

# Briefing Pack for Applicants Higher Level Teaching Assistant



STOCKSBRIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
— This is Just the Start —

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

**The school will undertake stringent and rigorous checks of identity and qualifications to ensure that we maintain the very highest standards of child protection for our students.**



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**May we take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your application. If, however, you have not heard from us by the proposed date for the interview you should assume that on this occasion your application has not been successful. In that event we wish you every success in any future applications you make.**

## Section 1: Post Advertisement

<b>Post:</b>	<b>Higher Level Teaching Assistant</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Stocksbridge High School</b>
<b>Pay scale:</b>	<b>Grade 5, Scale Point 15: £27,803 to 20: £30,296 pro rata per annum</b>
<b>Actual</b>	
<b>Annual Salary:</b>	<b>£23,914.32 to £26,058.64 (Under 5 years of service)</b>
<b>Contract:</b>	<b>Permanent, full-time, 37 Hours per week x 39 working weeks</b>
<b>Start date:</b>	<b>01 September 2024</b>

Minerva Learning Trust is an expanding Sheffield based multi-academy Trust with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. The Trust is passionate that all students should see their time at school as happy and fulfilling with their potential developed to the utmost.

Stocksbridge High School in an inclusive school and through a range of curriculum and wrap-around support do all we can to ensure every young person, irrespective of their challenges and barriers has opportunity to grow into a happy and productive adult.

We are seeking to appoint a committed, hard-working and highly organised individual to undertake the important role of Higher-Level Teaching Assistant. The successful candidate will be based with the SEND team in our Paragon base and will work with small groups and individual students to ensure that they can access education positively and progress well. This is a new post to the school and has been created as part of a wider investment and development of support structures for students.

Candidates are encouraged to have an informal discussion about the role with Kay Theobald, SENDCo, which can be arranged via Katie Williams, Assistant SENDCo via email: [KWilliams@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk](mailto:KWilliams@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk)

All completed applications MUST be sent to Hannah Taylor, Headteachers PA via e-mail: [htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk](mailto:htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk)

**The closing date is 9am on Wednesday 03 July 2024 with interviews to be held shortly afterwards.**

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment, further information can be found in our child protection and safeguarding policy on our statutory information page on our website Statutory Information - Minerva Learning Trust. The successful candidate will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. In line with KCSIE, the trust/school will be carrying out online searches on shortlisted candidates as part of their due diligence.

The application form and information pack are available on the school website:  
<https://stocksbridgehigh.co.uk/>

**Please ensure that you do not fill in a Sheffield City Council application form in respect of this vacancy as your application may not be considered.**

## Section 2: Letter from the Chief Executive – Bev Matthews

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this role within Minerva Learning Trust. Minerva Learning Trust was established in October 2014 with the vision of providing outstanding education for pupils who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield. During 2017-18 the Trust expanded and brought together four secondary schools across Sheffield to create a new partnership of schools which supports the education of over 5000 pupils. In September 2020, Chapelton Academy joined the Trust and enhanced the post-16 provision within the Trust in the north of the city and in September 2021, we were delighted that Woodthorpe Community Primary School became the first primary school to join the Trust. We resolutely believe that we are stronger together and that each school within the MAT has individual strengths and we celebrate the diverse and unique qualities of each particular school.

As a Trust our mission, vision and values are central to our work and are the driving force behind all that we do. Our vision of Outstanding Together, Working Together and Learning Together is underpinned by our core values of Inclusion, Independence, Respect and Success. Through our values we foster an ethos of collegiality, we ensure inclusion is at the heart of all we do and we work hard to ensure that every child succeeds, no matter what their background or circumstance.

We recognise that the commitment and care shown by all our staff is fundamental to the success of our young people. As such, we work hard to ensure that staff are supported, encouraged, developed, respected and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment. Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

The professional development of staff, including opportunities for research, is a key priority of Minerva Learning Trust. As such, we seek to enrich employee capability and maximise the strength and contribution of each individual who works with us. The Trust believes in investing in the learning and development of its employees through a range of opportunities which are aligned to the needs of the organisation and its young people.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Trust. If you choose to apply you will be choosing to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals who passionately believe in the power of education to change the life chances of young people.

