



Head of Design and Technology

Full-Time | Permanent

Closing Date:
Wednesday 5 February 2025

Thank you for your interest in this position at The Spires College. This brochure is designed to provide you with information about the specific role and department, the college and our community. We welcome prospective candidates to contact the college for further information or to arrange a visit. Contact details are on the last page.

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Dear Candidate

Re: Head of Design and Technology

I'm delighted that you are considering joining our extended leadership team and very much hope that the enclosed information helps you make an informed decision about whether this is the job for you. Our priority is to recruit the very best person to lead our Design and Technology Department, and to provide excellent teaching for our students, and so we will adapt the role to that person. That may mean giving extra mentoring to a brilliant but less experienced candidate or, if the best candidate is already an experienced and successful Head of Department, we could recognise this by giving more breadth to the role. Please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more about how this might work for you.

The post has arisen from a restructure of our existing Department of Creative Arts and Technologies and so the successful candidate will have the opportunity to develop their department as they see fit. The existing team are incredibly supportive and hard working. This is also an exciting time to take up the role as we look to introduce A level Design and Technology. The Department of Design and Technology will comprise Design and Technology, Textiles and Food Technology and the Head of Department could be a specialist in any of these subjects.

It has been my privilege to lead the College since 2014, and to shape it into the forward-thinking, inclusive place that it is today. I really believe that our school is special. Visitors almost always comment on the calm but friendly atmosphere, and our culture of kindness, honesty and respect is much valued. Our students are fantastic: they want to learn and behaviour is good. And this is because we work hard to ensure that students and staff feel that The Spires College is a safe, caring and happy place to study and work. Of course, every headteacher will say good things about their own school and that is why I've asked our staff to contribute to this brochure to give you an honest view 'from the chalkface' and why we ensure that interviews always provide opportunities for candidates to talk frankly with a range of staff.

The main reasons I love working here are the staff and the students: working with young people is a genuine privilege, and every day I know I will be supported by the most diligent, hard-working colleagues I could possibly wish for. I laugh out loud every day, which isn't something everyone can say about their job. That's not to say there are not stresses and challenges: there absolutely are but I always know we will pull together and look after each other during those times. As a community of professionals, every member of staff plays an important role in the success of the College. There is no place for ego here. Everyone commits to working hard to provide our students with the best possible opportunities in life, driven by moral and ethical values. This is not to say that we don't enjoy our work thoroughly; we do, but our decisions are always rooted in integrity.

A priority for us as leaders at the College has been to ensure we remain true to our beliefs and values. We have a clear vision for what a school should be and try hard to avoid the educational bandwagons that come along and offer illusory silver bullets and quick fixes, instead placing great value on evidence and common sense. We know that good teaching in every classroom is key to educational success and this remains at the heart of our approach. Every teacher has a genuinely personalised programme of professional learning and opportunities. Teachers are expected to do a really good job but they are also trusted to do so. I firmly believe

that enforcing a highly prescriptive, single approach to teaching prevents the very best teachers from excelling. Instead we focus on educational research, and equip teachers to make decisions about their planning, teaching and assessment that are grounded in evidence. Integrity, openness and kindness are much valued at the College and I hope that this is noticeable if you visit us.

Working at The Spires College brings many opportunities beyond developing as a teacher. We want our young people to remember their school years as a time of excitement and opportunity; a time when they experienced new things and discovered just how much they could achieve in their lives. We therefore place great value on extra-curricular activities and opportunities. Student leadership is valued and prioritised. Outdoor education features heavily in the College year. The number of students involved in the College production increases year on year. I could go on. But none of this is possible without the brilliant team of staff that make these things happen and so it is my job to ensure that all of these facets of school life are supported, encouraged and valued.

The College roll has grown rapidly in recent years and is now heavily over-subscribed. I need to ensure we have the very best leaders to continue to take the College forward. If that's you, I'd be delighted to meet you. You are, of course, welcome to come for a look around but I know that finding opportunity to do so can be difficult, so will aim to give you a good flavour of the College over the following pages. I would also suggest looking at the pedagogy section of our website (in 'about us') to get a greater sense of our culture.



With very best wishes

Alex Newton
Principal



The Department

For several years, design and technology subjects have formed part of our Department of Creative Arts and Technologies. This has led to some excellent collaborative work and a real sense of a team. However, as the subjects within the department have grown in popularity, and we have broadened our curriculum offer in design and technology subjects, the size of the faculty has brought additional challenges. Therefore, we are creating two departments from the existing faculty: *Creative Arts* and *Design and Technology*. We are looking for an inspirational teacher and leader to lead the latter of these.

The Department of Design and Technology will comprise Design and Technology, Textiles and Food Technology. These subjects are currently taught by four specialist teachers, although some of our Art teachers are also equipped to teach Textiles. There are also two technicians within the department. The department is located in its own 'pod', with specialist teaching spaces and excellent resources for each subject.

The College has an ongoing focus on developing teaching and learning and Subject CPD time has been regularly used to share practice and plan teaching strategies as an evidence-based response to the needs of our students.

Students have two hours per fortnight of timetabled technology lessons throughout Key Stage 3, and study Food Technology, Design and Technology and Textiles on a termly rota. At Key Stage four, students can opt to study GCSE Design and Technology, GCSE Textiles or Hospitality and Catering (WJEC L2). At Key Stage 5, we offer WJEC Level 3 Food Science and will be introducing a Design Technology A level in September 2025. Post-16 courses have nine hours per fortnight whilst GCSE option classes have five hours.

