



LUNESDALE
LEARNING
TRUST



QES

QESstudio

Application Pack

Assistant Headteacher / Director of Sixth Form

Role	Assistant Headteacher / Director of Sixth Form
Salary	L14-18
Deadline	Monday 31 st January 6.00pm
Interviews	Week beginning Monday 7 th February 2022



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1 Introduction

Cathy O'Neill

Executive Headteacher

Thank you for your interest in this post. This is an exciting time to join us!

This is a significant strategic position and we are looking for the right person who can help shape the future of Post 16 Provision across both our schools.

People say our schools are special places and we believe this is seen in the warmth of relationships and the highest of expectations at all levels, and we aspire to be one of the best School Sixth Forms in the country.

We are seeking someone who can lead, challenge and support staff and students to great achievement in all areas at this next significant stage in our long history.

In return we can offer you an opportunity to join a community with ambition and drive; this is a highly stimulating place to be and it promises to be a busy, energising and fulfilling role.

We appreciate there is much in addition that you would want to know and encourage you to get more of a 'feel' for the life of our schools by visiting our websites: [QES](#) and [QESstudio](#).

If there is anything specific you wish to know at this stage please don't hesitate to get in touch. Equally, if you would like to pay us a visit and tour our schools prior to the deadline, do let us know.

It is fair to say we are on the cusp of a new era. This year, despite the Covid context, we have established a new Leadership Structure across the Trust and as we plan our sixth year as the Lunesdale Learning Trust we are seeking the right candidate to lead this pivotal area of both our schools.



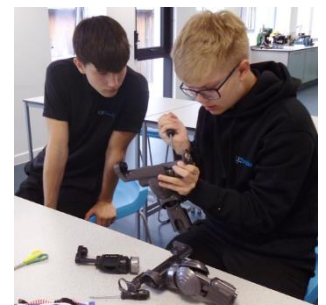
Advertising this role as a Director of Sixth Form across our Trust elucidates the idiosyncrasies of our current situation. We are a co-located ‘two school’ MAT with shared staffing and a large Sixth Form recruited mainly from our own Year 11 as well as 11-16 schools in the locality.

This is a fantastic role for the right candidate - it is rare opportunity to build on firm foundations and create a dynamic, highly visible and exciting Sixth Form looking to the future with real vision and energy.

We are looking for someone with a genuine commitment to a fully comprehensive Sixth Form provision, an ability to support students with their applications to the most competitive of HE courses as well as those who may be aspiring to more vocational destinations, placing equal importance on all directions of travel. We are seeking a leader who is a compassionate professional, able to offer considered and well-informed pastoral care as well as lead on Post 16 teaching and learning, set and maintain rigorous standards and have a strategic eye on Post 16 curriculum developments.

We want someone who understands the vibrancy of our community and is willing to work hard in keeping it a special place, someone who has energy and tenacity and someone who will not only keep a sense of perspective but will also be good-humoured, warm and thoroughly decent along the way.

Cathy O’Neill, Executive Headteacher



2 Our Sixth Form

LLT has a thriving Sixth Form. Every year the majority of our Year 11 students stay on and we also welcome many students from other schools.

Co-located with shared facilities, classes and access to the full range of extra-curricular and personal development education, pastoral care and support, QES and QESstudio offer a comprehensive fully collaborative Sixth Form provision.

Our Sixth Form allows us to offer a full range of courses and combinations leading to a diverse range of destinations.

Central to our philosophy are our aims:

“To develop young people who are independently minded, critical thinkers who will leave Sixth Form with the ability to use their skills, intellect and compassion in making decisions in the wider world.”

And our Beliefs:

“We share a celebration of diversity in all its forms, a parity of esteem for the technical, vocational, creative, practical and academic, a commitment to our locality, and, above all, a shared sense of the moral purpose of education.”

For more details, including videos, please visit [LLT Sixth Form](#).



3 Our Environment and facilities

We serve a large, prosperous and beautiful area of South Lakeland, North Yorkshire and North Lancashire with pupils drawn from as far away as Sedbergh, Clapham, Lancaster, Silverdale and Kendal. Although rural we are only 6 miles from the M6 and twenty minutes from a main West Coast train station which promotes easy access and helps explain the outward-looking vibrancy of Kirkby Lonsdale.

