January 2021

Dear Candidate

**HEAD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Thank you for requesting details of the post of Head of Psychology at Colchester County High School for Girls, lead school for Alpha Trust. I hope the information below will help you with your application but please contact me if you require further information.

The School is very popular with a reputation for excellent results within a caring environment, as evidenced by the following comments taken from our last Ofsted Report.

• “Colchester County High School for Girls is an outstanding school.” “It continues to strive for, and achieves excellence in all it does.”

• “Students say they relish the independence teachers give them and appreciate the high levels of encouragement.” “Students talk positively about the environment and facilities that this new building offers, particularly for music.” “Students have excellent opportunities to take on additional responsibility and make a positive contribution to the school and the community beyond.”

• “Students say they feel safe and supported both by the school and by each other.” Parents “stated how the school had ‘balanced study, social development and student happiness’ extremely well.”

• “Leadership and management at all levels of the school are outstanding.” “Governors remain highly supportive and actively involved in the strategic development of the school.”

• “The school’s contribution to community cohesion is outstanding and supports students’ personal development well.”

• “The development of students’ leadership and team working skills is excellent.”

This position offers a rare and exciting opportunity to join a committed and motivated team in a unique learning environment and to experience the immense satisfaction of working with able and enthusiastic students. The school is innovative and creative, having Leading Edge Status; many teaching staff are involved in action-led research and the school leads training and development for the local Teaching School Alliance (NEETSA) and Colchester Teacher Training Centre (CTTC). In addition there are opportunities for collaboration with colleagues across Alpha Trust.

The Psychology Department at Colchester County High School for Girls is both a friendly and a successful one, in which all members of staff share a genuine enthusiasm for the teaching of their subject. Our students are motivated and exciting to teach; expectations of our students are high and they require a challenging and stimulating approach.

Our students are motivated and exciting to teach; expectations of our students are high and they require a challenging and stimulating approach. Students can choose to take GCSE Psychology from Year 9 and many also go onto further study at A Level and beyond. Students study GCSE Edexcel Pearson Psychology 1PS0 ; in 2019 students achieved 97% Grades 7-9, 100% 6-9. At A Level Edexcel Pearson GCE Psychology is studied and students achieved 67% Grades A\*-B, 100% A\*-C in 2019. A number of students go on to read Psychology or a related discipline at university including Oxbridge.

Students have the opportunity to attend a number of societies, such as PsychSoc, and Sociology and Criminology Society, which provide a forum for debate and discussion. There are frequent screenings of relevant films and guest speakers are invited to present on a variety of topics. Students also attend the annual London Psychology Conference.

The department has well-equipped, light and airy classrooms, which have interactive white boards, although students are currently being taught in year bubble classrooms.

This position offers a rare and exciting opportunity to lead our Psychology department across the school. The successful applicant will be inspirational as both a leader and teacher. The successful candidate will be expected to teach key stages 4 and 5. They will be required to undertake Form Tutor responsibilities including the teaching of PSHCE, be involved in extra-curricular activities and participate in the 11+ entrance examination day. We welcome applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers from all secondary education sectors

Colchester County High School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced criminal record check by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

If you feel that Colchester County High School for Girls can provide the challenges and opportunities you are looking for then please complete the school application form and send, supported by a covering letter addressed to the Executive Principal. The covering letter should not be more than 2 sides of typed A4 and should set out your suitability for the post and vision for Psychology at Colchester County High School for Girls. Applications must be returned to the school by the closing date: **Midday on 18 January 2021**.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Marshall (Mrs)

Executive Principal