If you believe you have the experience, skills and ambition to support our aims and contribute to the delivery of the very best for our pupils then we look forward to receiving your application.



Bev Matthews  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Section 3: Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Candidate,

I am delighted that you are considering making an application for this position at Stocksbridge High School. We are an ambitious and inclusive 11 to 16 comprehensive school firmly rooted in our local community. You will find us to be open, friendly and welcoming with great students and a dedicated staff.

For many years the school has enjoyed sustained improvement in achievement and engagement, which was recognised by Ofsted as good in May 2022. This has been driven by a staff united behind an inclusive and ambitious vision for our school and our community. There have clearly been challenges over the last year as we have responded to the pandemic, national restrictions and lockdowns. I have to say, however, that the incredible responses of the staff teams through this time has done nothing but galvanise our strong leadership and resolve to make a difference to the young people we serve.

Every one of the young people we serve is entitled to thrive at school so that they may leave skilled, qualified and confident to make a success of their next steps in life. This is achieved through high quality leadership, teaching and support from our staff so that all students learn and progress well. Working at Stocksbridge High School means that you will always hold young people in high regard and have nothing but the highest of expectations for their learning, conduct and aspiration.

Opportunities for professional development and for sharing practice within the school and across the trust enable staff to continually develop their skills and experience.

We are here to make a difference to the young people and families of Stocksbridge and we aim to be recognised as outstanding in this endeavour. It is an exciting time to join our school and if you share that ambition and determination I look forward to receiving your application.



Andy Ireland  
Headteacher

## Section 4: About Stocksbridge High School

### ...THIS IS JUST THE START...

#### Our Mission

All Students will be challenged to build ambitious future plans. Working together we will develop their character, skills and capacity to make their ambitions a reality.

#### Our Vision

Our vision is based upon the principles of "Believe, Achieve, and Succeed".

- **Believe** - Students will have belief in their own potential. They make positive choices, can acknowledge and celebrate their successes and tackle obstacles to progress with hard work and determination.
- **Achieve** - Students are challenged in every learning experience, every day to produce the highest quality work, through which they achieve their personal and academic goals.
- **Succeed** - Successful students have high expectations of themselves and strive to meet these expectations every day.

#### Our Values

Our values underpin all that we do as a school and are brought to life in all areas of our organisation.

- **Be positive** - We will be positive in all that we do.
- **Be caring** - We care for and support each other.
- **Be courageous** - We make choices to enable us to succeed, even when those choices are difficult.
- **Be reflective** - We consider the impact of our actions on ourselves and others.

#### Our Beliefs

- We will celebrate the achievements of all members of our school community recognising that achievements are personal to each individual.
- We will create an environment in which all members of our school value and enjoy learning.
- We will work to remove barriers to learning for all our students.
- We will do all that we can to ensure all members of our school community are safe and happy.
- We will ensure that all learning experiences are of the highest possible quality.

## ABOUT US

Stocksbridge High School joined the Trust in December 2017. Our aim is to create and sustain educational excellence for all young people, whilst still developing the whole person, building in them the skills they need to be confident, happy and successful.

Based in a superb new building we are proud to offer a stimulating environment for learning. As a growing school we have a unique opportunity to get to know every child individually, enabling us to

develop and support them throughout their time at our school. We are driven as a school to constantly challenge ourselves and to accept the challenge of our parents to improve all that we do.

We want all students to make progress from their individual starting points and achieve outcomes that enable them to move on to the next phase of their education at the highest possible entry point.

To ensure this happens we:

- Are relentlessly positive with all students every day, believing they can and will succeed.
- Work tirelessly to remove barriers to learning for all students so that all students can be successful.
- Deliver high quality (quality first) teaching and learning experiences all day every day.
- Provide opportunities for all students to develop the skills required to be successful beyond their formal education.
- Ensure that students are safe at school.
- Work with students, parents, carers and the community to support our values of respect and tolerance.
- Celebrate the achievements of all students, recognising that achievements are personal to every child.
- Create an environment in which all staff and students' value and enjoy learning.
- Care for and support each other.