Our site is on the edge of the picturesque market town of Kirkby Lonsdale. It is a particularly attractive, campus style site and the characterful buildings show evidence of additional phases from the 1840s to the present day. Since 1996 the School has completed a number of successive high-quality building projects and the site is striking, attractive, colourful, bright and civilised. Landscaping projects have given form, shape and coherence to the site adding avenues, courtyards, gardens and an amphitheatre.

In 2017 the Design Technology Building and the Lunesdale Sports Centre were completed; a considerable development of the ‘Main School’ was finalised the following year, including a newly refurbished library, staff room, Learning Support and Pastoral Support areas. Not only that, in September 2019 the new QEstudio building opened on our site, creating even more extensive facilities.

Whilst the Sixth Form have their own library, café and social spaces they are very much part of the whole school community with lessons located throughout the two schools.



4 Our Values

We believe in a Values-led Education:

- Respecting traditions & the past
- Working hard and doing your best
- Being decent to people
- Being friendly, polite and courteous
- Looking out for other people
- Getting involved
- Respecting the environment
- Thinking of others less fortunate
- Encouraging global citizenship
- Understanding life is about more than money or material things.

Whether it is speaking to parents on an Open Evening, helping a young person make decisions about their future or appointing staff, we use the language of these Values every day.

Along with our original mandate to provide 'Scholarship and Care', they are the basis for our educational philosophy; they allow us to speak about the profound and life changing effect that education can have, and subscribing to them enables us to share a common language and purpose.



5 Lunesdale Learning Trust

In September 2017 QES developed as the Lunesdale Learning Trust to incorporate a new Free School, the QESstudio. Co-located since 2017, providing high quality professional, technical and vocational learning to over 300 14-18 year-olds. This is an innovative and exciting aspect of our provision in Key Stage 4 and 5 and is proving to be extremely popular with pupils and parents.

Currently a Trust of these two schools alone, we have a mix of established and recently arrived staff. Turnover is exceptionally low and there are high levels of expertise. Teachers enjoy very positive relationships with pupils and are committed to providing not only excellent teaching but also a full range of extracurricular activities. Our Support staff are excellent – talented and highly committed.

The Trustees of the MAT and the Governors of QES and QESstudio are a highly professional body, employing staff directly. Over the years we have developed a self-managing, confident and independent culture while preserving strong links with neighbouring schools as members of the South Lakes Federation.



6 Student Views

Abi Pearson

Head Girl

I have felt such a privilege to attend QES for the last nearly 7 years. Being from Kirkby Lonsdale myself, I always knew I'd come here and, in some sense, resented the fact that I would be staying in the same small town in which I had always lived. Fortunately, my experience has been the opposite; School has opened me up to the idea that there is a world outside of Kirkby Lonsdale, and that I will soon be a part of it; I have been empowered by this fact ever since coming here.

A lot of this realisation for me came in Sixth Form, where I feel I've truly found myself as a person. I've been able to get heavily involved with extracurricular activities such as Amnesty International, and within these been able to develop my interests and embrace what I ultimately want to do with my life. This is why I believe Sixth Form to be one of the most important stages of education- having received a foundation of knowledge in lower school and GCSEs, this is when students begin to refine and mould themselves into the people they wish to be. For me, the principal factor in achieving this is the support of the Sixth Form team, especially the Head of Sixth Form.

Perhaps my favourite part about Sixth Form has been the more personal relationships I've been able to develop with my teachers. This has given me a better sense of my individuality as a student as well as independence and communication skills that will come to help me at university. Outside of all the preparation for the next stage that School has provided me with, I have truly found it to be a nurturing and amiable environment- without which I would never be the person I am today.



Rory Shannon

Head Boy

When it came to choosing where to go for my Post 16 studies there was really only one choice; in fact I had made my choice long before I started thinking about Sixth Form. I would go so far as to say joining Sixth Form has been the best decision I’ve made to date.

