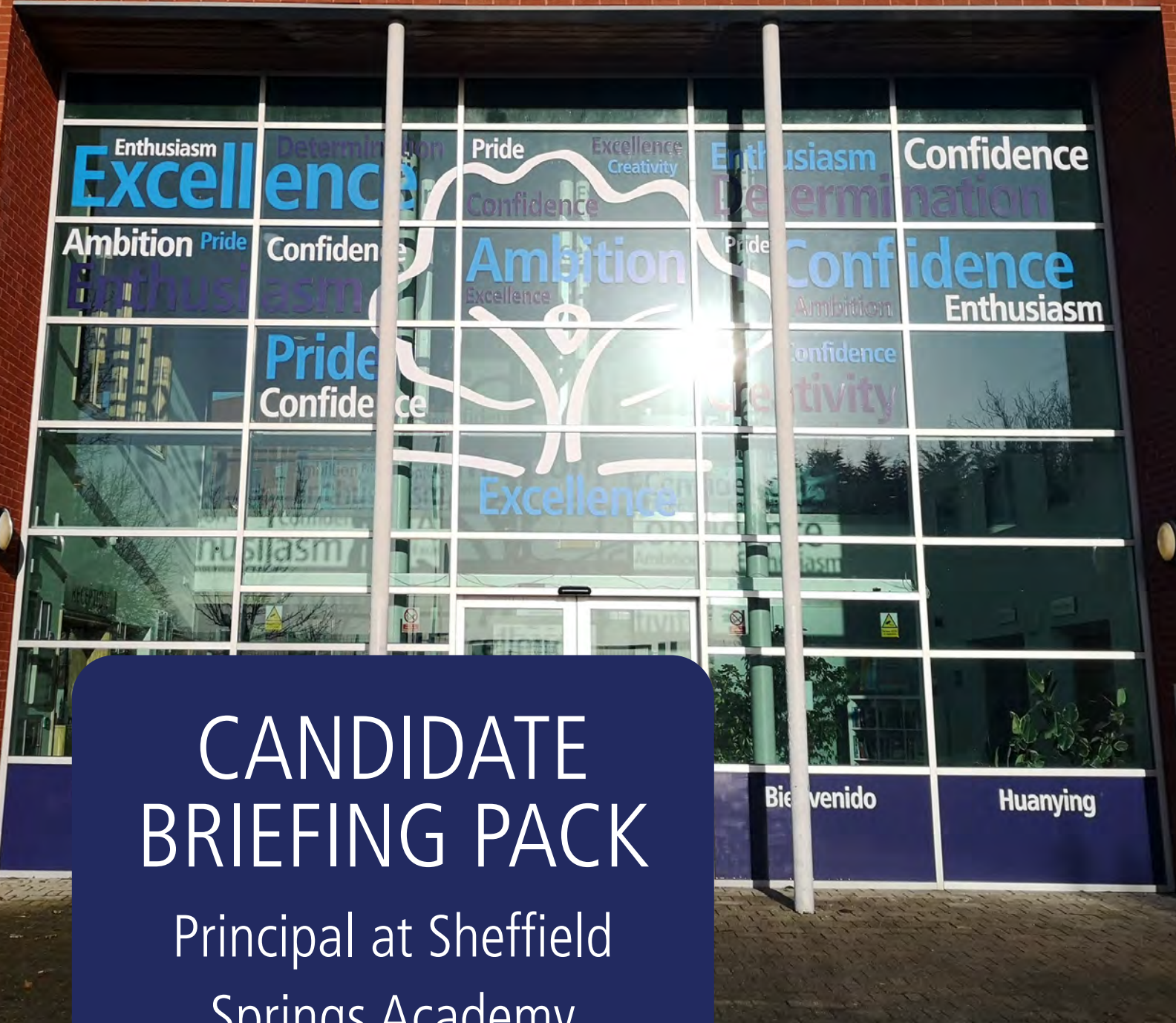


SHEFFIELD SPRINGS ACADEMY



CANDIDATE BRIEFING PACK

Principal at Sheffield
Springs Academy



United Learning
The best in everyone™

unitedlearning.org.uk

WELCOME

Thank you very much for your interest in becoming Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy.

