



United Learning
The best in everyone™

Briefing Pack for Applicants

Lead Practitioner of Science

May 2025

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Section 1 - Post Advertisement



Job title:	Lead Practitioner of Science
Location:	Sheffield Park Academy, Beaumont Road North, Sheffield, S2 1SN
Starting salary:	United Learning Leading Practitioner Pay Range – Starting salary £53,603 gross per annum pro rata.
Contract:	Full-Time, Permanent
Start Date:	September 2025, or sooner if possible

‘Leaders are ambitious for all pupils to achieve highly’

‘This is a school where staff care for pupils and are determined that they succeed’

OFSTED report, December 2022

We are seeking to appoint someone who has passion for teaching and learning and who will work closely with our SLT to improve the educational outcomes of all our students at Sheffield Park Academy. As a Lead Practitioner of Science, you will excel in the classroom – but, just as importantly, you will be instrumental in supporting not only your departmental colleagues to be the best they can be, in the classroom and beyond, but also be involved in mentoring, coaching, professional development and challenge.

The ideal candidate will be an ambitious classroom practitioner with a desire to achieve strong outcomes. We need someone who wants to become a beacon of excellent practice in a classroom environment, whilst posing the muscularity of intellect and professional credibility to drive up standards in the classroom for all our young people.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an Ofsted rated ‘Good’ academy. The academy is part of United Learning, a national group of schools and academies. Sheffield Park Academy is an 11-18 school. As part of United Learning our aim is to bring out ‘the Best in Everyone’ and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost. Our school has motivated, ambitious students with a high percentage of our students going on to attend Russell group universities.

United Learning is one of the largest and most successful Trusts in the country who offers unrivalled Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and training, including opportunities for nationwide networking.

The academy has over 1,200 pupils and is situated in purpose-built £30million premises, benefiting from excellent, state-of-the-art facilities. We are part of the United Learning Trust, the largest and one of the most successful academy trusts in the country who offer unrivalled CPD and opportunities for nationwide networking and development opportunities.

The city of Sheffield itself is a vibrant place to live and work with two universities and a range of entertainment opportunities alongside the access to the Beautiful Peak District within 20 minutes. Quality of life is routinely ranked very highly, and it is one of the greenest cities in Europe.
<https://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/>

We will offer you:

- Highly competitive pay above national average.
- Excellent facilities and resources.
- Access to an outstanding professional development programme.
- A respectful working environment.
- Supportive, friendly colleagues who are committed to each other's professional development.
- A chance to become part of United Learning, one of the largest groups of academies in the country.
- Opportunities to work collaboratively with colleagues in each academy, across the Cluster and United Learning.
- Excellent employee benefits which include a highly sought-after pension scheme with high employer contributions.
- Access to training through the Apprenticeship Levy.
- Perkbox benefits platform.
- Free on-site parking.
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP).
- We encourage open and regular conversations about work-life balance

We are looking for someone who:

- Shares our moral purpose of ensuring that all our young people receive the best education in a supportive environment from people who care about them.
- Is an 'outstanding' teacher with strong leadership qualities who can evidence progress and attainment from their current students.
- Is resilient, dynamic and passionate about improving the life chances of all children in our community.

Please refer to the job description and person specification for further details.

To apply, please click the 'Apply online' button at the top of the advert on our website using the following link to our vacancies page: [Vacancies Page](#) and complete our online application form. Please note that CVs are not accepted. If you have any queries regarding this role please email hr@unitedlearningyorks.org.uk
The closing date for this post is midnight, Tuesday 20 May 2025. Interviews will take place soon after the closing date. If we receive a high number of applications, we reserve the right to close the advert early.

United Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employees will, in accordance with statutory guidance, be subject to a comprehensive checking process including references from current and previous employers, health, right to work in the UK, an Enhanced DBS check and a further check against the appropriate barred list.

Section 2 – United Learning

Sheffield Park Academy is part of United Learning which is a large and growing group of schools aiming to offer a life changing education to children and young people across England.

Our schools work as a team and achieve more by sharing than any single school could. Our Subject Specialists, Group-wide Intranet, our own curriculum and online learning portal all help us share knowledge and resource, which supports simplifying work processes and managing workloads for an improved work-life balance.

As a Group we can reward our staff better, we provide good career opportunities, better pay, employee benefits and ultimately, the satisfaction of helping children to succeed. We invest in our staff wellbeing. Our academies each have at least eight INSET/training days per year (with three of those solely dedicated to planning) and an ongoing group-wide wellbeing programme. It is an ethos we call 'the Best in Everyone'.

