

DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL & CREATIVE STUDIES RECRUITMENT PACK



Aim High. Be Proud. Love Life.

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Welcome from our Headteacher

A very warm welcome to Walker Riverside Academy; a fantastic school of which I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher.

Thank you for your interest in the position of Director of Digital & Creative Studies at Walker Riverside Academy. The Academy is an exciting and thriving 11-19 secondary school at the heart of its community in Walker, Newcastle Upon Tyne and we are looking for a Director of Digital & Creative Studies with the drive and determination to make a real impact on the future of the Academy.

Walker Riverside Academy serves the community of Walker in Newcastle Upon Tyne and is an oversubscribed 11-19 secondary school with 1100 students on roll with that number predicted to increase in coming years.

We help our students to **aim high, be proud and love life**, in both their academic and career aspirations, supporting them at every step and guiding them upon options available. It is the daily embodiment of this ethos that makes Walker a truly special school community, with unique opportunities for involvement in the Combined Cadet Force, the TCAT Football Academy, and a growing post 16 partnership to deliver A-Levels at a local Trust partner school North East Futures UTC. The Academy has a curriculum with many unique aspects and a vision that students should be **Globally Aware, Culturally Aware, Self Aware and Life Ready with Ambition**. The four 'awares' are the cornerstones of the well considered curriculum intent. We want our students to be proud of both themselves and the school community they attend, whilst developing a love of Academy life. The investment in passionate pastoral and academic support for our young people ensures that we create an atmosphere in which we laugh and learn together. With all students being attached upon entry in Year 7 to one of three schools: Dobson, Grainger, or Stephenson, a sense of belonging and community is created from the outset.

At the heart of Walker Riverside Academy is its talented and dedicated staff. They are its most valuable asset, and they uphold ambitious educational standards which prepare all students for the next phase in their education and life and provide care, guidance, and support in a learning environment characterised by high standards of behaviour and mutual respect. Our Academy is always striving for brilliance and now is a fantastic time to become part of our Walker community, and our wider Tyne Coast Academy Trust.

Academy Life

For more information on Walker Riverside Academy please visit:

Website: www.wra.tynecoast.academy

Facebook: [@walker.academy](https://www.facebook.com/walker.academy)

Twitter: [@WalkerAcademy](https://twitter.com/WalkerAcademy)



Mr G Smith - Headteacher

Tyne Coast Academy Trust

Tyne Coast Academy Trust is an outward facing Trust with strong links to other successful Trusts in the region. We are currently made up of five schools, two primary schools, two secondary schools and a UTC. The Trust also benefits from being in the unique position of being sponsored by Tyne Coast College (comprising of South Tyneside College and TyneMet College), a world class college with a reputation for excellence.

Our Vision

To be an outstanding MAT, providing world-class education and training.

Our Mission

To provide the highest quality education and training, preparing young people for the future.

Our Values

As an employer and a learning organisation, we will:

- Aim to be excellent in all that we do;
- Celebrate diversity and the rights of others;
- Act with integrity - fairly, openly and transparently; and
- Be welcoming and approachable to all.

Strategic Aims

We aim to:

- Provide high-quality teaching and learning;
- Create a high-quality learning environment;
- Be financially sound, modernise and grow, providing outstanding value for money;
- Provide a curriculum that meets the needs of all stakeholders in an ever-changing world; and
- Work in partnership with the communities we serve, agencies and employers.

Core Values

Tyne Coast Academy Trust:

- Believes every pupil should achieve their potential;
- Believes in developing strong relationships with our pupils, and never giving up on them;
- Believes in being a strong community presence, embedding everything we do in the local community;
- Values and respects the professionalism, commitment, and excellence in our staff;
- Believes the needs of employers should shape our curriculum;
- Will make a significant positive impact on the local, regional and national economy; and
- Welcomes and includes everyone in our community, and value individuality and diversity.