Textiles

In Key Stages 3 and 4, the Textiles curriculum introduces students to a range of textiles processes and techniques whilst allowing learners to actively experience iterative design processes rooted in contemporary design applications. The Textiles curriculum informs and engages students in the exciting and inspiring forms that Textiles design can take. The subject provides an outlet for students to explore the application of textiles both within technology and industry, and as a wider extension of Art and Design. Students will develop and undertake investigations in which they develop increasing independence to problem solve and contribute to creative design solutions.

In Key Stage 3, the Textiles Technology curriculum introduces textiles applications including creating fabrics, developing metacognitive skills, fabric embellishing and printing and creating constructed textiles pieces. Students draw inspiration from a range of sources such as culture, contemporary designers and artists, and key design principles; developing new skills while grappling with concepts and key industry themes such as sustainability.

In Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of creative design processes with increasing independence, leading their own investigations into thematic design briefs. Students create samples and design pieces using a range of textiles applications and processes including investigating dyes and dyeing, printing methods, textile construction,

fashion design and polyfusion, while researching a variety of approaches such as biomimicry and user-centred design. The curriculum is enriched by a range of industry-based opportunities including visiting practitioners, trips, competitions and exhibitions.

Our Textiles teaching space is well appointed and recently developed, with a specialist classroom boasting Janome sewing machines, facilities for screen printing, print making and fabric dyeing. The wider technology department includes facilities such as use of the full adobe suite, laser cutting and fully equipped workshops.

Food Technology/Hospitality and Catering

In Key Stage 3, the food element of the Design and Technology curriculum introduces students to a range of exciting cooking experiences, food provenance, nutrition and healthy eating. Extra-curricular activities are also offered to enhance students' passion for the subject. Food provisions are supplied by the school and managed by the full-time technician.

Key Stage 4 students develop their knowledge of food and apply it to a Hospitality and Catering qualification. They have opportunities to gain and develop knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry, including provision, health and safety and food safety, an understanding of nutrition and how to plan menus, and the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. Students will review their practical work and look at the organoleptic qualities of food they produce.

Our Food Technology teaching spaces are well appointed and extremely well resourced with industrial catering ovens, quality appliances and equipment.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is a popular subject at the College. The subject appeals to students with interests ranging from engineering, product design and architecture, to more vocational subjects such as construction and manufacturing.

In Year 7, students get an introduction to the workshop and have the opportunity to use various pieces of woodworking equipment to design and make a mechanical toy. This project introduces key objectives such as the ability to write a client brief and to evaluate their work.

In Year 8, we focus on increasing students' confidence as we introduce CAD/CAM technologies. The Year 8 project supports the department's eco-friendly beliefs as well as teaching students important health and safety skills. They build on existing skills to learn the concepts of prototyping and iterative design. Year 9 builds further on these skills, as well as focusing on developing technical drawing ability.

Key Stage 4 students begin to focus on the theoretical aspects of the subject, exploring topics such as technology in the 21st Century as well as understanding the properties of various materials. Practical challenges intersect the theory topics, developing the skills needed for NEA. Students then undertake their independent coursework projects in Year 11.

The Role

The role of Head of Design and Technology is going to be pivotal to the success of the new department. Creating a sense of team with a shared ambition for the future of the department will be an early priority.

Students' examination outcomes are obviously essential for their future success and each Head of Department ensures everything is in place to facilitate this success. However, the role is far bigger than just exam results. The responsibility of creating and developing the curriculum is a significant one. Choosing what to include and, just as importantly, what to leave out, is a real challenge but one that is incredibly enjoyable. Likewise developing a team into excellent teachers, who are strong curriculum thinkers in their own right, is one of the most rewarding tasks in teaching.

A Head of Department has to lead by example. They must be an excellent teacher who can win the confidence of colleagues by modelling the very high standards of teaching and learning that they expect across their team. Crucially, it is the responsibility of the Head of Design and Technology to tread the line between holding every member of their team to account at the same time as encouraging professional autonomy.

Ultimately, the Head of Department sets the climate and culture for their department and how students act from the moment they enter the D&T pod is shaped by the expectations and actions of that person. This isn't always easy but the impact that one person can have on hundreds of young people's lives is huge.

The successful candidate will be well supported by an SLT line manager as well as by other Heads of Department in the College. Every teacher at The Spires College has personalised professional development. As well as receiving coaching to develop their own teaching and leadership, the Head of Design and Technology will act as a coach to others.



Job Description

Head of Design and Technology

2025



Salary:	MPS/UPS plus TLR 2b (£5532)
Contract Type:	Permanent, full-time
Accountable to:	Vice Principal
Start date:	1 September 2025

Introduction

This Job Description outlines the purpose and key tasks required to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list and duties / specific tasks may be varied from time to time, without changing the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed. This will allow flexibility for the College to respond to changing priorities and also support and enhance individual professional development. It is the practice of the College to examine job descriptions periodically, update them and ensure that they relate to the job performed, or incorporate any proposed changes. This procedure will be conducted by the Principal in consultation with the post holder.

Terms and conditions for staff employed on teaching contracts are detailed in the current College Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.

