

 **AMBITION** | **RESPECT** | **BELONGING** 



# Sir John Thursby Community College



**Candidate Information Pack**  
**Learning Leader History**

## Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear applicant,

I am delighted to welcome you to our thriving and popular school. We are incredibly proud of our students, community, staff and curriculum and we are excited by this appointment. As Headteacher, I am looking to further strengthen our already well established and effective teaching team who secured an extremely positive inspection in April 2023 and continue to show real ambition for the needs of our students and their families.

Our school is characterised by the way we treat our people and through our core values of Ambition, Respect and Belonging. We believe that all members of our school community should be known, valued and loved and we expect all to share this commitment. We are committed to the professional development of our staff, high standards and ambition for our students alongside respect and kindness for all in our SJT family. We are looking for someone who is able to live out these values.

We are proud of the investment we make into the quality of teaching and we work hard to ensure that all teachers have access to high quality professional development. We are a research driven school and we use the EEF implementation model to drive our school improvement. Our current implementation plans are around Assessment, Mixed Attainment Teaching and Literacy. I am keen to further these with some work around Ambition and look at our strategic vision to ensure we are a beacon of excellence.

At SJT we value our staff and have worked hard enable all staff to have a good work-life balance in a supportive working environment. To enable this we give all our staff at least 20% non-contact time. We have made significant reductions to marking expectations and have made substantial reductions to the number of after school meetings for staff. In our last staff survey over 97% of staff were both happy working at SJT and proud to be part of the team. We are committed to supporting well-being and development of all our colleagues as we recognise that teaching can be a challenging job. We would welcome discussions about flexibility around the advertised role and would be keen to make achievable adjustments for the right candidate.

We encourage visits to our thriving school at your convenience and I would be delighted to welcome you and show you around. Please contact Susan Rigg ([s.rigg@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:s.rigg@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)) to arrange a convenient appointment.

I am excited about the scope of this post. If you like what you have read, and you feel you align with our values, we look forward to hearing about what you can bring to SJT on our journey to excellence.

Matt Renshaw  
Headteacher

Sir John Thursby Community College

Eastern Avenue, Burnley, BB10 2AT

Tel: 01282 682313

Email:

[recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr M Renshaw

## Learning Leader - History

Full-time / Permanent

MPS/UPS + TLR 2.3 £7,902pa To start 01.09.2025

**“We are characterised by how we treat our people”**

We are incredibly proud of our ambitious, curriculum focused, research-driven school. Our vision is built around the principles of ambition, respect and belonging and we have a strong commitment to the development of our staff as outstanding professionals.

We wish to appoint a dynamic, innovative and ambitious professional with the vision and commitment to lead the History Department. The successful candidate will have the ability to lead and inspire others, being:

- an excellent practitioner with a clear understanding of learning;
- an effective communicator with strong interpersonal skills;
- a creative person, with the skills to develop History as a key Ebacc subject;
- committed to raising student attainment and further improve the History results.

This is a great opportunity for the right candidate to contribute to our work and benefit from an excellent environment, where teachers are encouraged to progress their careers with us. We have great facilities ensuring that our students and staff have the best learning environment in which to achieve. SJT is a very positive community, with our recent staff survey showing that over 95% of our staff enjoy coming to work and are proud to be part of our school. We take staff workload and professional development seriously and we give all our teachers non-teaching time of at least 20% of their timetable. We also recognise the challenges of working in a school and we are open to discussion around flexibility of working.

Our History curriculum is exciting and ambitious and has been designed to reflect the context of our students and the world and community we live in. We have been passionate about research into curriculum design and are excited by this opportunity to further strengthen our department. This post arises due to the recent promotion of the former leader of History to an Assistant Headteacher role within the school.

We are looking for a teacher who shares our drive and passion to inspire our students with their love of their subject and a passion for learning. Our ideal candidate would show:

- Great classroom practice and an ability to engage all young people.
- The ability to motivate students of all abilities to achieve their full potential in mixed attainment settings
- A passion and commitment to raise standards and achievement.
- The ability to work and contribute as part of a team.
- Commitment, resilience, patience, hard work and a good sense of humour.

We welcome visitors to the school. To arrange a time to visit and meet with the headteacher please contact Susan Rigg (email – [s.rigg@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:s.rigg@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk) or telephone 01282 682313).