We are working hard to become a more diverse organisation, which is key to our commitment to bringing out 'the Best in Everyone'. We welcome applications from everyone committed to this ethos and would particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates who are currently under-represented in the Group as a whole. We always appoint on merit. We are open to discussing flexible working options.

<https://unitedlearning.org.uk/>

Section 3 – Letter from the Regional Director

Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the role within the Yorkshire United Learning Cluster. The cluster itself is a close-knit group of three Secondary Academies: Barnsley Academy, Sheffield Park Academy and Sheffield Springs Academy, who work alongside a number of local Primary Academies; all from within the United Learning Trust.

The cluster is well-established and has excellent support from locally based cluster central services. These cover Business Management, HR, IT and Site/Estate Facilities. They are led by an Executive Business Manager. This provides our Academies with excellent trained advice and support in these areas; this benefits the leadership and wider staff of every Academy.

United Learning Trust is a national organisation serving Primary and Secondary Academies, all-through Academies and Independent Schools. Our ethos is, “the Best in Everyone”. This is a useful phrase that sums up the work and focus of the organisation. Every decision taken is done with this aim in mind: for staff, for students and for the community. The Trust values of Respect, Determination and Ambition are driven through the Character Programme, which each Academy has carefully interpreted in their own way. The Trust attributes of Creativity, Confidence and Enthusiasm are demonstrated at every level.

United Learning, and Academies within the Yorkshire Cluster, demonstrate a strong commitment to staff CPD and staff wellbeing. If you join our schools you will be inducted, supported and developed in a deliberate way from before you even take up post. Our status as an Academy Trust enables highly competitive rates of pay progression and our employee schemes, such as Perkbox, are an attractive feature of employment.

Above everything, we put young people first and seek to recruit adults who share this view. We work with students, parents and families to provide a structured, supportive experience that enables them to achieve as well as they possibly can and become excellent scholars and rounded individuals. We insist on classrooms and corridors that are respectful, orderly places where everyone is expected to display positive and mature attitudes.

Applying for a new job is a huge investment of time and emotional energy. The recruitment decision has to be right for employee and employer. I would encourage you to seek out any information you need in order to make the important decision to apply and we welcome visits to our schools in advance of applications wherever this might be helpful.

I do wish you the very best with your application and thank you again for considering us.

Best wishes,

Laura Moore
Regional Director
United Learning

Section 4 – Letter from the Principal of Sheffield Park Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in joining Sheffield Park Academy. I am delighted to introduce you to our school and I hope that this application pack provides you with an overview.

Sheffield Park Academy is a flourishing 11-18 school and we really value working as part of the Yorkshire cluster alongside our sister schools; Barnsley Academy and Sheffield Springs Academy. Our close collaboration across the schools is a real source of strength and support as is the wider support of United Learning and in particular our Regional Director.

We fully subscribe to the ethos and values of the United Learning and as Principal I would thoroughly recommend working for the group.

If you are aligned with our mission and values, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Good luck with your application and thank you again for considering Sheffield Park Academy as the next stage in your career.

Best wishes,

Brendan Hesketh
Principal
Sheffield Park Academy

Section 5 – Job Description



Job Description

Post title	Lead Practitioner of Science
Salary	United Learning Leading Practitioner Pay Scale.
Responsible to	Head of Department
Responsible for	There are no direct line management responsibilities associated with this role however, there are elements of supervision.
Role purpose	To ensure academic outcomes in Science are exceptional across all key stages. To maintain expert knowledge of teaching and learning and disseminate this to other teachers across the Academy.
Relevant qualifications	Qualified Teacher Status with subject specialism related to the learning area. Ability to teach across the full 11-16 age and ability range.

The postholder must, at all times, carry out their duties and responsibilities within the spirit of United Learning Trust and academy policies and procedures, and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

Key Responsibilities

This serves as guidance only and is not definitive.

Main duties:

- To ensure academic outcomes in Science are exceptional across all key stages.
- To maintain expert knowledge of teaching and learning and disseminate this to other teachers across the academy,
- To support and deliver an appropriately broad, balanced, relevant curriculum for students.
- To monitor and support the overall progress and development of students as a teacher, form tutor and leader across the Science Department.

