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Job Application Pack

Senior Science Laboratory Technician

School: Comberton Village College

Salary: NJC Scale 5, SCP 12 (range SCP 12 -17 £26,421– £28,770 FTE)

33 hours per week, term time plus 5 additional training days

Actual salary of £20,211.24 based on hours and weeks worked.

Contract: Permanent, Part Time

Start date: January 2024

Application closing date: 9am on Monday 11th December 2023

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Welcome from the CEO

We are delighted you are interested in joining one of the Academies in our Trust.

The Cam Academy Trust is a community of schools in and near South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon which offers 'Excellence for All' students from aged 3 to 18 in 11 schools incorporating pre-school, primary phase, secondary and sixth forms.

School years are a critical period of all our lives as we develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to become successful members of our communities. We want all young people proceeding through all our schools to become capable, caring and confident.

All within The Cam Academy Trust are committed to giving all our pupils the very best grounding that we can through exceptional teaching and learning and outstanding pastoral support.

Each of our academies has its own Principal or Headteacher who works with their own team of high-quality staff and these staff also work with each other to share best practice to ensure our pupils are well educated and well cared for.

Our over-arching purpose is simple: we want to secure educational excellence for all with our Academies working at the heart of and serving their local communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Munday". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Munday CBE

About our Trust

The Cam Academy Trust, originally The Comberton Academy Trust, was formed in 2011 to oversee the conversion of Comberton Village College to academy status in the first instance. With growing emphasis on academies working together in formal partnerships, the Trust quickly changed to become a multi-academy trust so that more schools could join and work closely with us.

As this partnership developed it was only right that the name changed with it as further schools/academies joined, including from the primary as well as secondary phase of education. The Comberton Academy Trust was renamed 'The Cam Academy Trust' – a clear statement that the Trust is greater than the sum of its parts.

The Trust currently comprises seven primary phase schools and four secondary schools, two with Sixth Forms. We are excited that a third Sixth Form is due to open at Cambourne Village College in 2023.

Our Primary phase schools are: Everton Heath Primary School (just inside Bedfordshire), Gamlingay Village Primary, Jeavons Wood Primary School, Cambourne, Offord Primary School, Offord D'Arcy, Hartford Infant and Pre-School, Hartford Junior School and Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School, Huntingdon. Bourn Primary Academy joined as the first Associate Member in 2021.

Our Secondary schools are: Comberton Village College (and Comberton Sixth Form), Cambourne Village College, Melbourn Village College and St Peter's School (and Sixth Form), Huntingdon.

The Trust strives for 'Excellence for All' and at the heart of this are six core principles which drive everything it does.

These are:

The Excellence Principle – Education must be of the very highest standard

The Comprehensive Principle – Education must be for all kinds and abilities

The Broad Education Principle – Education must incorporate a broad range of subject areas and personal development

The Community Principle – Every Academy must be at the heart of its local community and serve it well

The Partnership Principle – Each Academy must seek to work positively in partnership with others for mutual benefit

The International Principle – The curriculum inside and outside the classroom must have a clear international dimension.

Benefits

We offer the following benefits, designed to promote your wellbeing and make your time with The Cam Academy Trust satisfying and rewarding.

Core benefits

- Holiday – Up to 30 days' paid holiday a year plus bank holidays for full time non-teaching staff (statutory leave for teaching staff)
- Paid leave – enhanced sick pay, maternity pay and adoption leave pay (linked to service) and paid leave for unforeseen personal situations
- Pension – a generous defined benefit pension with the Local Government Pension Scheme or Teachers' Pension Scheme
- Death in service payment – lump sum payment and an ongoing pension for your partner & children (subject to conditions & membership of our pension scheme)

Health and wellbeing

- Employee counselling and support – free, independent 24/7 help and advice for work-related issues, as well as problems affecting your home life
- Wellbeing groups – arrangements may differ from school to school (secondary school staff)
- Environment – good working environment with excellent facilities (facilities may differ from school to school)

Professional development

- Professional development – full and part-funded training courses and a wide range of learning opportunities available to all staff
- The College sees staff support and development as a key priority to support high quality teaching and learning. All staff will be part of the College's performance management scheme. They will have a team leader who will set agreed targets for the year. The team leader will monitor and review performance, including classroom teaching. The College will support the continuing professional development of all staff. The Trust provides a range of different conditional professional development (CPD) courses tailored to the needs and experience of staff. These courses are part of entitlements to enable staff to develop with meaningful CPD at different points of their career.