Employee Benefits

Across our trust our teaching staff benefit from:

- A commitment to professional development for all staff;
- A focus on staff wellbeing with designated weeks;
- Access to the Teachers Pension Scheme and Local Government Pension Scheme;
- TCAT continues to follow the STPCD and Burgundy Book along with national conditions of service for non-teaching staff;
- An opportunity for cross-site working and career development opportunities, including within our Trust schools and our sponsor colleges;
- Opportunities to teach A Levels across the Trust;
- Access to free gym facilities.

The Application Process

Thank you for your interest in joining Walker Riverside Academy.

The job advert, job description and personal specification have been provided to decide whether you wish to apply for the position. Please take the time to match your skills, experience and career aspirations against this information when applying for the post.

The Application Form

It is important that you complete **all sections** of the application form and that you provide full and accurate information. Please note, CVs will not be accepted.

All applications must be returned by the closing date. Late applications will not be considered.

After the closing date all applications will be examined and shortlisting will take place. You will be notified by email if your application has been successful and you will be invited to attend an interview. Details of the interview, and any required tasks that you will need to prepare for, will also be sent to you. At this point references will be sought if permission has been given.

On the day of the interview you will be asked to bring various forms of identification and original certification as declared on your application.

Post Interview

You will be contacted to advise if you have been successful or unsuccessful. If you are the successful candidate you will be made a verbal offer of employment, which will be followed up with a conditional offer of employment.

Once all clearances are in place a start date will be confirmed and followed up with a final offer letter and statement of particulars.

Further Information

For further information please contact Melissa Dobrianski, Head of HR & Business Operations at mdobrianski@tynecoastacademytrust.co.uk

Walker Riverside Academy and Tyne Coast Academy Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate pre-employment checks including an enhanced DBS with barred list check. The Trust will also undertake an online search of publicly available information on all candidates who are shortlisted for an interview.

Job Advert

Director of Digital and Creative Studies

Leadership L8 - L12 £56,082 - £61,882

From September 2024

Walker Riverside Academy are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, suitably experienced Director of Digital and Creative Studies.

This is an exciting opportunity to take on a leadership role across our Academy's Digital and Creative Studies subjects. Reporting to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, the role will be to lead Digital and Creative Studies; with an already broad suite of successful subjects including I.T., Computer Science, Art, Photography, Music, Drama, and Media. These are becoming increasingly popular subjects in our Academy as we recognise the need to ensure our students have access to a high-quality, broad, balanced and creative curriculum at all key stages.

The Director of Digital and Creative Studies will be responsible for leading, developing, and managing the strategic vision for the Creative Digitals subjects across the Academy in line with our core values of being Ambitious, Collaborative, Compassionate, Resilient, and Responsible.

The main challenge in the role will be to build on the existing good practice in our well-equipped creative classrooms, bringing together colleagues across the creative Digitals disciplines to fulfil our shared vision for our students to be self, culturally, and globally aware as well as life ready with ambition. With creative industries now one of the UK's economic success stories, growing at twice the rate of the wider economy, generating approximately £115.9 billion for the economy and providing more than two million jobs, we recognise the value of our Digitals curriculum in providing long term opportunities for our students.

We want an outstanding practitioner with a track record of improvement who can ensure consistency and a vision for long-term continuous improvement.

The role will suit:

- Anyone with a proven track record of outstanding teaching practice in Creative or Digital subjects.
- A candidate able to deliver upon the consistent implementation of a KS4 Digital qualification, suitable for all KS4 learners.
- A leader that ensures robust monitoring and evaluation of forementioned curriculum, ensuring timely interventions to support our student progress.
- Someone who can inspire, coach and develop our talented, creative and digitalistic colleagues to continually improve the quality of creative digital education for our students.
- A teacher who is already successful at leading a team; OR an effective main-scale teacher who can demonstrate the ability to drive, motivate, support and lead the Creative Digitals

teams to deliver outstanding results.