Sheffield Springs Academy is a vibrant and diverse school with 1050 students. It is full in every year group and oversubscribed in year 7. It has a track record of school improvement in a challenging urban context and of tackling disadvantage and boasts a thriving STEM stream in years 7 and 8. It is very much a part of its local community and the flourishing and innovative city of Sheffield. The Academy has a strong ethos with very good relationships between staff and pupils and is judged by Ofsted to be a **good** school. However, we have no doubt that there is much more to come: we believe that the school can become a truly excellent one which achieves exceptionally well.

We are looking for an energetic, inspirational, people-focused leader who believes that extraordinary success is possible. As in any city with substantial wealth and a highly educated population, those who grow up in areas of lower wealth and less parental education, can be in particular need of excellent role models, adults who believe in them and show them what they can do and be. If you are a Principal or experienced Deputy who believes that children and young people can achieve extraordinary things and will build a team and a school to make it a reality, we will be excited to read your application. The Academy is a great match for someone with the highest expectations, determination, resilience, audacity and compassion in equal measure. You will be a team builder, able to motivate staff and pupils. You will expect a lot from people and provide strong support to them.

United Learning is a big group of schools – with over 60,000 pupils and more than 9,000 staff – so we have the capacity to support you educationally and operationally. At the same time, we are values-led and base all that we do on good relationships, so you will be joining a big family. Reporting directly to the Regional Director, we will support you both personally and professionally, bringing the strength of a national group to supporting your development and that of your staff and school. You will be provided with a strong infrastructure of support from our financial, HR, Technology and Data Teams, as well as educational support from our subject specialists and our United Learning curriculum.

We are committed to fairness, diversity and inclusion. We are currently working hard to improve representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic leaders at headship level and to raise our proportion of women leaders to match their representation in our wider workforce. Whoever you are, if you have a strong track record of improving young people's education and a drive to do more, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes
Sir Jon Coles
CEO



THE ACADEMY

Sheffield Springs Academy has 1050 students aged 11-16 and over 100 staff. The Academy's intake is reflective of its diverse local community: whilst around 60% are White British, the student body is richly diverse with 14 out of 17 possible ethnic groups represented. The percentage of students known to be eligible for free school meals is high at almost 55%.

The Academy benefits from high quality facilities – its sports, technologies and performing arts facilities are modern, well equipped and provide fantastic opportunities for talented and creative students in all manner of activities both within the curriculum and beyond. Staff at the academy work incredibly hard and want the best for their students.

This is a thriving and dynamic school where students acknowledge and value the vast range of opportunities that are provided for them. Excellence, Pride and Ambition are key values that underpin all aspects of school life. Since opening in September 2006, Sheffield Springs Academy has established itself as a school which transforms the life chances of the local community. In addition to being a 'good' school, the academy fulfils a major role in community provision and sports education in the area.

The Academy is part of our Yorkshire Cluster along with two other local schools: Sheffield Park Academy and Barnsley Academy. The schools work collaboratively together, benefiting from an Executive Business Manager and shared services.

The new Principal will need the drive to continue the raising of standards in all year groups. We will support the successful candidate in ensuring the very highest academic standards, where exemplary behaviour allows teachers and pupils to focus on the core business of teaching and learning. This is the ideal position for an ambitious and dynamic leader with the vision to create an ethos of care, respect and high achievement.