Overall Purpose and Accountability

- ▲ To meet the requirements of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and to support students in making outstanding progress.
- ▲ To support and uphold the ethos, principles, policies and rules of the College in all respects and at all times.
- ▲ To provide high quality learning experiences that support students in achieving at the highest level possible and in developing their own capacity as independent and reflective learners.
- ▲ To lead and manage the Design and Technology Department, ensuring the highest quality Teaching and Learning and the best possible outcomes for all learners.

Responsibilities common to the Extended Leadership Team (ELT)

In particular you will:

- ▲ Be a member of the Extended Leadership Team in which everyone is committed to securing outstanding outcomes for our students and our community.
- ▲ Assist the Principal in leading The Spires College in such a way that the highest standards are secured amongst staff and students in all areas of the College's performance and practice.
- ▲ Act as a role model for staff, providing active support and advice to them whilst holding them accountable.
- ▲ Lead on improvement strategies, coach and support staff, ensure quality, monitor and evaluate performance.
- ▲ Ensure that all students across the full ability range enjoy maximum support and opportunities to reach their full potential, achieving a position where they can become effective and valued stakeholders in the College and in the wider community.
- ▲ Contribute to all self-evaluation measures and quality assurance processes.

Post-Specific Responsibilities

As Head of Department you will:

- ▲ Evaluate and review all aspects of the Design and Technology Department's work as part of an annual cycle and action plan for all improvements needed.
- ▲ Lead the Design and Technology department to meet all targets in the departmental improvement plan.
- ▲ Develop appropriate Design and Technology curricula for Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, manage their delivery and assure the quality and impact.
- ▲ Lead on the implementation of high quality Schemes of Learning.
- ▲ Lead on the quality of Teaching and Learning in the Design and Technology Department, ensuring that all students are both engaged and challenged in all lessons.
- ▲ Closely monitor and track student progress at all levels and implement appropriate intervention strategies to prevent underachievement.
- ▲ Ensure reporting on student progress in Design and Technology is consistently of a good standard.
- ▲ Scrutinise the progress of different groups of students, including the more able, disadvantaged children and students with SEND, and intervene where necessary to ensure all learners can make at least expected progress and no child is prevented from achieving.
- ▲ Actively identify and remove barriers to learning in the Design and Technology Department including managing student behaviour within the department.
- ▲ Design an appropriate timetable for the Design and Technology Department in consultation with the Vice Principal responsible for timetabling.

- ▲ Take responsibility for high quality staff appraisal of the teachers in the Design and Technology Department.
- ▲ Ensure all staff in the Design and Technology department access high quality professional development to support both individual and departmental needs.
- ▲ Support and manage trainee and ECF teachers.
- ▲ Administer all necessary examination procedures.
- ▲ Manage the Design and Technology Department budget and resources effectively to ensure best value and highest impact for money.
- ▲ Create a happy, dynamic, innovative culture in the department and ensure all staff are performing to at least a good standard and are happy and motivated in doing so.

As a Teacher of Design and Technology you will:

- ▲ Meticulously plan and teach engaging and challenging lessons.
- ▲ Meet the needs of all learners through high quality planning and teaching.
- ▲ Set and feedback upon appropriate homework.
- ▲ Use regular, measurable and useful assessments of teaching.
- ▲ Complete all reporting on time.
- ▲ Closely monitor progress and attainment of students and use this to inform planning and teaching.
- ▲ Provide content for and where necessary deliver high quality student interventions.
- ▲ Support all students to achieve college targets.
- ▲ Work alongside colleagues on self-evaluation measures, quality assurance processes and department improvement strategies.
- ▲ Support department leaders in the implementation of high quality Schemes of Learning.
- ▲ Maintain regular and productive communication with parents about students' learning.
- ▲ Organise and participate in trips and events as appropriate.
- ▲ Take responsibility for your own professional learning through participating in the college's performance management processes and CPD opportunities.

College Culture

- ▲ Help create a strong college community, characterised by consistent, orderly, caring and respectful relationships.
- ▲ Help develop a college culture and ethos that is utterly committed to achievement.
- ▲ To become an effective Form Tutor (teachers will usually be required to perform the role of form tutor).
- ▲ Create and sustain a positive learning culture.

Health and safety responsibilities of all staff

- ▲ Adhere to health and safety policies/procedures and current statutory health and safety requirements.
- ▲ Attend training as and when required for the purposes of safeguarding children and corporate safety.
- ▲ Ensure the College is immediately notified of any issues that may affect your right to maintain enhanced clearance to work on the College site (DBS).

The College is committed to safeguarding and promotion the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure with barred list information.

