



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERTON ST MARY • DEVON EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher: Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH



March 2023

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) at The King's School.

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-18 comprehensive school (OfSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1110 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. We have a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16: this allows students to select subjects they are passionate about, and offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff. We have a rolling programme of investment in the school site with over £2 million of capital projects completed over the last 6 years. As a result, we have a well-resourced and pleasant environment for the whole school community to enjoy.

The experiences of our students reflect our 'Achievement for All' ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of them progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. We also have an award-winning Skills for Learning team that works alongside classroom teachers, ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. Students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

Academic outcomes only give a narrow view of the success of a school. Therefore, The King's School places a strong emphasis on personal, as well as academic, outcomes. We provide outstanding pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities are available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our smart uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. Following the pandemic, we have re-established a very strong extra-curricular offer which includes numerous trips and visits, school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and sporting activities to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching school hubs, the South West Institute for Teaching, and multi-academy trusts; as a result, staff are well supported in their professional development. There is also a focus on staff wellbeing with a number of staff-led activities that take place providing encouragement and mutual support amongst the staff body.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises of the Headteacher, four Deputy Headteachers, an Assistant Headteacher and the Director of Finance and Operations. The team is very experienced and knows the school incredibly well. There is deliberately a 'flat' management structure in place, allowing for a less hierarchical approach to school leadership in which responsibility is distributed effectively across the team. We all have the opportunity to speak



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into significant decisions from budget and curriculum, to staffing and special educational needs. There is a high level of challenge within the team, which we all enjoy – this leads to better decision making as a result. This post is suitable for someone who is ambitious and wishes to gain experience before moving on for promotion, as has been evidenced by members of the team securing Headteacher posts in recent years.

This post provides an exciting opportunity for the Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) to have a significant impact in the development of teaching and learning. We have a strong team of middle leaders and teachers who are keen to develop their practice further, particularly given all that was learned during the COVID pandemic. The Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of the school's learning and teaching strategy. Other whole school responsibilities include responsibility for ensuring the provision of high-quality cover for absent teachers, leadership of all internal and external examinations, leading the annual school plan for continuing professional development, and an overview for teacher training programmes and the school's ECT programme.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King's School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important asset of the school is its staff and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful but if you would like further information or you wish to visit the school in advance of an application, please contact Mrs. Pocock at recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk by Friday 10th March. School visits will be arranged the week commencing 13th March.

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children educated at the school, and someone who lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have very hardworking and supportive staff who enjoy being part of this community and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Gammon

Headteacher