Our school is a popular, thriving 11-16 comprehensive. Our greatest asset lies in our people – a wonderful team of enthusiastic students, committed staff and supportive parents and governors. We value the contributions that each person brings. We are passionate about making school life enjoyable and challenging, providing varied opportunities for learning and securing the highest possible levels of achievement for each and every student. We believe our students deserve every opportunity to flourish, not solely in academic pursuits, but emotionally, socially, spiritually and culturally. We seek to ensure that every student develops vital transferable skills for life and work that will allow them to become active, informed and responsible citizens of the 21st century.

We look forward to your application and thank you for your interest in our school.

Further information about the school including access to the full Ofsted Report can be found on our website: [Stocksbridge High School](#)



## Section 5: Job Description



# Minerva Learning Trust Job Description



**Minerva Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

<b>POST TITLE</b>	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
<b>GRADE/SALARY</b>	Grade 5, point 15 to 20
<b>CONTRACT</b>	Permanent
<b>HOURS/WEEKS</b>	37 hours per week x 39 working weeks
<b>LOCATION</b>	Stocksbridge High School
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO</b>	SENDCO
<b>RESPONSIBLE FOR</b>	Responsible for the management and development of a specialist area (SEND) within the school including delivery of CPD for teaching assistants.
<b>PURPOSE OF THE JOB</b>	Working within an agreed framework of supervision to complement the professional work of teachers by taking responsibility for agreed learning activities, including planning, preparation and delivery. These activities can be for the individuals/groups or whole classes on a short-term basis including monitoring and assessment, recording and reporting on pupil achievement, progress and development.
<b>RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Meet higher level teaching assistant standards or equivalent qualification or experience. Excellent numeracy/literacy skills – equivalent to NVQ Level 2 in English and Maths.

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The post-holder, must at all times, carry out his/her duties and responsibilities within the spirit of Minerva Learning Trust and School policies and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

## **MAIN DUTIES**

This is not a comprehensive list of all tasks which may be required of the post holder. It is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the work to be undertaken, commensurate with the grade.

### **Support for the Pupils**

- Assess the needs of pupils and use detailed knowledge and specialist skills to support pupils' learning to identify barriers to learning
- Establish productive working relationships with pupil, acting as a role model and setting high expectations
- Support pupils consistently whilst recognising and responding to their individual needs
- Encourage pupils to interact and work co-operatively with others and engage all pupils in activities
- Promote independence and employ strategies to recognise and reward achievement of self-reliance
- Provide feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievement

### **Support**

- Organise and manage appropriate learning environment and resources
- Within an agreed system of supervision, plan challenging teaching and learning objectives to evaluate and adjust lessons/work plans as appropriate
- Monitor and evaluate pupil responses to learning activities through a range of assessment and monitoring strategies against pre-determined learning objectives
- Provide objective and accurate feedback and reports as required on pupil achievement, progress and other matters, ensuring the availability of appropriate evidence
- Record progress and achievement in lessons/activities systematically and providing evidence of range and level of progress and attainment
- Work within an established discipline policy to anticipate and manage behaviour constructively, promoting self-control and independence
- Supporting the role of parents in pupils' learning and contribute to/lead progress/achievement etc
- Administer and assess/mark tests and invigilate exams/tests
- Production of lesson plans, worksheet etc
- Support in the deployment of TAs where appropriate.
- Devise and report on specific intervention programmes for identified students.

### **Support for the curriculum**

- Deliver learning activities to pupils within agreed systems of supervision, adjusting activities according to pupil responses/needs

- Deliver local and national learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, KS3, KS4 and make effective use of opportunities provided by other learning activities to support the development of pupils' skills
- Use ICT effectively to support learning activities and develop pupils' competence and independence in its use
- Select and prepare resources necessary to lead learning activities, taking account of pupils' interests, language and cultural backgrounds
- Advise on appropriate deployment and use of specialist aid/resources/equipment
- Plan and deliver and assess learning activities in the Paragon SEND base and to other groups of students, for example on the Key Stage 3 ALP programme.

### **Support for the school**

- Be aware of and support difference and ensure all pupils have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop
- Establish constructive relationships and communicate with other agencies/professionals, in liaison with the teacher to support achievement and progress of pupils
- Contribute to the identification and execution of appropriate out of school learning activities which consolidate and extend work carried out in class
- Recognise own strengths and areas of specialist expertise and use these to lead, advise and support others

### **SAFEGUARDING**

- To be aware of and work in accordance with the school's child protection policies and procedures in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to raise any concerns relating to such procedures which may be noted during the course of duty.