Job Description

Head of Design and Technology

2025



We are looking to appoint someone who:

- ▲ Believes in the potential of all young people to achieve highly
- ▲ Is passionate and knowledgeable about their subject
- ▲ Loves teaching and wants to share that passion with colleagues in order to develop excellence across the department and the College
- ▲ Understand the fundamentals of the curriculum design and how children learn
- ▲ Enjoys working as a team

You must have:

- ▲ A good honours degree in a relevant subject
- ▲ Strong subject knowledge
- ▲ A teaching qualification
- ▲ QTS
- ▲ Experience of teaching a Design and Technology subject across Key Stages 3 to 5
- ▲ Leadership experience at some level and an understanding of the principles of curriculum design
- ▲ Ideally, experience of leading CPD and developing others, and of supporting colleagues at various professional stages
- ▲ An understanding of the health and safety requirements of teaching the practical aspects of Design and Technology
- ▲ The confidence and skill set to lead change and motivate colleagues
- ▲ Strong interpersonal skills
- ▲ An understanding of and ability to use a range of performance data effectively
- ▲ Effective behaviour management skills and experience
- ▲ The ability to motivate and lead students
- ▲ The ability to work well under pressure and prioritise according to need

You will be:

- ▲ A fantastic teacher; this is a fundamental requirement of the role as the successful candidate needs to be a role model for other staff, and has to be skilled enough in their own practice to be able to develop others too
- ▲ Adept at building positive working relationships
- ▲ Enthusiastic and keen to work in a forward-thinking, inclusive school
- ▲ An effective communicator
- ▲ Ambitious to build the very best Design and Technology Department possible

The College

The Spires College is a co-educational, 11-18 bilateral school with a selective stream. It is situated in the Plainmoor district of Torquay, within the Local Authority of Torbay. There are currently



approximately 1160 students on roll, 35% of whom are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. We are a friendly, caring college which puts the needs of our children at the heart of all we do. Academic progress is obviously vital but we also place a high value on the provision of enrichment opportunities that help our students to grow into responsible, confident and considerate young adults. Underpinning all of this are excellent standards of pastoral support and care that allow children to feel safe and valued.

The Spires College is one of very few schools in the country with bilateral streams. This allows us to take up to 60 students each year into a selective stream (out of a 210 PAN). Torbay is an area with a selective, grammar school system, where parents can choose for their child to take the '11+' test if they wish for them to apply for a place at one of the selective schools in the area. Our bilateral stream allows us to maintain a truly 'comprehensive' intake because it means we admit students of all abilities and backgrounds.



We have a modern, purpose-built building offering fantastic facilities for both students and staff alike. All full time teachers have their own classroom. We are committed to the professional learning of our teachers to ensure classroom practice is as good as it can possibly be. Every teacher follows a personalised CPD programme based on individual needs and interests, and

every teacher is involved in research and professional reading.



Previously Westlands School, the college was renamed The Spires College in 2015 to mark the significant changes that were taking place at the school. New leadership had instigated changes to expectations, policy and pedagogy by this point, and an outward-facing change was needed to demonstrate to the community just how

much things were changing for the better. An Ofsted judgement of 'good' in 2017 and a continually improving trend in outcomes followed. Today, the college is over-subscribed with a reputation for combining academic success with an inclusive, family-friendly approach. A further Ofsted inspection in November 2022 was overwhelmingly positive, and can be found on our website.

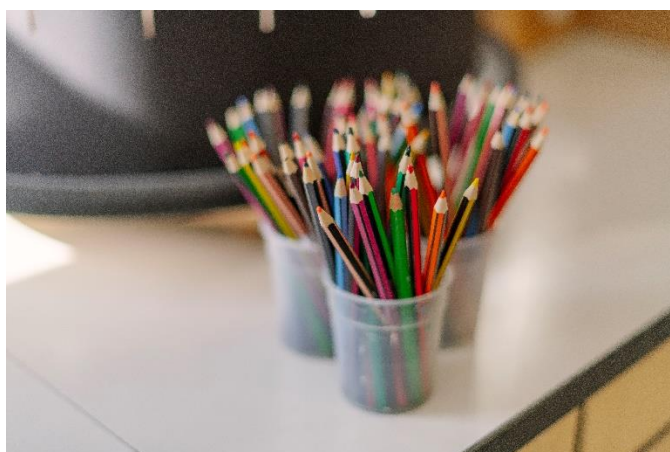
Staff Benefits

We organise College-life with staff well-being in mind. Centralised detentions and behaviour support allow teachers to focus on the most important things: teaching and learning. Our approach to teaching is based on an understanding of the positive impact of professional autonomy upon job satisfaction, and on the importance of allowing subject specialists to address the requirements of their own subjects in their planning. In this way, teachers are able to respond to the needs of the students in front of them.

The College invests heavily in staff CPD: a significant amount of time is dedicated to this. We have developed our own provision to support ECTs rather than relying on an 'off the peg' model; we prioritise the induction of all new staff and regard this as an ongoing process; all staff have an entitlement to high-quality CPD that addresses their own needs and priorities.

Other staff benefits include:

- ▲ Full membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme or local government scheme. We also support staff to access high quality advice about their pensions.
- ▲ Access to a wide range of discounts at hundreds of big-brand online and high street stores.
- ▲ Salary sacrifice schemes to buy a new car or bicycle (these offer the opportunity to pay for these items from your gross salary saving the Income Tax and National Insurance contributions you'd normally make on this income).
- ▲ A salary sacrifice scheme to buy the latest technology or smartphone.
- ▲ Free staff access to the College fitness suite.
- ▲ Discounted gym membership at a commercial gym.
- ▲ Access to an employee assistance programme offering a 24 hour helpline and support with financial, legal and employment issues.



To give prospective candidates an idea of what it is like working at the college, we asked some of our more recently appointed staff to explain why they chose to work here and what their experience has been like. This is what they said...

Role:	Teacher of Music
Time at the College:	Joined September 2018

Why did you want to work here?