The successful candidate will fully embrace our ethos of Ambition, Respect and Belonging whilst bringing fresh ideas that will build on current strengths and achievement. A core pillar of our “belonging” ethos is that all in our community are known, valued and loved. We want all staff to share this commitment.

Whilst the post will ideally be for full time hours, requests for part time / job share will be considered.

**For an application pack please:**

- download from the college website: [www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)
- or telephone 01282 682313
- or email [recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

Send your completed Application form (only the version attached) stating which post you wish to apply for to: [\*\*recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk\*\*](mailto:recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

**Closing date: 9am Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

**Shortlisting: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Interviews: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment. You will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure and other recruitment checks. Please note that in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 an online search will be carried out as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates.

## Sir John Thursby Community College – Job Description

**Job title:** Learning Leader – History

**Salary:** MPS / UPS plus TLR 2.3 £7,902pa

**Contract type:** Full time permanent

**Reporting to:** Leadership Team line manager

**Accountable for:** Achievement, Teaching & Learning & Curriculum within subject area/s:  
History

### Main purpose

Our aim is to establish a truly great school, where outcomes for students place it in the top 10% of schools nationally. The role of the Leader of Learning, under the direction of their line manager and the headteacher is:

- To take responsibility for the leadership of the History department
- To ensure that achievement rises across all subjects in the department by effective analysis of student performance and through the delivery of an appropriate and inspiring curriculum

### Duties and responsibilities

The duties outlined in this job description are in addition to those covered by the latest Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. It may be modified by the Headteacher, with your agreement, to reflect or anticipate changes in the job, commensurate with the salary and job title.

### Key tasks

1. To build, develop and lead an effective team of staff.
2. To develop the long and medium-term planning for the department.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects in the department – in terms of outcomes for students & quality of teaching.
4. To ensure that schemes of learning are in place and regularly reviewed.
5. To decide in liaison with their line manager the most appropriate examination syllabuses for the subjects in the department & to enter students for the appropriate qualifications.
6. To track and monitor the progress of students within the subject/s, and report this regularly to their line manager and to the leadership team; to ensure effective interventions are in place to raise standards for under-achievers.

7. To ensure that the needs of students with English as an Additional Language, Special Educational Needs or Disadvantaged students are met within the subject/s.
8. To ensure that accurate and robust assessment of students attainment is in place.
9. To be responsible for maintaining excellent standards of teaching and learning across the department.
10. To ensure appropriate CPD for the staff in the department.
11. To ensure that a positive climate for learning is evident throughout the department.
12. To contribute to pastoral curriculum when appropriate.
13. To ensure that students within the department have a voice.
14. To contribute to the school improvement through the weekly learning leaders meeting.
15. To appraise staff through the annual appraisal processes.
16. To conduct return to work interviews with their teams.
17. To manage resources effectively in their department (including budget management).

***Equal opportunities***

***We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.***

***Health and safety***

***All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.***

***Safeguarding Commitment***

***This school is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.***

Matt Renshaw  
February 2025

Sir John Thursby Community College

Person Specification – Learning Leader – History

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	How identified
<b>1. Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QTS</li> <li>• Degree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent relevant INSET in preparation to lead/manage a department.</li> </ul>	Application form
<b>2. Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear evidence of excellent teaching over time</li> <li>• Clear evidence of positive outcomes from Y11 classes</li> <li>• Substantial experience of teaching across the whole ability range of students</li> <li>• Substantial experience of teaching across the 11-16 age range of students</li> <li>• Evidence of planning long &amp; medium term schemes of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of leading a team of people in a positive, effective manner</li> <li>• Experience of leading CPD or working with individual teachers to improve the quality of their teaching</li> </ul>	Application form Supporting letter Selection process References
<b>3. Skills and knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear understanding of how to accurately assess student progress</li> <li>• Clear understanding of new KS4 specifications</li> <li>• Clear understanding of how the KS3 curriculum supports skills and knowledge needed for KS4</li> <li>• Clear understanding of what makes excellent teaching</li> <li>• Clear understanding of how to analyse and use data to raise achievement</li> <li>• Clear understanding of how to meet the needs of all students</li> <li>• An ability to plan strategically</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of how to raise achievement for Disadvantaged students</li> </ul>	Supporting letter Selection process
<b>4. Personal qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A passion to make a difference to young people's lives through education</li> <li>• Ability to build effective working relationships</li> <li>• Enthusiastic, resilient &amp; solution focused</li> <li>• An effective team member, who works well with other people</li> <li>• An ability to build effective teams and motivate others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiration for Senior Leadership</li> </ul>	Supporting letter Selection process References

