



# THE KING'S SCHOOL

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

Founded 1545 • Headteacher Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH



January-February 2022

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of **Head of PSHE and Citizenship** 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 1120 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 5 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. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sport offer that caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology Evening 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

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school hubs and multi-academy trusts. We have a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools in their role as Specialist Leaders in Education, including in PE, PSHE, Science, and Design & Technology.

The King's School has maintained an excellent reputation for the delivery of high quality PSHE and Citizenship for a number of years, often leading new initiatives in the East Devon area and delivering training more widely. The subject is highly valued at the school, in our community and especially by our students. PSHE is often cited as a 'favourite subject' and students enjoy and actively engage in lessons across all the key stages, including the Sixth Form. We encourage teaching to be lively, innovative, creative, rigorous, and above all fun. Expectations and routines are well-embedded across all year groups; students' behaviour is excellent across the department allowing teachers to focus on getting the best outcomes for all students. Students are taught one hour a week (once a fortnight in Years 9 and 12) and lessons are delivered by a highly motivated **specialist** team. Staff work together extremely well, sharing good practice with colleagues in a supportive and creative environment. The PSHE team is critical in raising students' awareness of issues such as emotional health and wellbeing, celebrating diversity and LGBT inclusion. We consider the understanding of these issues to be fundamental to everyone in our community in order to support the school's 'Achievement for All' ethos.

The Head of PSHE and Citizenship has a critical role in responding to the emotional health and wellbeing of our students. The successful candidate will lead the delivery and regular review of an engaging curriculum which is age-appropriate, safe and serves the needs of our community. The role requires you to liaise with the Careers Co-ordinator and pastoral team to ensure the aspirations and needs of all students are met within the curriculum. You will have a crucial role in listening to students' opinions via the Teen Health group and the Diversity group, both of which have received national and local awards for the work they undertake and delivering presentations at conferences. The Teen Health group has also won 'Diamond' awards for their pioneering mental health work.

All teachers benefit from excellent CPD opportunities, both in-house and externally, and are never afraid to innovate. We are looking for someone who can be creative, dynamic and is able to communicate their passion for the subject to the whole range of students and staff. You will need to be a talented and capable classroom practitioner, skilled in managing challenging topics such as relationship education, and be adept at creating a comfortable environment for all to thrive. The successful candidate will also be a team player who can communicate an enthusiasm and depth of subject knowledge using a student-centred approach. You should also be organised, confident in assessment for learning, and – above all – be someone who will form positive relationships with both colleagues and students alike.

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



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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 Ms Pickering ([recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk)).

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 J Gammon  
Headteacher