The Spires College appealed to me as it looked like an exciting and forward thinking place to work. The Spires was in its fourth year since rebranding as a College when I joined and I was really impressed by how much the school had achieved in such a short space of time. Compared with other schools in the area, The Spires stood out as being independent. This appealed to me, having experienced academy chains with a 'one size fits all' approach to education. At the time that the vacancy came up, I was looking to relocate and the location of the Spires College, being in Torbay attracted me to the area as well.

What was your interview day like?

I was impressed by how welcoming and friendly all of the staff and students that I met on the day were. Obviously I was nervous but I felt that because everyone I met was so friendly and genuine when I spoke with them, it helped to alleviate my nerves somewhat and it put me at ease. The structure of the day was well thought out and I felt that I had ample opportunity to learn all I wanted about the college and the post I had applied for.

One of the things that stood out to me was how open and sincere the leadership team were when they did the introductions to the college in the morning and during the interview. It felt refreshing to hear members of the leadership team speak so fervently and confidently about their own ethos around how education is delivered at The Spires College. It was really clear that a well-rounded and broad curriculum for children is the most important aspect of the College. In addition, the trust and faith in the teaching staff at the college was held in equal importance to this.

What are the most notable things about working here?

As I have mentioned previously, the trust that is put in the staff working at the college is excellent. I personally feel valued as a member of staff working here and the recognition I have received for the work I have put in has been very rewarding. I feel like there is a genuine sense of team spirit and all staff are working to the same goal of making the college the best place it can be for the children that attend. We are given excellent opportunities to take ownership of our personal staff development. It is something that the school have invested heavily in and I feel that I have opportunities to be reflective of my own practice and I am able to push myself and try to develop and share new ideas to improve my teaching. The way in which heads of year work with students, tutors and pastoral managers is really consistent and effective too. Working in the music department, I feel very lucky that we have access to a wide range of high quality instruments, rehearsal spaces and equipment. The space and facilities gives me the opportunity to be more creative when designing schemes of learning and allows me to offer a broader range of musical experiences to the students at the College. I have worked in several schools throughout my teaching career but I have never worked in a school that has such a good quality SEND department. There are a high number of support staff and all that I have worked with have been excellent in supporting students in my lessons.

Would you recommend working at The Spires College and why?

Yes. When I was appointed at The Spires, I took a step down from my previous role as a head of department and moved nearly 300 miles to work at the school. This was a difficult decision as it was a big move for me and my family and I had a good reputation in my previous school where I had built up a successful department over a number of years, so it was a lot to leave behind. It didn't take long for me to settle and feel happy at The Spires. As mentioned above, this is due to a number reasons but mainly because of how well the school runs. The children that attend are a diverse range of people with a great attitude and they are a pleasure to teach. I enjoy coming to work and feel valued as a teacher. I feel like the leadership decisions are carefully considered and made with the best interests of students and staff at heart. As a result, the direction that the school is moving in is positive and forward thinking. I feel valued, supported and happy in my role at The Spires College and would happily recommend it to anyone.

Role:	Director of Sixth Form
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Time at the College:	Joined September 2019
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Why did you want to work here?

Having worked in Torbay for 15 years before taking up the post at TSC, I was aware of the dramatic changes that had occurred at the College since it was rebranded. When the advert for the Director of Sixth Form position came up I spoke to friends and colleagues more about the College and was met with overwhelmingly ringing endorsements of what the College had achieved and what it stood for. When I visited the College for a tour I was really struck by the tangible air of positivity throughout the building; with the staff you meet upon arrival, the teaching staff, the building itself and, most importantly, the students, there is a real sense of community.

Upon visiting the College I was inspired and enthused by the real love of learning that is at the very heart of the community. The commitment to ongoing, meaningful CPD with individual personalised learning programmes gives the opportunity for teachers to engage with what they love – learning! Surely every teacher enters the profession because they love learning, not only the learning of students but their own continuous learning. It is what keeps us fresh!

What are the most notable things about working here?

1. The students! In a short space of time I was able to establish positive, meaningful relationships with students and, in doing so, we are able to work together to make a huge difference in their lives. This is a community where there is a broad demographic of students and one where there is a significant amount of deprivation. Working in this community it is clear that we are making a meaningful impact on the life of each student.
 2. The love of learning that is shared by all. The commitment to the holistic development of students is matched with a commitment to the holistic development of staff through professional development and personalised learning programmes.
 3. The staff – there is a real sense of community
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Role:	Assistant Head of Science
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Time at the College:	5 Months (at time of writing)
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Why did you want to work here?

The Spires College provided me with an opportunity to work in an ambitious, enriching and purposeful school. The college has a wide demographic of students which makes it a highly rewarding and challenging place to work. The huge number of extra-curricular activities available to all year groups demonstrated that the College places a high value in developing well-rounded young people.

What was your interview day like?

From the point I was offered my interview I felt valued and welcomed by the College. All communication was positive and gave me a real sense of the ethos of the College. My interview day was well organised, professional and allowed me to get a good understanding of the College. The Principal was on hand to answer questions, which she answered with great honesty, openly discussing strengths as well as weakness and areas for improvement. All staff I met on the day, from admin staff to SLT, were equally happy to engage in discussions about the school - highlighting the sense of community within the college but also the importance of the school in the wider community. I left my interview wanting the opportunity to work at the college, knowing that it would be a fantastic place to improve both as a teacher and as a leader.