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To like young people and to be liked by them</li> <li>• A drive to make things happen</li> <li>• Not to settle for good, but always strive to improve</li> <li>• A commitment to safeguarding and equality</li> <li>• Confident using modern technologies</li> <li>• Sense of humour</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5. Other</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form completed in full</li> <li>• Letter of application (max 2 sides A4, font 11)</li> <li>• Enhanced DBS disclosure</li> <li>• Satisfactory health check</li> </ul>		<p>Application</p> <p>School checks</p>



**SIR JOHN THURSBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STRATEGIC VISION AND VALUES 2022-2025**

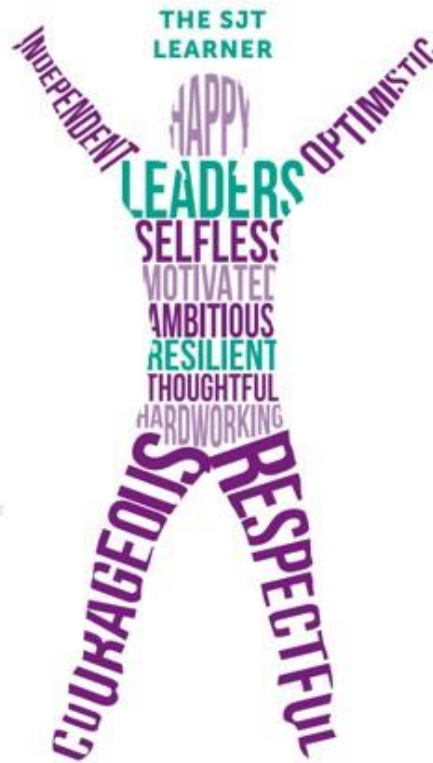
Being a truly great school through..

**OUR CORE PURPOSE**

- To be a community-centred school, where all students achieve the academic & creative success needed for further study and employment
- To support social mobility and to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and their families
- To enable our young people to become confident, resilient, informed, adaptable and caring members of society

**MEASURING IMPACT**

- Our students' outcomes place our school in the top 10% of similar schools
- Our teachers consistently deliver our curriculum effectively
- Our attendance will be at least 97%



**OUR VALUES**

- We are ambitious for our students
- We value and invest in our staff
- Our students deserve great teaching every lesson
- Strong positive relationships make a great school
- We treat each other with care, respect and kindness
- All members of our school community are known, valued and loved
- We are inclusive & support diversity
- Our families play a key role in supporting our students to be successful
- A great education includes learning & experiences beyond the classroom
- All of us at SJT have the capacity to improve what we do

**OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

1. To deliver a well-structured, knowledge-rich curriculum that enables our students to be successful in their next stages in learning and development
2. To ensure that all our students have the literacy skills needed to access the curriculum effectively
3. To ensure that our teaching is engaging and is responsive to the needs of all students
4. To ensure that the assessment of our students is accurate and enables gaps in learning to be addressed
5. To ensure that all our learners are 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'
6. To stop doing anything that prevents us from delivering great lessons and that creates unnecessary workload
7. To support the emotional well-being of our school community
8. To ensure that Leadership at all levels is highly effective



**BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

## Further Information

Thank you for your interest in joining our fantastic team here at Sir John Thursby Community College.

Application forms can be found on our website: [www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

Completed application forms should be returned by the closing date to [recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)

CVs will not be accepted. Please note that we are only able to employ nationals of European Economic Area (EEA) countries, citizens of Switzerland and those legally entitled to work in the UK. Lancashire County Council does not hold a sponsorship licence and is unable to employ non-EEA nationals under tiers 2 or 5 of the points based system. If you submit an application form and are shortlisted for interview, you will be required to produce documentary evidence of your right to work in the UK. Please note that we will seek references for shortlisted candidates prior to interview.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If appointed you will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure and a range of other recruitment checks. Please note that in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 an online search will be carried out as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates.

Follow the link to watch 'Burnley By Drone' to see a beautiful area in which to live and work - [Burnley by Drone - YouTube](#)

For an interactive tour of SJT follow this link - [Sir John Thursby Community College - Interactive Tour of SJT](#)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Sir John Thursby Community College, Eastern Avenue, Burnley, BB10 2AT, 01282 682313  
[www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.sirjohnthursby.lancs.sch.uk)