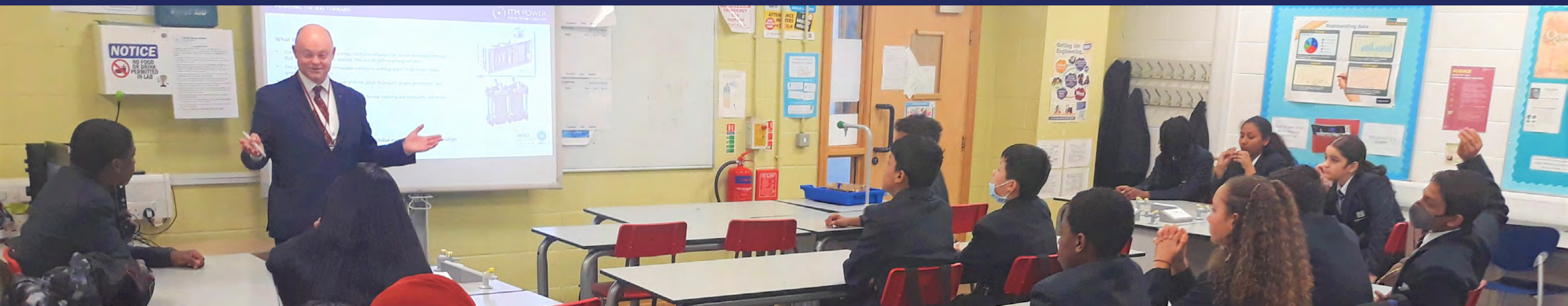
Sheffield Springs Academy is brimming with potential. The position provides a genuinely rewarding opportunity to lead a school on the next phase of school improvement as it moves towards excellence. We expect the successful candidate to have further significant impact on the culture and values of the school and for student outcomes to continue their trajectory of improvement. Above all we are seeking substantial and sustainable improvements under the leadership of a Principal committed to the long-term success of Sheffield Springs Academy's pupils and community.

The Principal will be a talented and ambitious leader who will combine the autonomy of running their own school with the benefits of working within a cluster and as part of a national group. United Learning prioritises collaboration, values shared practice and provides high-quality professional development.

United Learning will support the Principal with the expertise of a Regional Director, as well as a highly effective team of subject advisers and Central Support for Finance, HR, Estates and other functions. You will also benefit from our knowledge-rich mastery curriculum which includes a package of common assessments, enabling school leaders to gain a deeper understanding of their students by comparing performance against the thousands of students in other United Learning schools.

The successful candidate will become part of a network of fellow Principals with the support, mutual challenge and sense of comradeship that it brings with it. We are looking for a leader that is aligned to the United Learning Way, which outlines the guiding educational principles of our Trust.

We fully recommend that you take the opportunity to make an informal visit prior to making your application to see the school for yourself. Please contact sianne.wilson@sheffieldsprings.org to make an appointment to visit.



ABOUT UNITED LEARNING

United Learning is a group of schools which aims to provide excellent education to children and young people across the country. We seek to improve the life chances of all the children and young people we serve and make it our mission to bring out 'the best in everyone' – students, staff, parents and the wider community. We uniquely comprise schools in both the state and the independent sectors. We currently educate over 60,000 students and employ over 9,000 members of staff including over 4,000 teachers.

As a group, we can offer more to both staff and young people than any single school could offer alone. The growing range of outstanding group-wide activities that we can provide will mean that more young people will have truly exceptional and inspiring experiences. We believe that our Group contains the most developed relationships and practical interaction between independent and state schools in the country, creating benefits for all the schools involved.

United Learning comprises both United Church Schools Trust, which operates our fee-paying independent schools, and United Learning Trust, which operates our state-funded academies.

To find out more about United Learning, please visit the website: www.unitedlearning.org.uk

As part of United Learning, Sheffield Springs Academy will share the objective of bringing out 'the best in everyone', enabling each student to become a balanced, happy and articulate person with intellectual freedom, confidence, compassion, integrity and a lifelong love of learning.



OUR ETHOS

Our approach to education is underpinned by a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing what is right for children and young people. We believe in supporting our colleagues to achieve excellence and in acting with integrity in all our dealings within and beyond the Group. We believe the safety and welfare of all children and young people is paramount. We summarise this ethos as 'the best in everyone'.

This ethos underpins our core values:

AMBITION – to achieve the best for ourselves and others;

CONFIDENCE – to have the courage of our convictions and to take risks in the right cause;

CREATIVITY – to imagine possibilities and make them real;

RESPECT – of ourselves and others in all that we do;

ENTHUSIASM – to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests;

DETERMINATION – to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

As a single organisation, we seek to bring together the best of independent and state sectors, respecting both traditions and learning from each other. We believe that each of our schools is and should be distinctive – committed to developing its own strengths and identity while sharing our core values to promote service, compassion and generosity.





CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We believe that successful organisations make a priority of developing their staff; all the more so in education, where the people of the organisation are its most important asset. While the development of all staff is important, we make support and professional development of Heads and senior leaders a particular priority, given the impact that leaders have on the life of staff and pupils alike.

We work on the basis that each of us, however effective, can always improve. The new Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy will set personal development objectives with the Regional Director each year and would be supported to achieve them. The Principal would also be asked to take a role in supporting the leadership of the whole organisation, working with other Heads in the Group, and sharing ideas and practice with one another. He or she will have the benefit of accessing a range of networks, including the Group Education Forum which brings together Heads from across the Group six times a year. United Learning has also commissioned training programmes from major universities. We provide 360-degree feedback as part of professional development.

We believe that schools are at their best when they are autonomous and able to develop a distinctive ethos, reflecting the needs of their pupils and the context within which they work. The Group can get behind the work of Heads and leaders in schools through creating strong networks, providing outstanding educational support and professional development, and by taking the strain of professional functional support. We aim to ensure that the technology, finance, HR and data support is provided more effectively and efficiently than would otherwise be possible, so that Principals can focus on educational leadership.

The newly appointed Principal at Sheffield Springs Academy will also benefit from a comprehensive induction programme.

OUR FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

To achieve our mission, our schools prioritise five key principles:

‘THE BEST FROM EVERYONE’

Our aim is to bring out ‘the best in everyone’. So, we must expect the best from everyone, all the time. Every child is a special individual, capable of extraordinary things. Who can know the limits of any child’s potential? So, we expect unreasonably – we constantly encourage children to do what they think they can’t, to persist, to work hard and to be at their best.

From every adult we expect the same: that they are at their best, expect unreasonably of themselves, are determined and resilient and pass those expectations on to the children in all they do. We act with the utmost love, care and good faith – the highest standards come with the greatest attention to the wellbeing of all.

‘POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE’

Our most important purpose is to teach young people things they would not learn outside school, which free them to think and act more powerfully in their lives. Words and numbers are our most powerful ways of representing the world. Mastery of language and fluent mathematical skills are therefore our top priority. We aim to prepare young people to make a success of their lives: a core entitlement to subject-based learning; the development of talents; an understanding of work and society.

Worthwhile learning is often hard. Inspiring teaching is what gives access to difficult concepts and the thrill of intellectual discovery. Powerful knowledge is not static or backward-looking. It includes the ability to critique, challenge the status quo, think and learn.

‘EDUCATION WITH CHARACTER’

Academic success is very important. Exam passes are an important aspect of that. But there is more to a good education. Our schools also aim to develop character, compassion and service. Young people are expected to contribute to their school and to society; to try things which they think they cannot do; to persist in the face of difficulty; to become resilient in overcoming obstacles; to manage themselves; to work independently on things which stretch them; to work with others and in teams; to be courageous and caring; to lead.

We want young people to look back on a joyful schooling which has inspired and challenged them, given them wide opportunity and prepared them for the ups and downs of life.

‘LEADERSHIP IN EVERY ROLE’

Our children are leaders of the future. We expect them to start today – taking advantage of structured opportunities to lead and taking responsibility for themselves and others. Every adult in the school is a leader. In every word, tone and gesture, they set direction and expectation. We expect every adult to take responsibility and the initiative to do what is right for the children.

All those in formal leadership positions create the climate in which others work. They demand the highest standards, build an inclusive performance culture, develop their teams and create the space for others to lead. All leaders listen, grow relationships, act with integrity and care and expect the best from themselves and others in building a happy, confident school.

‘CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT’

However good we are, we can be better. We constantly look for improvements and implement them with pace. We look for ideas for improvement inside the organisation and out; we observe one another; we steal good ideas with pride and look to make them better; we work together to improve.

We always look at the evidence and are rigorous in evaluating impact. We stop or change things which aren’t working; we improve things which are. We aim for high leverage: high impact for low effort and low cost. We constantly look to have more impact for less cost and effort and to spend every pound wisely.

