January 2023

Dear Colleague

**Head of department – Philosophy & Ethics/Religious Studies**

Thank you for taking an interest in this post. I am sure that all schools describe their job opportunities as exciting but this post really is a great opportunity. You’ll have the chance to join a strong team in a happy, friendly and successful school situated in a beautiful rural area,

I joined the school in September 2011 and can confirm that it is a great place to work. The location, the facilities, the students, but above all the enthusiasm, professionalism and “team spirit” of the staff really are something special.

Some years ago we set ourselves the challenge of delivering the best possible education for our students whilst remaining a friendly, happy, highly inclusive, community school. We promised that we wouldn’t achieve our aims by putting staff under unreasonable pressure, by coercion, or by endless bureaucracy. Here we would do it a different way; by being supportive, putting learning and progress at the centre of our work and by working as a team. We believe in developing outstanding teachers and respecting their professionalism, we want our staff to enjoy their work and our students to enjoy their education.

Our latest Ofsted report, from May 2019, and strong summer 2022 results, give an idea of the progress that we have made. We are proud of our achievements; they give us confidence that our approach works, but we know we can do even better. Understanding what that will look like and the partnerships and structures that will deliver it in the fast changing world of education is our next challenge. If you would like to play a part in that work I hope that you will give serious consideration to applying for this post.

In recent years our philosophy and ethics department has benefited from strong leadership, by leaders who believed that the subject was essential to students understanding of the wider world. This understanding is a critical part of this school’s vision and the department has a big role to play in delivering that vision. This job gives you the chance to shape the future of the subject, in a school in which students, staff and governors value the contribution it makes. Students enjoy philosophy and ethics in years 7 to 9, and religious studies is a popular choice at GCSE.

I hope that the information in this pack, on our website and in our Ofsted report leaves you keen to apply; if so we would be delighted to hear from you. Your application should consist of the completed application form, and a statement/letter of no more than two sides of A4. The statement should indicate: *your vision for philosophy and ethics/religious studies in our school how you would use your strengths and experience to deliver outstanding progress for our students.*

You are very welcome to come and look around our school before deciding whether to apply. I think you will like what you see. Just drop me an e-mail if you would like to come and take a look, or would like an informal conversation about the posts (sgrieves@chapelhigh.org.uk). If you do apply, the “Notes on Applying” which are enclosed should help you. Please note that the deadline for receipt of your application, by post or e-mail, is **12 noon on Monday 13th February** with interviews planned for Thursday 16th February.

Good luck and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

**Simon Grieves, Headteacher**