- To support the learning experience which provides students with the opportunity to achieve their individual potential in Science .
- To support on teaching and learning initiatives across the department.
- To support the work of the department in seeking to continuously improve the quality of classroom teaching.
- To support on the raising standards of achievement and maximising student attainment in Science .
- To support and be a mentor to trainee teachers who join the department.
- To be committed to the safeguarding of children.
- To plan and prepare courses, schemes of work and individual lessons, appropriate to the needs, interests, experience and existing knowledge of students.
- To lead on the development of appropriate syllabuses, resources, schemes of work, marking policies and teaching strategies in the Department.
- To link with other leaders within the Academy in sharing best practice and across the Multi Academy Trust.
- To link with other United Learning schools to maximise the departments achievements and standing within the Multi Academy Trust.
- To role model and uphold the values and expectations associated with leaders at the Academy and across United Learning.
- To represent the Academy at appropriate events put on by the Multi Academy trust.
- To lead on the Department's improvement plan and its implementation.
- To lead on the whole Academy planning activities which in turn leads to a consistently high performing classroom experience.

High Standards:

- To role model effective teaching and learning strategies.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum provision for students.
- To develop an ethos of striving for excellence by the students.
- With the Vice Principal plan and deliver high quality training for staff.
- To have a secure knowledge of the developments and the opportunities within the curriculum for students.

- Use effective and detailed data analysis to raise the attainment of all students within the curriculum area and in particular targeted groups such as the gifted and talented, students who are looked after and any other group of students needing specialised support.
- To assist in the planning and implementation of a personalised learning strategy for students in Science .

Curriculum Provision:

- To lead on the curriculum provision which provides a range of teaching and learning which complements the Academy strategic objectives.

Staff Development:

- To take part in the Academy staff development programme by participating in arrangements for further training and professional development.
- To continue personal development in the relevant areas including subject knowledge and teaching methods across Science .
- To engage actively in the appraisal review process and line manager relevant members of the department in this process.
- To ensure the effective/efficient deployment of classroom.
- To work as a member of a designated team and to contribute positively to effective working relations within the Academy.

Quality Assurance:

- To adhere to and to help to implement Academy quality procedures.
- To lead on the process of monitoring and evaluation of the department in line with Academy procedures, including evaluation against quality standards and performance criteria.
- To identify improvement required to the teaching and learning demonstrated within the department and hold staff to account for the improvement.
- To take part, as may be required, in the review, development and management of activities relating to the curriculum, organisation and pastoral functions of the Academy.

Management Information:

- To quality assure appropriate records and to provide relevant accurate and up-to-date information for the Academy management information system.
- To quality assure and complete the relevant documentation to assist in the tracking and intervention of students across the department.
- To track the progress of assigned students and use this information to inform teaching and learning and intervention programmes across the department with the support of other leaders in the department.

Communications:

- To communicate effectively with the parents of students as appropriate.
- To communicate and co-operate with persons or bodies outside the Academy, where appropriate.
- To follow agreed policies for communications in the Academy.
- To attend meetings in accordance with the Academy policy.

Teaching:

- To teach students according to their educational needs, including the setting and marking of work to be carried out by the student in school and elsewhere.
- To use teaching strategies which will engage, and challenge students appropriate to their needs and the demands of the syllabus.
- To assess, record and report on the attendance, progress, development, and attainment of students and to keep such records as are required.
- To provide, or contribute to, oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual students and groups of students.
- To ensure a high-quality learning experience for students which meets internal and external quality standards.
- To prepare and update subject materials.
- To maintain good order, discipline, and respect for others; to promote understanding of the school's rules and values; to encourage good practice with regard to punctuality, behaviour, standards of work and homework; to safeguard health and safety and to develop relationships with and between students conducive to optimum learning.
- To undertake assessment of students as requested by external examination bodies, department, and Academy procedures.
- To mark, grade and give written, verbal and diagnostic feedback to students of individual work and group work they have undertaken in line with the department policy for assessment and marking.

General

- Develop excellent working relationships with colleagues internally, centrally and externally.
- Be an effective and flexible member of the team.
- Ensure any documentation produced is to a high standard and is in line with the in-house style.
- Participate in training and other learning activities as required.
- Participate in the Performance Management process.

- Provide appropriate guidance and supervision and assist in the training and development of staff as appropriate.
- To represent the academies at events as appropriate.
- To support and promote academy and United Learning's ethos, playing a part in strengthening relationships between academies and with central office.
- To be aware of, and comply with, United Learning's policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality, and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
- To actively participate in continuous professional development and act as a positive role model across the academies and Trust.
- 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 Executive Business Manager and Human Resources.
- This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Executive Business Manager and Human Resources as required.