Would you recommend working at The Spires College and why?

Yes, 100%. The Spires College is a unique place to work offering fantastic opportunities for staff development, but its core purpose is clear: it wants all members of its community to grow, learn, enjoy and excel.

Role:	Deputy Head of Creative Arts and Technologies, Teacher of Drama
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Time at the College:	Joined September 2016
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Why did you want to work here?

I was informed of an opportunity to work at the College by a former colleague and came over for a visit and tour. I remember being surprised on my arrival that this was done by the Principal. From the minute I entered the College and began discussing the journey the College was on and the future plans for the Creative Arts and Technologies Faculty with Alex, I knew this was a place that was moving forward. I was excited by the scope of opportunity the role would provide me and the vision and personal drive Alex had for the College.

What are the most notable things about working here?

The thing I always tell people about working at The Spires College is that in my entire time of working here I have never had a request turned down that I felt would enhance our students' experience at the College. Alternatives may be suggested and compromises may be made, but I have been astonished at the level of support given by the leadership team to allow me to succeed and ensure our students are given every opportunity to achieve on a national scale. I feel that as a College we work incredibly hard to support the whole student, not just at the times they enter our classroom, but in every aspect of that child's school life. This obviously

begins with the pastoral team, with which I have been lucky enough to work, who offer a level of care and attention that, at times, goes above and beyond the job description. Finally, the thing that makes this school such a pleasant and positive place to work, is that the staff as a whole, from the caretakers to the Principal, are all totally invested in working to make the College the best possible school it can be, and when so many people have such a clear common goal it creates an exciting and energising place to work.

Role:	Teacher of Geography
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Time at the College:	Joined September 2019
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Why did you want to work here?

I was first attracted to the College by the information pack created for the job advertisement. There was a clear sense that the school knew its own direction of travel and trajectory. The strong exam results the school had gained were evidence of the quality of the teaching here, and the clear emphasis on the importance of CPD tied in with my own teaching philosophy. Another feature that was really important to me was that I was looking for a school that had high expectations of both pupils and staff, and wasn't afraid to enforce these. Finally I was looking for a school that had clear structures and systems in place for the day-to-day running of the school, and it was easy to find these through the website and the plentiful communication to parents.

What was your interview day like?

The first thing I would say about my interview day is that the information presented to me beforehand was extremely helpful, and more thorough than any other interview I have been to, particularly regarding practicalities such as parking. Having some assistance with these areas really helped me to relax and focus on the tasks the day would involve. I was also helped beforehand by the class teacher whose class I was taking, as he was happy to help me with resources and understanding the class context before the day. On the day itself I was really impressed by the members of the SLT that I met, and the values that govern their approach. Their transparency was refreshing and confirmed my previous thoughts about the quality of the leadership at the school. The rest of the department I would be joining were also really friendly and welcoming, which helped to settle nerves! The school building also struck me as a nice environment to work in.

What are the most notable things about working here?

The quality of the professional development is very high and teachers are equipped individually and collectively to be the very best that we can be. New ideas and approaches are valued, whilst expectations are high of both students and staff. I feel that the department I work in is really well-resourced and that ambition to improve is widely shared amongst all staff.

Would you recommend working at The Spires College and why?

I would thoroughly recommend working here. I am excited by the journey the College is on, and the opportunities that we are able to present to our students. I can't think of a better context to work in if you are ambitious for your students and seeking to improve as an individual practitioner. And if you think that Torquay is too far for you to travel, don't! I live just off junction 27 of the M5 (close to Tiverton) and it takes me roughly 50 mins: it's definitely doable!

Role:	Teacher of Design and Technology
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Time at the College:	Joined September 2018
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Why did you want to work here?

I had a friend here who suggested that I applied for the job as she enjoyed it here so much.

What are the most notable things about working here?

The very supportive SLT and the great students.

Would you recommend working at The Spires College and why?

I would definitely recommend The Spires College as a place to work. In eighteen years of teaching I have never worked in such a supportive school. The SLT are approachable and supportive. My work colleagues have been nothing but friendly and inclusive. Last but not least the students, who have been welcoming and are extremely well behaved.

We also asked all staff how they feel about working at the college: what are the best bits and would they recommend it to others. Here's what they said...

Role:	Head of History
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Time at the College:	1 week! (at time of writing)
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As a new member of staff I would say that the support and the welcome I've received at The Spires College has been exceptional, not only from my own department but also from IT, SEN, Pastoral Support, Senior Leadership and Support/Admin staff.

Role:	Lead Practitioner for Mathematics
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Time at the College:	Eight years
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Would you recommend working at The Spires College and why?

I would wholeheartedly recommend working at The Spires College. Teaching here I feel valued as a professional, taking responsibility for my own development as a teacher through action research in a supportive environment where evidence-based practice is valued. There are opportunities for leadership experience and further professional development at every level; for instance, in the past year I have been supported through completion of the Chartered Teacher Programme, had experience in leading group coaching sessions for middle leaders, and led a strand of the college's professional development programme. There exist opportunities for progression within the College's leadership structure; within the last five years I have held several positions of responsibility in the mathematics department, culminating in my current position as Lead Practitioner, and I have also held the position of Acting Head of Year 11 and spent a year on secondment to the Senior Leadership Team.