We are committed to investing in our staff and you will receive a supportive induction programme, have access to high-quality CPD and access to undertake National Professional Qualifications. Opportunities are also available for Trust-wide working and career development opportunities. You will also receive consistent support from a dedicated Headteacher, SLT, CEO, Trust Central Team, Local Governing Body, and Trust Board.

If you share our vision, are passionate about raising educational attainment and standards for our highest attainers to our most vulnerable cohorts and ensure our diverse community of students reach their full potential, you can make a difference at Walker Riverside Academy.

If you would like a discussion about this post with Gareth Smith, Headteacher, please contact him via email at gareth.smith@wra.tynecoast.academy

The deadline for applications is 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 8 May 2024 and interviews will take place the week commencing, Monday, 13 May 2024.

Please return completed applications to applications@wra.tynecoast.academy

Tyne Coast Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks including an enhanced DBS with barred list check.

In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, an online search will be completed on all shortlisted applicants prior to interview. Any relevant information will be discussed further with the applicant during the interview process.

We are proud to be a Disability Confident employer and guarantee an interview to anyone who discloses a disability where their application meets the minimum criteria for the post.

Application packs and further information can be found on the Tyne Coast Academy Trust website <https://www.tynecoastacademytrust.co.uk/join-our-team-current-vacancies/> or by contacting Sandra Willis, Office Manager, at sandra.willis@wra.tynecoast.academy

Closing date: 8 May 2024 12.00 noon

Job Description

Job Title: Director of Digital & Creative Studies
Salary: L8 to L12
Accountable To: Assistant Headteacher

Job Purpose

The Director of Digital and Creative Studies will be responsible for leading, developing and managing the strategic vision for the Digital and Creative study subjects across the Academy. Ensuring a high quality provision with the aim of raising attainment and progress for all groups of students within the group of subjects included. The Director will provide professional subject leadership which secures success and improvement, ensuring high quality education, improvement standards of learning, progress and achievement for all groups of students.

- Provide strategic overview for the Digital and Creative departments and to provide direction for teaching and learning across the subjects.
- Provide line management for leaders of IT, Computer Science, Music, Art, Photography and Media Studies all of which combine to make the Digital and Creative Studies faculty.
- Oversee consistent implementation of a KS4 Digital qualification, suitable for all KS4 learners.
- Monitoring and evaluation of forementioned curriculum, ensuring interventions are robust to support student progress.
- Work with the T&L lead to improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching in the subjects, having regard to the teacher standards.
- Contribute to teaching delivery of our Digital curriculum subjects.
- Develop a faculty self-evaluation and improvement plan which will be routinely evaluated and reported upon to the link SLT line manager.
- Provide a safe, calm and well-ordered environment for all students and staff, focussed on safeguarding student welfare and developing good behaviour in the Academy and in wider society.
- Lead, organise and direct the teaching of the subjects.
- Ensure a high quality experience for all students.
- Utilise robust and systematic data analysis, including student attendance data for impactful intervention across subjects within the Creative studies faculty at all key stages.
- Contribute to wider strategic school based leadership decision making.

The Director of Digital and Creative Studies will provide line management for designated staff across the Academy.

Key Result Areas

Direction and Development of the school and subject

The Director of Digital and Creative Studies will work with the leadership team and other subject leads within the faculty to provide strategic leadership and will contribute to the development of a strategic view for the school and analyse and plan for its future needs and further development.

