

Dear Applicant,

**Head of Department (Physical Education/History/Computing)**

Applying to a school in only its second year of operation takes a healthy dose of faith but should also generate a huge amount of excitement.

The first cohorts of students and staff at Watling Academy have a unique privilege and opportunity to create a brand-new community that embodies the vision for the school and provides a blueprint for the success of future generations in our part of Milton Keynes. The role of the Head of Department in every curriculum subject is pivotal for those students as we plan a coherent, challenging and engaging curriculum for every student, regardless of background or ability.

If you believe in a community where everyone is treated with **respect**, encouraged to take **responsibility** for their decisions, believes that learning from mistakes improves us all and that **kindness** counts then Watling Academy is a community in which you will flourish.

You would expect me to say that creating something very special for our students is rightly at the heart of everything we are aiming to achieve but there is a difference at Watling. Our vision encompasses three key themes-

- Understanding the history, development and future of **Milton Keynes**
- The importance of **STEM** within the growth of the city, both within opportunities for employment and as a focus for higher learning
- Tackling the environmental and **sustainability** challenges we face across the globe

If you make the decision that you want to join our team then you will play a central part in ensuring that these themes come alive within both the formal and wider curriculum. Our number one priority is bringing the curriculum intent alive through quality schemes of work and inspirational teaching.

Successful applicants will possess the qualities above but will also demonstrate a **passion** for working with students to help them achieve beyond their aspirations, are always **prepared to give students another chance** and have the **flexibility** to understand that during the first few years their role as teacher will go beyond the confines of their major subject specialism.

**Respect / Responsibility / Kindness**

In terms of career progression there will clearly be many opportunities as the school grows and you will be supported through that journey to ensure that you too can go beyond your aspirations!

Currently we are planning for our selection process to be at Watling Academy and include several activities including teaching a lesson. This is COVID dependent, so please bear with us if the plan changes and we switch to online recruitment.

When completing The Trust application form this should be accompanied by a letter that addresses the following questions;

- ***what excites you about coming to work at Watling Academy?***
- ***what is the vision for the curriculum in your subject area at Watling Academy and the steps you would take to achieve that?***
- ***what is your vision for high quality teaching and learning in your subject area?***
- ***what role the form tutor plays in highly effective pastoral system?***

Candidates who are shortlisted for interview will be asked questions about the above-mentioned points.

I am hugely invested in ensuring Watling appoints the best teachers with the right qualities and who have a **can-do, solution focused mindset**. If you are excited by the challenge and what you have read makes you want to find out more, then I would be delighted to hear from you.

Ian Bacon

Head of School