Role:	Head of Year
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Time at the College:	Thirteen years
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Don't hesitate to apply! You will be working in a supportive environment that values the importance of continuous development, for staff as well as students. The opportunity for people to further themselves professionally and personally will be noticeable as soon as you enter the building.

Role:	Head of Year
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Time at the College:	Eighteen years
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It's a place where your opinion counts and you are given opportunities to flourish and develop as a teacher. The college is continually evolving into something bigger and better.

Role:	Teacher of ICT
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Time at the College:	1 term (at time of writing)
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I was apprehensive about moving to a new school but I did not need to worry. The Spires College has an excellent induction programme, meaning I felt very prepared before my first day. My department were incredibly welcoming and could not do enough to help me settle in. The school has given me great support with behaviour management and offers an extensive CPD programme. After one term, The Spires College definitely feels like the school where I belong.

Role:	Teacher of Geography
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Time at the College:	Nine years
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I really enjoy the level of enthusiasm from our students and the enjoyment they get from learning about new topics. Students are polite and inquisitive with a keen sense of identity to their local area and the College: an identify of which they are proud.

Role:	SEN Specialist Teacher
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Time at the College:	Four years
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The school has a lovely atmosphere, the kind of atmosphere where you feel empowered to work to the best of your ability. The staff are friendly and support one another all the time, no matter how small the query is.

Role:	Head of IT
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Time at the College:	27 years
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I feel the best thing about working at TSC are the people. Our students are fantastic and really value staff who care about them. The relationships between staff and students are what makes TSC the best place to work. This, combined with a staff team that support and look after each other, is why I love my job. Whatever I need to get my head around, there is always someone who is happy and willing to share their ideas, views or experiences. We are a team.

Role:	Teacher of MFL
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Time at the College:	Seven years
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The best things about working here are students who engage with staff, come to lessons with a smile and are keen to do well, and working with a team of passionate colleagues who love what they do.

Role:	Teacher of DT
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Time at the College:	Six years
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I have been teaching for more than 30 years and have worked in numerous schools in different areas of the country. I have been at The Spires College for 6 years and I can genuinely say this is the most supportive school I have ever worked in. SLT actually care about their staff's wellbeing and strive to make sure teachers have a work/life balance. They show empathy in dealing with teachers' needs beyond the classroom. Staff are supportive of each other and work across subject areas to deliver the best education possible for the students. I wouldn't want to teach anywhere else!

Role:	Pastoral Support Manager
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Time at the College:	Two years
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Having recently transferred from a primary to secondary school provision I cannot recommend The Spires College highly enough. From the warm welcome from both students and colleagues to the support provided on a daily basis, this is a truly an inspirational college to work in. I can honestly say every student counts and there is a real ethos of children first. It is a pleasure to be part of such an outstanding team whose focus each and every day is to support every student in reaching their full potential.

Role:	Teacher of Art
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Time at the College:	Five years
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I moved down from Nottingham and find the journey to and from work really good (half the time of trying to drive through a busy city centre).

I love the ethos of the school and its commitment to develop strong teachers. In comparison to other schools I have worked at, I find senior leaders are much more willing to listen to ideas and concerns and also allow teachers freedom to explore their own practice. So many other schools are becoming very prescriptive.

Role:	LSA
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Time at the College:	Five years
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Working at TSC has proved to be one of the most rewarding career choices I have made to date. I work with such lovely people, and there is a great sense of team spirit and camaraderie! Every member of staff is so well supported, whatever their role within the school community, and the enthusiasm we all have is reflected in the success of our students at all levels. TSC is a very well run school, and I'm so proud to be in a position to be involved in the college's continued success!

Role:	Teacher of MFL (ECT)
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Time at the College:	1 term (at time of writing)
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I have been at The Spires College for four months and I have received some truly amazing support from colleagues not just in my department but from other areas of the school as well. What I like most about working here is that I am encouraged to think for myself about how I can support our students. I am given the freedom to develop and try new ideas in the classroom, knowing that we are not just interested in immediate outcomes but the processes of learning instead. This means that I work in a department that is constantly thinking about how we can improve and make the language learning journey as productive and enjoyable as possible for our students. Alongside this, I have been overwhelmed by our students' genuine desire to develop into well rounded young adults (or the vast majority, at least!). We have an interesting, unique, and warm student base and it is a privilege to be able to help them through their journey into young adulthood.

Role:	Deputy Head of English
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Time at the College:	11 years
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For me, the most notable thing about working at the College, is the community that has been built. All of the staff genuinely care about the lives of young people and work really hard to make sure they are given the best possible chances. There is a huge amount of positivity among the staff and students in the College. The department I work in is collaborative and really supportive; they work with one another for the benefit of everyone. I would recommend working at The Spires College because it is genuinely a brilliant place to work. I really do love coming to work each day.

Role:	Teacher of History
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Time at the College:	21 years
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The strength of working at the Spires College is you're allowed to be a teacher! We all enter the profession because we want to educate young people about, and to express the beauty of, our subjects. The opportunity to nurture the learning of each pupil isn't available in too many schools now.

The Spires College isn't like most schools. Working here allows autonomy in teaching, whilst expecting each teacher to expand their own love of learning as well as their classes'. There are high levels of expectation, motivation and support to engage with professional learning in order to improve the learning environment for each student. That isn't to say that the expectation is to just regurgitate from academic literature: the expectation is to critically evaluate its worth in an educational environment and to make it fit the needs of our pupils and the subject that we teach.

