



February 2021

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in this exciting leadership opportunity. It has arisen due to the current SENDCo retiring from September 2021, after 13 very successful years in her current post.

The post combines the strategic leadership of the school's SEND team and provision as well as being a member of our Core Leadership Group and provides a natural progression for an experienced school leader wishing to move into SEND leadership. I am relatively new to the school having started in January 2021, but prior to my arrival, the school engaged in a period of re-configuration at senior and middle leader level, so that it had the vision and planning in place to achieve the objective of being and remaining a GREAT school in which, all groups of students experience a world class curriculum, which enables them to reach their full academic and personal potential. My arrival has not changed this vision at all. The successful candidate would be joining our Core Leadership Group at a significant point in our journey as a school.

We are very proud of all our students, no matter what their background or starting point. We are an inclusive and caring community. Our academic standards are strong, with our focus being on progress against stretching targets rather than merely raw grades achieved. This year so far, three of our students have achieved "Oxbridge" offers whilst some students will be opting to take non-GCSE courses at KS4 – we are proud of every one of them and strive to offer an individualised curriculum to meet their needs. We have high expectations of all our students in terms of attendance, punctuality, completion of work and commitment to community service.

Our SEND team are a real strength to the school. They are viewed locally and regionally as highly effective and the leadership given by the current SENDCo is exceptional. The recent issues with COVID19 have been very challenging for all students, but even more so for those with additional needs. A creative, flexible and personal approach has meant that students have been supported with learning as well as with pastoral needs.

I have been here 7 weeks and yet I already know St Laurence is a wonderful school to work in – visitors regularly comment on the strong community and welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Staff work very hard to uphold our high standards of pastoral care and academic achievement. In these pressurised times in education, we place a priority on looking after the wellbeing of our staff and exploring better ways of working.

We are looking for a leader who is positive, visible and people-centred, living out our aspiration to be a school in which we truly care, inspire and, therefore, succeed. Alongside this we need a leader who is fully committed to working as part of a team to drive our journey of continuous improvement, so that we have nothing less than the best provision for our young people.



If you would like to apply please would you:

1. Complete the application form
2. Write a letter of no more than 2 sides, in which you include the following:
 - Describe and illustrate your educational philosophy, to include reference to SEND
 - Explain how your experience and skills would enable you to carry out the role successfully
 - Outline what your approach to SEND leadership would be and what you see as the key priorities

Please send your letter and application form to jobapp@st-laurence.com by 12 noon on Friday 12th March 2021.

If you would like to visit St Laurence prior to making an application please contact Sally Hackett, Head's PA (01225 309506, salhac@st-laurence.com), who will be happy to arrange this for you.

I look forward to your application.

Yours faithfully

Tim Farrer
Headteacher