Broadly, the responsibilities of the role are as detailed below:

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Ensuring excellent academic outcomes in all key stages;
- Developing outstanding teaching and learning for all pupils;
- Embedding an aspirational and innovative culture of learning;
- Implementing a rigorous system of monitoring to evaluate the work of the school;
- Securing and maintaining high standards across the whole school;
- Embedding a fulfilling and enriching curriculum for all children;
- Setting and achieving aspirational targets for all pupils that ensure rapid progress to become an outstanding school;
- Knowledge of secondary educational practice;
- Ensuring the welfare and safety of all pupils from all groups, including their safeguarding.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Leading the implementation of The United Learning Way, which outlines the guiding educational principles of our Trust, throughout Sheffield Springs Academy.
- Defining and delivering the vision and objectives of the school and the School Strategic Plan as agreed with the LGB and the Regional Director;
- Leading the school in partnership with the LGB and United Learning senior leaders;
- Developing and implementing a robust strategic plan that directs rapid school improvement against agreed milestones;
- Developing and maintaining the values of United Learning within the school;
- Contributing professionally to the broader United Learning agenda.

PEOPLE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Leading on all staffing issues, including the appointment and development of staff;
- Ensuring a culture of working together to achieve high standards throughout the school;
- Promoting staff well-being within the Framework for Excellence;
- Managing performance and ensuring that staff receive appropriate support in order to achieve excellence;
- Leading reflective practice and inspirational professional development that enables all members of staff to flourish;
- Promoting equality and fairness for all staff;
- Taking responsibility for one's own professional development as the Principal.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Principal will lead and inspire excellence throughout the Academy. They will work with all staff to ensure success for all pupils at every stage of their education and provide them with the skills and confidence in their future life and work.

As a senior leader within United Learning, the Principal, together with the Local Governing Body (LGB), will be responsible for establishing and implementing the vision and direction for all pupils throughout the school. In leading the school, the Principal will ensure that United Learning's ethos and values are deeply embedded and visible, securing 'the best in everyone' for both staff and pupils.

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Working closely with the Executive Business Manager and finance colleagues to ensure budgets are set and managed within guidelines agreed with the LGB and the Group through the Regional Director and Chief Financial Officer;
- Monitoring actual spending against budget;
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of funding to support the progress and achievement of priority groups including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, or those eligible for pupil premium funding;
- Implementing key Group-wide policies and strategies (e.g. in relation to Compliance, Finance, HR and Technology);
- Ensuring that efficient administrative systems are implemented and managed;
- Managing and utilising the site and facilities to their full value to the Academy, the Group and the community;
- Ensuring that health and safety and safeguarding policies are fully implemented and managed.

LINKS WITH COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS

- Developing strong and effective partnerships with parents;
- Developing a thriving sense of school community to include present and past pupils and parents;
- Creating proactive, entrepreneurial and effective links with the wider community;
- Making a strategic contribution to the development of the Group;
- Developing strong and effective partnerships with local primary schools, colleges and universities;
- Ensuring that the school contributes to United Learning cluster initiatives.

REPORTING

The Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy reports to the Regional Director who reports to the National Director of Secondary Education of United Learning, who is responsible to the overarching Charity Board through the Chief Executive.

The LGB, and its Chair in particular, will also work closely with the Principal in relation to its responsibilities to act as a 'critical friend' to the school. This relationship with the Chair and LGB will be key to driving the school forward and further developing local partnerships.

The Principal will keep the Regional Director fully informed on the progress of the school and will submit reports for consideration as appropriate. The Principal will participate in an annual performance review as part of the agreed appraisal process.



PASSION POSITIVITY POTENTIAL

PERSON SPECIFICATION

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Educational and professional qualifications appropriate for the role of Principal of the school. Such qualifications would normally include a degree from a recognised university, professional qualifications (for example PGCE) and ideally a further post graduate qualification;
- Evidence of professional development across career to date.