In essence, if you want to teach, become a member of The Spires College team. You will not regret your application. Teaching is at the forefront of our ethos. The enjoyment of teaching and learning is our *raison d'être*. Combined, they produce a potent weapon and achieve results. The Spires College allows you to really focus on your practice and develop as a critical thinker, learner and teacher, whilst encouraging the students to do likewise.

Role:	Teacher of English
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Time at the College:	One year
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This is the best school I've worked at for its dedication to research and development of teachers. I've never had such a good CPD programme and I'm aware of so many more researchers and their work than ever before, which is having a direct and exciting impact on my own practice.

Role:	Administrative Roles
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Time at the College:	Seventeen years
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The Spires College is a real community within a community. Staff at all levels are very supportive of the children in our care and of each other: celebrating successes and coming together in times of adversity both professionally and personally. There is never any doubt that colleagues, whatever their role, will rally together and there is a genuine 'all hands on deck' approach whenever necessary.

The principal purpose of any school is, of course, the education of children and the consistent improvement in teaching and learning at TSC is evident from measures and outcomes.

However, less easily measured is care. As more responsibility for the personal welfare of children and their families is carried by schools I have witnessed this school step up to, and beyond, the mark to ensure that the pastoral care here is second to none. The school centres on the whole person in the knowledge that well supported and nurtured children will not only have better educational outcomes but will benefit socially and mentally. There is not a one size fits all mentality here and I believe that all of our students benefit because of that.

There can't be a much better endorsement than this being the school I have chosen for my own children to attend. I simply wouldn't want to work anywhere else.

Living and working in the South West

Found on the 'The English Riviera,' Torquay is a coastal town in Devon. The population of this seaside town (65,245) accounts for as much as half of the wider Torbay area, a unitary authority containing Torquay and two other towns, Paignton and Brixham. The English Riviera offers 22 miles of beautiful coastline, with sandy beaches and tranquil countryside. Due to its unique geography on the South Devon coastline and countryside, the English Riviera has been awarded designated

UNESCO Global Geopark status, one of only 7 geoparks in the UK and 140 in the whole world.



Over the last few years, this area has seen much improvement and

benefits from ongoing regeneration, securing its place as not only a traditional Devon seaside resort, but also an up and coming area not just for tourism, but for education and investment too. Recent upgrades to the trunk road network in south Devon mean that The Spires College has a travel to work area which extends far beyond Torquay and includes nearby seaside towns, sleepy villages, lively market towns and the vibrant cities of Exeter and Plymouth. Large parts of south Devon are classified as areas of outstanding natural beauty nestled between a dramatic coastline and Dartmoor National Park.

The region has much to offer people of all ages. Restaurants, cafes and bars are plentiful and the whole of this area of the South West has gained a reputation for offering fresh, local food. With the coast and the splendour of Dartmoor almost on your doorstep, there are abundant opportunities to keep busy and live happy, healthy lifestyles.

Approximate travel times* from:

Dawlish:	25 minutes	Newton Abbot:	15 minutes
Exeter:	25-30 minutes	Okehampton:	45 minutes
Honiton:	45 minutes	Plymouth:	1 hour
Ivybridge:	45 minutes	Teignmouth:	15-20 minutes
Kingskerswell:	15 minutes	Totnes:	20 minutes
Kingsteignton:	20 minutes		

*These are averages given by colleagues who commute from these places daily.



How to apply

As a college, we are committed to safer recruitment and, as such, can only accept applications that are on the college application form. These are available on the website or as a download with all of our job advertisements. Please contact us if you have any difficulty accessing this. Please note that a CV is not required and will not be accepted as a replacement for a fully completed application form. Please complete all sections of the form **in full**.

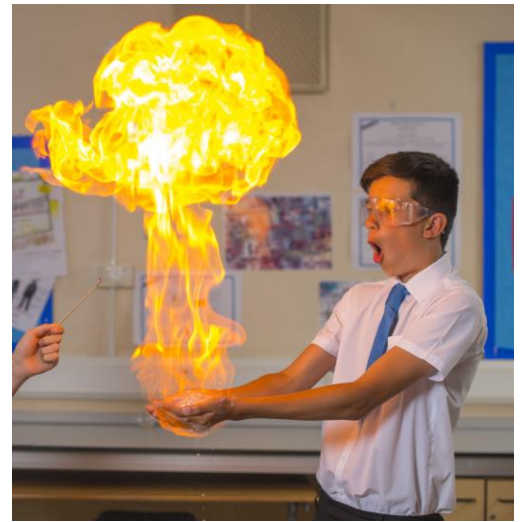
The application form includes space for a supporting statement or letter of application. This is a really important part of the selection process and we weight it heavily in our short-listing process. Please use it to show how you have the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the role for which you are applying to a high standard. Please also ensure it is written in a sensible font and size!

Your fully completed application should be returned **by 3 pm on Wednesday 5 February 2025** by email to: jobs@thespirescollege.com.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your application by the end of the deadline day, please contact the college.

If you would like to arrange to have an informal, confidential discussion, please contact the Principal's PA via the email above or telephone number below:

Thank you for your interest in The Spires College.



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