From the work environment to the extracurricular activities to the opportunities to grow and learn as a person, I owe school so much and at the helm is the Sixth Form Leadership. A constant presence around Springfield House, their values of compassion and hard work are omnipresent. From subject advice, UCAS help or general support, the team have been an asset to me as I have progressed through year 12 and 13, especially in my capacity as Head Boy.

Their continued support in the many events and speeches has been a great help to not only me but all of the members of the Student Leadership Team and the wider LLT Sixth Form body. This is an opportunity to build on such great work and join a great team.

While I will be leaving school in the summer the positive experiences and happy memories will stay with me for many years to come.



7 QESTudio

Our ten Core Values also underpin the principles of QESTudio, with its own iteration of these articulated in its commitment to Community Well-being centred on a belief that a healthy, happy community needs the following:

- An understanding of its history
- A connection with its landscape
- A culture of looking out for one another
- A desire to care for the vulnerable and the structures to support care
- Access to the arts and culture
- Access to sports and leisure
- Opportunities to get involved in community activities
- Economic well-being through enterprise and the encouragement of growth and prosperity
- Opportunities for its young people to learn in a way that meets their needs and understands their passions
- Young people who stay and become part of the community in the future
- Access to modern developments and practices that allow the community to adapt
- A global perspective connecting the community to other people, other places and other ideas.



8 The Post

The successful candidate would join a supportive, collaborative and committed Leadership Team who meet regularly and share responsibility for all aspects of our community.

Everyone has key areas of responsibility across the LLT but we have a collective responsibility for ‘Scholarship and Care’, maintaining our strong ethos of shared Values and high standards in all areas. We focus on every aspect of our community, engaging with events and activities and keeping our schools vibrant and energised places with warm relationships at their heart.

The Director of Sixth Form will:

- Take responsibility for standards across all aspects of the Trust’s Post 16 provision
- Make a positive contribution to the vision and leadership of the Trust
- Assist the Headteacher in ensuring the highest possible standards of education through the promotion of excellent teaching and learning, a broad and balanced curriculum, the provision of excellent pastoral care and support for students and a rich extra-curricular programme
- Play a key role in promoting our aims, values and ethos and facilitate effective communications with all stakeholders
- Maintain a strong awareness of the School’s performance with regard to the Ofsted framework, thereby ensuring Sixth Form maintains its ‘Outstanding’ status in all areas
- Lead and co-ordinate the construction of the Post 16 Development Plan and Self-Evaluation process to secure continuous improvement
- Assist the Headteacher with the recruitment & development of excellent staff and in ensuring high standards of discipline and positive morale across the school community
- Assist the Headteacher in ensuring budgets are effectively managed and that the School delivers value for money
- Ensure that Child Protection and Safeguarding of students are given high priority at all times
- Report to Governors and Trustees on a regular basis

9 The Person

This summarises the main characteristics; see the Specification for further details.

We expect to appoint someone who has:

- A keen intellect and an excellent academic background with a very good degree
- A great track record of success at all levels
- Experience of leading people and initiatives successfully
- Compelling personal qualities, an ability to form positive relationships with people and the ability to enthuse and inspire both students and staff
- Impeccable administrative abilities and a highly efficient demeanour
- An ability to communicate effectively
- The ability to work hard under pressure
- A sense of humour and sense of proportion
- The confidence to make difficult decisions and an ability to reflect on them and re-consider situations with empathy, humility and warmth
- A commitment to enhancing the community and extra-curricular life of the school
- A commitment to ethical leadership
- A capacity to think strategically and commitment to their own professional development



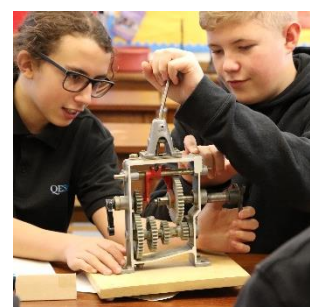
10 Further Information

If you require further information or wish to discuss any issues, please do feel free to get in touch with our HR Manager, Rachel Webster.

- 015242 71275
- recruitment@qes.org.uk

The Lunesdale Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.

All successful candidates will be required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), other statutory required clearance and reference checks with previous employers.



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