Information

This post may require the post-holder to have a degree of flexibility and willingness to work outside of normal working hours.

The information contained above is to help staff understand and appreciate the work content of their post and the role they are to play in the organisation. However, it should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to outline all the duties and responsibilities of the post, a document such as this does not permit every item to be specified in detail. Broad headings have therefore, been used in which case all the usual associated duties are included in this job description.

This job description will be reviewed annually as part of the performance management process and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post-holder.

Elements of this job description and changes to it may be negotiated at the request of either the post-holder or the incumbent of the post.

I accept my job description and job title as detailed above.

Name (print)	
Sign	
Date	

Section 6 – Person Specification



Person Specification

Post title	Lead Practitioner of Science		
Salary	Leading Practitioner Pay Scale.		
Education and Qualifications		Essential	Desirable
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).		X	
Degree or equivalent academic qualifications.		X	
Evidence of further/higher study.		X	
Ability to teach the subject area at KS3, KS4		X	
Experience		Essential	Desirable
Raising student achievement.		X	
Good teaching at secondary and sixth form level.		X	
Inspiring staff and students and establishing successful relationships.		X	
The ability and experience to develop a vision and put this into practice.		X	
Establishing and maintaining high standards and expectations.		X	
Appropriate professional development (particularly linked to raising achievement).		X	
Knowledge and Skills		Essential	Desirable
Evidence of a commitment to continuing professional development.		X	
Willingness to actively participate in professional learning.		X	
Willingness to stay abreast of national developments in education and contribute to developing resources and pedagogy to reflect the changing landscape.		X	
Ability to plan and teach engaging, motivating lessons with clear objectives and student learning outcomes matched to departmental schemes of work.		X	
Ability to teach to Advanced Level, although experience of this is not essential.		X	
Ability to effectively deploy a range of teaching and learning styles to suit the nature of the course content and the ability and attainments of students.		X	
Capacity to manage the learning environment and student behaviour in a manner, which is conducive to productive learning for all students.		X	
Ability to assess student achievements against course objectives and provide outstanding feedback, which enables students to maximise their talents and abilities.		X	
Ability to keep excellent administrative and student achievement records.		X	
Ability to relate well to students, staff and parents in a professional manner.		X	
Ability to use ICT as an integral part of teaching and learning programmes.		X	
Teamwork		Essential	Desirable
Recognises the contribution and achievement of colleagues.		X	
Keeps colleagues, stakeholders and/or customers informed of progress.		X	

Treats others fairly, openly and consistently.	X	
Expresses disagreement or challenges views calmly, constructively and tactfully.	X	
Supports and co-operates with colleagues.	X	
Personal Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Maintains confidentiality and discretion	X	
Able to make connection between their work and the benefits to students.	X	
Good written and verbal communication skills.	X	
Ability to prioritise and manage workload while maintaining a flexible response to urgent requests.	X	
Good interpersonal skills and ability to work with staff and stakeholders at all levels.	X	
Organised and good attention to detail.	X	
High expectations of self.	X	
The ability to act on advice and be open to coaching.	X	
A commitment to extra-curricular activities.	X	
A continued interest in developments in teaching and learning.	X	
The ability to motivate others.	X	
The ability to establish effective working relationships with individuals, groups and organisations.	X	
The ability to remain calm and diffuse situations.	X	
The demonstration of a concern for excellence in one's professional work and the achievement of students.	X	
A commitment to support the school's aims, vision and ethos.	X	
Adaptability and resilience, with the ability to cope with periods of work pressure with good humour and a sense of proportion.	X	
Energy and commitment to professional responsibilities and to the betterment of all students.	X	
A willingness to contribute to the wider life of the school.	X	

Section 7 – The Appointment Process

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

The Application Form

The application form is accessible via the 'Apply' link on the job advertisement. Please complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. You are requested to submit a concise application. CVs are not accepted.

Education and Training

State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.

Present Appointment

Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is.

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.

Referees

Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. Reference will be taken if the candidate is successfully short-listed for interview. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.

The Supporting Statement

The supporting statement is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post.

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 support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website/s prior to attending the interview.

The Interview

Candidates will be invited to interview at the school during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the school at work.

Feedback

Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted, interviewed and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.

Section 8 – Visitors/Contacts for Sheffield Park Academy

The academy is located in a thriving city close to the beautiful Peak District



Sheffield Park Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Sheffield Park Academy
Beaumont Road North
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S2 1SN

Website: www.sheffieldpark-academy.org

Email: info@sheffieldparkacademy.org

Telephone: 0114 2392661

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