### **OTHER SPECIFIC DUTIES**

- To play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its mission and ethos and to encourage staff and students to follow this example.
- To actively promote the school and Trust's policies.
- To be courteous and provide a welcoming environment.

### **General:**

1. To be aware of, and comply with, Trust and school policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
2. The above duties are not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body.

3. This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Headteacher and Local Governing Body as required. Trade Union representatives will be welcome in any such discussions.

## Section 6: Person Specification



# Minerva Learning Trust Person Specification



### Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Minimum Essential Requirements	Method of Assessment
<b>QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b>	
Meet higher level teaching assistant standards or equivalent qualification or experience. Excellent numeracy/literacy skills – equivalent to NVQ Level 2 in English and Maths.	AF
Training in the relevant learning strategies e.g. literacy. Specialist skills/training in curriculum or learning area e.g. bi-lingual, sign language, ICT.	AF
<b>KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE</b>	
Good understanding of child development and learning processes	AF/I
Working knowledge and experience of implementing national/foundation stage curriculum and other relevant learning programmes/strategies	AF/I
Must have excellent proven skills in current GCSE Maths at Higher level in order to deliver as a specialism	AA/I
Can manage behaviour of pupils in a reasonable manner	AA/I/R
Has experience of managing complex behaviour and has a range of strategies to engage all learners	AF/I
Can build positive relationships with parents to engage them into their child education	AF/I
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Constantly improve own practice/knowledge through self-evaluation and learning from others	AF
Willingness to participate in professional development	AF/I
Evidence of a commitment to continued professional development	AF/I
<b>SKILLS</b>	
Excellent Interpersonal skills	AF/I
Can use ICT well to support learning	AF/I
Can complete and maintain pupil records	AF/I
Ability to complete and maintain pupil records	AF/I
Ability to relate well to children and adults and to build positive relationships	AF/I
Ability to use a range of strategies to support positive behaviour and self-regulation	AF/I

Has practical and organisational skills to prepare and manage educational resources	AF/I
Work constructively as part of a team, understanding classroom roles and responsibilities and your own position within these	AF
<b>QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Ability to relate well to children and adults	AF/I
Can maintain trust and confidentiality where appropriate	AF/I
A pleasant disposition and ability to stay calm under pressure	AF/I
Demonstrate a positive team approach to work	AF/I
To have a willingness to participate in the whole school approach to mentoring students and play an active role as directed by line manager	AF/I
<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFEGUARDING</b>	
An understanding of safeguarding issues and promoting the welfare of children and young people.	AF/I
A commitment to safeguarding students.	AF/I
Suitability to work with children.	AF/I
A commitment to equal opportunities.	AF/I
Ability to recognise discrimination and willingness to put Equality Policies into practice.	AF/I

**Key:** AA = Assessed activity  
AF = Application form  
I = Interview  
R = Reference

## Section 7: The Appointment Process

These notes are intended to guide you when making an application.

1. The Application Form  
Complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. The form may be typed or handwritten but if you do write it by hand please make sure that it is legible and that you use black ink. Indicate clearly on the front page the post you are applying for. You are requested to submit a concise application.
2. Education and Training  
State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.
3. Present Appointment  
Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is
4. Previous Appointment  
When completing this section, it is important that you offer a continuous record, or an explanation of any gaps to allow full account to be taken of your experience, for example, child raising, voluntary work.
5. Referees  
Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.
6. The Supporting Statement/Letter of Application  
The supporting statement or letter is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post. You should take particular care to demonstrate how you meet the person specification included as part of these details. **Please limit your supporting statement to two sides of A4 in size 11 font.**
7. Arrangements for Interview  
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. Referees are contacted prior to the interview stage for teaching and some support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website prior to attending the interview.
8. The Interview  
Candidates will be invited to spend a day visiting the school during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the school at work. Interviews are likely to take place in the afternoon.
9. Feedback  
Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.
10. Selection for Appointment  
Selection is made conditional upon the successful candidate meeting the Trust's requirements for health, physical capacity and conduct.
11. Arrangements for Applications  
When you have completed your application, the completed form and covering letter should be e-mailed to [htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk](mailto:htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk) by the closing date.