- Provide strong effective leadership, vision and strategic direction to the department to achieve the highest levels of performance and ensure a culture of continuous improvement providing challenge, coaching, support and robust accountability.
- Develop policies and procedures, in line with school policy, that will ensure high achievement and effective teaching and learning.
- Use data on student performance to inform policy and practice, identify underachieving students and monitor the effectiveness of the subject.
- Establish plans for the development of the Digital that support the school improvement plan and ensure that the Digital is always seeking to improve.
- Work with the SLT to ensure systematic and rigorous self-evaluation of the work of the subject collecting and using accurate data to understand its strengths and weaknesses.
- Support in the creation and implementation of a subject plan, which identifies priorities and targets for ensuring students achieve high standards, increasing teachers' effectiveness and securing successful outcomes.
- Maintain quality assurance systems, including subject review, self-evaluation and performance management, presenting an accurate account of the subjects performance to a range of audiences.
- Develop an ethos within the Digital and Creative Studies faculty which enables everyone to work collaboratively, develop joint practice and share knowledge and understanding.
- Ensure the curriculum offered within the faculty meets the needs of all students including those with SEND.
- Line Management of allocated staff including appraisal and regular professional supervision.
- Responsible for the production of a succinct focussed Digital and Creative Studies Improvement Plan, in line with agreed whole school priorities, monitoring progress against the targets and ensuring appropriate action plans are in place where issues are identified.
- Empower the development of a high-quality Digital and Creative Studies faculty through quality assurance and monitoring processes.
- Support the professional development of staff, sharing best practice to secure improved outcomes for students.
- Keep abreast of developments locally, regionally and nationally attending relevant meetings and CPD.

Teaching and Learning

The Director of Art and Creative Studies will, in their subject, seek to secure and sustain effective teaching and learning, monitor and evaluate the quality of education and standards of students' achievements and use benchmarks and set targets for improvement.

- Support the SLT in leading improvements to the quality of teaching and learning in the faculty by monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching and standards of achievement using benchmarks and setting challenging targets for improvement, whilst holding teachers to account for student progress and outcomes.
- Monitor, evaluate and review standards of teaching and learning in Art and Creative Studies Faculty and promote improvement strategies to ensure that the highest standards of teaching and learning are maintained whilst challenging any areas of underperformance.
- Ensure teaching supports those students who are falling behind and enables these students to catch up.
- Rigorously track the quality of teaching and learning the subject areas.
- With SLT, oversee and organise systematic observations, subject and key stage reviews, learning walks, work scrutiny and student voice.
- Model high quality teaching and learning for others.
- Raise standards within the Art and Creative Studies department to become an outstanding curriculum area.
- Keep up to date with national developments in the subject area, teaching practice and methodology, contributing to the whole school CPD programme where appropriate.
- For the general standard of discipline in the classroom, help should be provided when teachers are experiencing disciplinary problems. Coaching should be given to avoid problems as well as help at moments of crisis.
- Help to support, establish and implement clear policies and practices in line with school policy, for assessing, recording and reporting on student achievement and for using this information to recognise achievement and to assist students in setting targets for further improvement.

Efficient and Effective Management and Deployment of Resources

- Lead and manage Digital staff and the Creative Study subject provision across the Academy.
- Establish clear expectations and constructive working relationships among staff, including, through modelling high quality teaching and learning for others, teamwork and mutual support; devolving responsibilities and delegating tasks, as appropriate.
- Evaluate practice, appraise staff as required by the Academy policy and use the process to develop personal and professional effectiveness.
- Lead, motivate and challenge all staff, providing effective induction, continued professional learning, development and improvement and performance management at all career stages.
- Coach members of staff in order to develop teaching and learning within the school and to enable teachers to achieve expertise in their subject teaching.
- Work with the Director of SEND and other SEND staff across the Trust and within the Academy, to ensure that work is matched to individual students' needs for the curriculum.

- Establish staff and resource needs for the area of responsibility and advise the Senior Leadership Team of likely priorities for expenditure. Allocate available resources with maximum efficiency to meet the objectives of the Trust and achieve value for money.
- Ensure the effective and efficient management of learning resources, including ICT and software packages as appropriate.
- Maintain existing resources and explore opportunities to develop or incorporate new resources into schemes of work.