EXPERIENCE

- Demonstrable success in a leadership role in a comparable organisation and through significant periods of development;
- A proven track record of securing excellence in an educational establishment;
- A proven track record in rapidly raising pupils' achievements;
- Evidence of the ability to develop excellent relationships with staff, members of the local community, parents and pupils aged 11-16 years of age;
- Experience in leading and developing colleagues and effective teams.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND QUALITIES

- An in-depth understanding of school leadership and school improvement needed to achieve outstanding pupil progress and personal development;
- The ability to create and implement effective management systems in which roles, responsibilities and accountabilities are clearly articulated;
- An understanding of the importance of research in developing approaches to learning and curriculum design and the ability to put this into practice;
- An understanding of expectations of all phases of education;
- A thorough understanding of school markets, the analysis required to develop those and the skills to implement successful marketing strategies.



PERSONAL QUALITIES

- A clear understanding of and commitment to the development of the United Learning values, the United Learning Way, and the Framework for Excellence;
- Belief in equality of opportunities for all pupils and staff regardless of culture, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious identity;
- Clarity of vision with the ability to communicate it in a compelling and engaging way;
- An adaptable leadership style which encourages leadership from others and celebrates success;
- Determination and resilience;
- Sensitivity and wisdom in managing relationships with pupils, parents and staff;
- High level interpersonal and communication skills with the capacity to influence at all levels;
- High expectations of pupil achievement, conduct and behaviour;
- A commitment to collaborative working, both within the school and across the Group;
- Openness, sense of humour, energy and enthusiasm.

HOW TO APPLY

United Learning are working in partnership with Propelo to recruit for this position. If you would like to arrange a visit or set up a confidential conversation please contact Corrina O'Beirne or Sophie Gaston on 01273 222 877 or email unitedlearning@propelo.co.uk.

To download a pack and for details of how to apply, please visit unitedlearning.our-careers.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 9am on 29 September 2022.

All applications should be submitted to unitedlearning@propelo.co.uk

THE SELECTION PROCESS

We will treat all enquiries, formal and informal, in confidence. The selection process will be as follows:

- All applications will be acknowledged by email. If you have not received acknowledgement that your application has been received within two working days of sending it, please contact Corrina O'Beirne on corrina@propelo.co.uk. Shortlisting will occur during week commencing 3 October 2022.
- The selection process will take place on Monday 10 October and Tuesday 11th October at Sheffield Springs Academy. You do need to be available for both dates.
- Candidates will be offered full feedback on their application and/or interview.



EMPLOYER

United Learning

POSITION

Principal, Sheffield Springs Academy with responsibility for the whole school

REPORTING LINE

Senior Regional Director, Secondary Academies

LOCATION

Sheffield Springs Academy or such other nearby place operated by the school or to which the school may relocate.

START DATE

January 2023

STARTING SALARY

The salary will be commensurate with the significance and importance of the post and the experience of the successful candidate.

ILL HEALTH

United Learning's sick leave and pay policy will apply. The policy allows for a three years' sliding qualification period, at the end of which you will be entitled to full pay for 100 working days and half pay for 100 working days.

HOLIDAYS

You are entitled to take holidays during the normal school holidays except where your presence is required for proper execution of your duties as Principal. United Learning would expect you would not have less than six weeks of the year without any work involvement.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Principal is eligible to be a member of the TPS.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Principal is eligible to be a member of United Learning's medical insurance scheme, currently with BUPA. It is also possible for other family members to be included within the policy but, when this happens, there is a charge.

RELOCATION

Assistance with relocation is negotiable and may be available up to a maximum of £8,000 on the basis of receipts relating to actual relevant expenditure.

SAFEGUARDING

United Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS (previously CRB) check is required for all successful applicants..

05:21.78
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

United Learning's normal terms of conditions of employment for the position Principal at Sheffield Springs Academy. The final detailed terms and conditions are subject to agreement between United Learning and the successful candidate and will be reflected in the formal employment contract.



United Learning
The best in everyone™

unitedlearning.org.uk

United Learning's normal terms and conditions of employment apply for the position of Principal. The final detailed terms and conditions are subject to agreement between United Learning and the successful candidate and will be reflected in the formal employment contract.