



February 2021

Dear Colleague

Head of Psychology & Sociology

Thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity at St Laurence School.

The post of Head of Psychology and Sociology is extremely important to us. As a high performing and successful school we want as many students as possible taking both subjects at A level. The post is vacant due to the previous head of department choosing to follow a PhD. The subjects are already extremely popular and successful. I firmly believe that this is achieved both by being an outstanding and inspirational practitioner, but also by providing an understanding of the wider importance and opportunities that studying social sciences can bring. I am interested in you, your skills and your ethos of education. I want to know about you as a classroom practitioner, leader and how you build enrichment within the subject. I am relatively new to the school having started in January 2021, but soon felt the palpable vision and planning in place to achieve the objective of being and remaining a GREAT school in which, all groups of students experience a world class curriculum, enabling them to reach their full academic and personal potential. My arrival has not changed this vision at all. The successful candidate would be joining our exemplary staff team at a significant point in our journey as a school.

We are very proud of all our students, no matter what their background or starting point. We are an inclusive and caring community. Our academic standards are strong, with our focus being on progress against stretching targets rather than merely raw grades achieved. This year so far, three of our students have achieved "Oxbridge" offers whilst some students will be opting to take non-GCSE courses at KS4 – we are proud of every one of them and strive to offer an individualised curriculum to meet their needs. We have high expectations of all our students in terms of attendance, punctuality, completion of work and commitment to community service.

The recent issues with COVID19 have been very challenging for all students, and even more so for those with additional needs. A creative, flexible and personal approach has meant that students have been supported with learning as well as with pastoral needs.

I have been here 7 weeks and yet I already know St Laurence is a wonderful school to work in – visitors regularly comment on the strong community and welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Staff work very hard to uphold our high standards of pastoral care and academic achievement. In these pressurised times in education, we place a priority on looking after the wellbeing of our staff and exploring better ways of working.

We are looking for a leader who is positive, visible and people-centred, living out our aspiration to be a school in which we truly care, inspire and, therefore, succeed. Alongside this we need a leader who is fully committed to working as part of a team to drive our journey of continuous improvement, so that we have nothing less than the best provision for our young people.



If you would like to apply please would you:

1. Complete the application form
2. Write a letter of no more than 2 sides, in which you include the following:
 - Describe and illustrate your educational philosophy
 - Explain how your experience and skills would enable you to carry out the role successfully

Please send your letter and application form by email to jobapp@st-laurence.com

If you would like to visit St Laurence prior to making an application please contact Sally Hackett, Head's PA, who will be happy to arrange this for you. I look forward to your application.

Yours faithfully

Tim Farrer
Headteacher