Accountability

The Director of Digital and Creative Studies as a faculty lead will account for the efficiency and effectiveness of the subjects to the SLT, Governors, students, parents, staff and other members of the local and wider community. This will include effective communication and advice to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors and accountability for subject performance.

N.B. All posts are required to work flexibly in order to meet the needs of TCAT on a corporate basis.

Variation In The Role

Given the dynamic nature of the role and structure of TCAT and Walker Riverside Academy, it must be accepted that, as TCAT and Walker Riverside Academy's work develops and changes, there will be a need for adjustments to the role and responsibilities of the post. The duties specified above are, therefore, not to be regarded as either exclusive or exhaustive. They may change from time to time commensurate with the grading level of the post and following consultation with the member of staff.

Equality And Diversity

TCAT is committed to equality and diversity for all members of society. TCAT will take action to discharge this responsibility but many of the actions will rely on individual staff members at TCAT embracing their responsibilities with such a commitment and ensuring a positive and collaborative approach to Equality and Diversity. This will require staff to support TCAT's initiatives on Equality and Diversity which will include embracing development and training designed to enhance practices and the experiences of staff, students and visitors to TCAT with an all inclusive approach that celebrates differences. Failure to embrace these commitments may lead to formal action.

If you as a member of staff identify how you or TCAT can improve its practice on Equality and Diversity, please contact the HR Manager.

Health And Safety

All members of staff have a duty to maintain safe and clean conditions in their work area and cooperate with TCAT on matters of Health and Safety. This will include assisting with undertaking risk assessments and carrying out appropriate actions as required. Staff are required to refer to TCAT Health and Safety Policies in respect to their specific duties and responsibilities.

Staff Development

All staff are required to Digitalicipate fully in TCAT Staff Development programmes and have a responsibility to identify their own professional development needs in conjunction with their line manager.

Commitment To Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups

TCAT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, as well as vulnerable adults, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Person Specification

Director of Digital & Creative Studies

	CRITERIA	Essential/ Desirable	Where assessed
	Qualifications and Education		
1	Educated to degree level	E	A/C
2	Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)	E	A/C
3	Further relevant professional qualifications or middle leadership training e.g. National Professional Qualification	D	A/C
	Experience and Knowledge		
4	Successful experience of leading a Digital or Creative department across both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	D	A, I, R
5	Experience of leading staff successfully, including holding staff to account	D	A, I, R
6	Successful experience of teaching a Digital subject across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	E	A, I, R
7	Experience of developing Digital wide strategies across full curriculum year groups to raise attainment and improve progress	D	A, I, R
8	Experience and knowledge of the relevant Digital and Creative subject national curriculums at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	E	A, I, R
9	Understanding of what is required to secure effective teaching and learning to improve student progress and achievement in an inclusive environment	E	A, I, R
10	Up to date knowledge and understanding of pedagogical and curriculum strategies	E	A, I, R
11	Ability to use assessment data effectively to set targets and raise achievement	E	A, I, R
12	Ability to provide appropriate stretch and challenge and support for students	E	A, I, R
13	Ability to motivate and engage students	E	A, I, R
14	Potential for further leadership capacity	E	A, I, R
	Skills		
15	Excellent communication skills and the ability to develop strong professional relationships	E	A, I, R
16	Ability to organise work, prioritise tasks, make decision and manage time effectively	E	A, I, R
17	Able to delegate effectively and manage the performance of others	E	A, I, R
	Personal Attributes		
18	A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people	E	A, I, R
19	Flexible and able to use own initiative	E	A, I, R
20	Able to secure the trust and confidence of staff, students and Governors	E	A, I, R
21	Demonstrable leadership qualities and the ability to gain confidence and professional respect from team members	D	A, I, R

Key: Where Assessed

A – Application Form

C – Certificates

I – Interview

R – References

Please set out how you meet the essential and if appropriate desirable criteria in your application form. The person specification will be used to shortlist candidates for interview.



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enquiry@wra.tynecoast.academy



walker.academy