacher at Sir John Thursby Community College. At SJT our vision is to become a truly great school, where our young people achieve well above national expectations and where we prepare them to live successful and fulfilling lives. Our vision is built upon three words – Belong, Believe, Achieve. We believe that to be truly great, we need to create a school where all members of our community are known, valued and loved, and where people feel that they belong. Within this community we provide the opportunities for all to believe in themselves and to experience new things and to look beyond the immediate. Finally, within this community we do everything that we can to ensure that all achieve, through great teaching, great support and great relationships.

You will have seen from our OFSTED report in January that the school remained good. However, despite having a very challenging curriculum in KS4, with over 70% of our students following an EBAC curriculum, some concerns were raised over our 2 year curriculum in KS3. Over the last year this issue has been addressed with all departments developing new 3 year KS3 curriculum with associated Schemes of Learning. Our challenge is now to embed and evaluate this new curriculum.

Our progress is in line with National averages, but our focus is now to increase the attainment of our students. We believe that our new knowledge rich curriculum, with the development of retrieval practice for students and explicit instruction from staff, will accelerate the achievement of our students. As Deputy Head, you would be leading on how the accurate assessment of students would help to support an improvement in achievement.

At SJT we value our staff and have worked hard to enable all staff to have a good work/life balance in a supportive working environment. To enable this we give all staff an additional non-contact period for collaborative planning, and main pay scale teachers have an additional PPA period per week. We have made significant reductions marking workload and have made substantial reductions to the number of after school meetings for staff. In our last staff survey over 97% of staff were both happy working at SJT and proud to be part of the team here.

Burnley Learning Partnership



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website: www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk

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Leadership matters to us and we will appoint a successful and emotionally intelligent leader, who can demonstrate sustained school impact in their current role. We believe that great leadership is based on high expectations, clear and accurate self-assessment, building great teams, clear communication, care for colleagues and hard work. We are looking for a strategic thinker, who is able to challenge students and staff to constantly improve, whilst actively working to reduce staff workload and to simplify existing systems. As Deputy Head you will be given the autonomy needed for you to do the job well, but will be expected to deliver the great outcomes we are aiming for. You will model great leadership, listen to staff and students, work well with other leaders and be a strong presence around the school.

At SJT there are a number of things that we are rightly proud of including: happy and successful students, good teaching and learning in most classrooms, a research-based approach to our improvement planning and a positive and supportive school environment. However good is not enough for us and as a Deputy Headteacher joining the school you will be expected to build on our current strengths to create a truly great school. You will be expected to support and lead our team of subject leaders to ensure that our assessment and tracking of students is accurate and that it enables appropriate interventions to be put into place to ensure great outcomes.

At SJT you will be joining a successful school which has the potential to become a truly great school. If you are successful you will be part of a supportive and an exciting team of staff who are committed to making a real difference to the lives of our young people and their local communities. However, we recognise that to become a great school isn't easy and it requires hard work and commitment from all.

We recognise that an important part of the selection process is for you to find out if this is the right school for you and we welcome visits to SJT before you apply (COVID permitting).

To arrange a time to visit and meet with me please contact my PA Leanne Barwell (email - l.barwell@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk. or telephone 01282 682313 ext: 21009).

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We look forward to receiving applications from candidates meeting our personal specification, which will form the basis of our shortlisting process. The closing date for applications is **9am Tuesday 22nd June 2021**, shortlisting will take place in the week beginning Monday 28th June, the interview process taking place on **Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th July 2021**. I look forward to receiving your application and exploring your future with us through our selection process.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

R. Browning

Mr R. Browning
Headteacher

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