April 2021

Thank you for your interest in the post of Head of School at Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School. Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School (part of the South Downs Education Trust), requires a Head of School from September 2021 following the retirement of the current Head Teacher after 12 years loyal and dedicated service to the school and the community. The Governors and Trustees are seeking an enthusiastic dedicated and caring leader who can see the potential of this well-loved and respected school as it continues its journey from its recent Good judgement from Ofsted in November 2019.

This is a unique opportunity. Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School is, at present, a small, under-subscribed primary school on the edge of the South Downs National Park. To counteract the threat of closure on the 1st November 2020 it became the first school to join the South Downs Education Trust, which is a new Multi-Academy Trust founded by Worthing High School in 2018.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to grow Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School into a thriving primary school and be a key individual in supporting future growth within the Multi-Academy Trust.

The South Downs Education Trust (SDET) is committed to the Christian ethos and values of Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School and is supported by the local Chichester Diocese. All staff at our school, whatever their background and beliefs, benefit from a strong programme of professional development. Additional aspects include seven INSET days, a health insurance programme and strong central services support from the MAT.

We are looking for someone who is excited by the prospect of growing a school from the ground up and has the creativity and vision to see how a small primary school can become an outstanding primary school at the heart of a successful MAT. The aim of the SDET is to support schools in our MAT to flourish. As a Trust we are keen to support Clapham & Patching C of E Primary School on its journey.

The support SDET can bring to the school was recognised by the Regional Schools Commissioner in the development of Model Articles between a Diocese and a non-denomination Trust. We expect all of the schools that join our MAT to become schools that can, in turn, offer support to others and work collaboratively for the benefit of all pupils within our schools.

Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School is a very special school, which is why the local community fought so hard to save when identified for initial closure in 2019. It has a long history spanning nearly 200 years and many former pupils of the school are ready to support Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School on its continuing journey.

If you are ambitious and looking for an experience of Headship with the support of a well-respected and growing Trust, and want to make a real and significant impact, then this post will offer all of that and more. If you would like to discuss any further details about either the post of Head of School or the Trust please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards



Pan Panayiotou

Headteacher – Worthing High School and CEO South Downs Education Trust