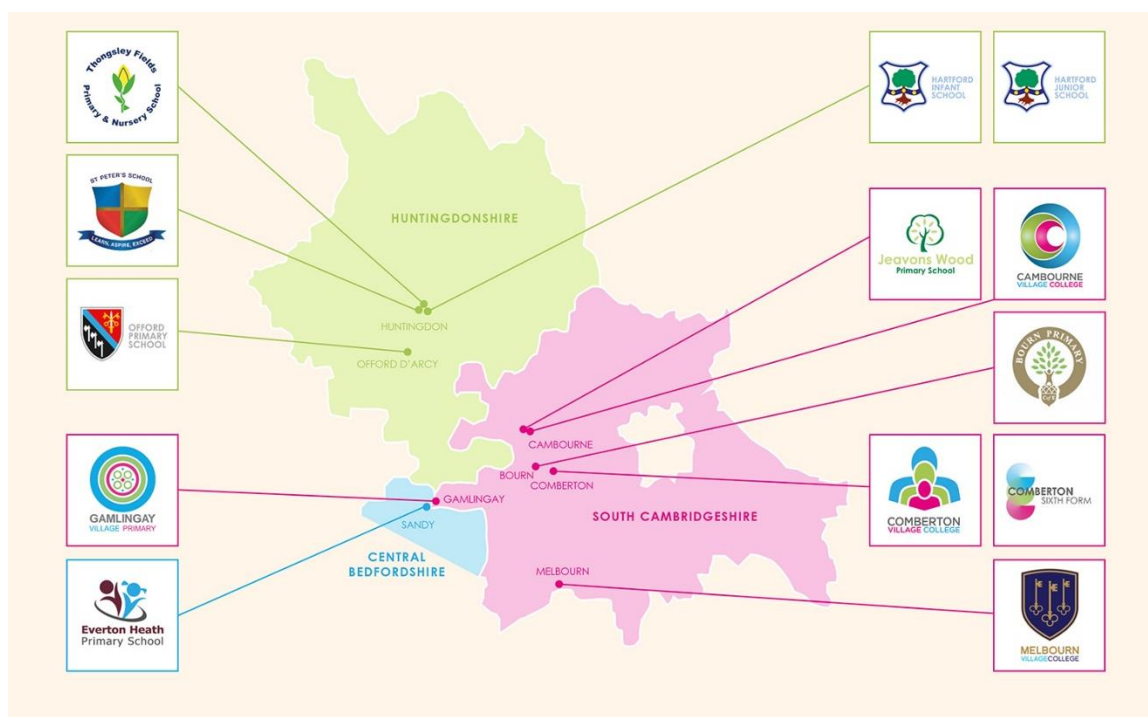
Employee discounts

- Car parking – free and on-site
- Hot drinks – tea & coffee making facilities provided for all staff
- Cycle-to-work scheme – save £££ on a new bike and accessories
- Subsidised membership to the [Chartered College of Teaching](#) (teaching staff)

Work-life balance

- Flexible working – all staff can make a request to work flexibly
- Teacher cover - We have Cover Supervisors reducing the amount of cover required by teachers and PPA periods are on timetables and not used for cover purposes (school teaching staff)

Our Schools



Comberton Village College & Comberton Sixth Form



Comberton Village College is a thriving community of approximately 1800 students, including 500 in the Sixth Form which was added to the school in 2011.

It was established in 1960 as part of Henry Morris' vision for schools being village colleges at the heart of their community and not just places for children to learn. It has a vibrant Adult Education department as well as an on-site Sports and Arts Centre, including a full-size artificial football pitch and spacious performance hall. Current improvements to the much-extended site include the installation of a £multi-million ground-source heat pump to move away from the use of oil.

Cambourne Village College

Cambourne Village College opened as a Free School in 2013 as the first new village college in Cambridgeshire for 30 years. It serves the community of Cambourne, a group of villages located between Cambridge and St Neots.

It has been repeatedly grown since its inception and now has plans for further expansion to include a sixth form from 2023 and further capacity to match growing demand for families moving into Cambourne West, the fourth of the villages it serves. It, too, offers extensive arts and sports facilities for community use.

It was the first school in the Trust to equip its students with iPads, an initiative now being rolled out across the Trust.



Melbourn Village College



Melbourn Village College is the smallest and oldest of the village colleges in the CAT community. With around 600 students in Years 7-11, it still offers an innovative curriculum with Mandarin taught to all from Year 7 with the option to take the language at GCSE level and, recently, at A Level in conjunction with Comberton Sixth Form.

MELBOURN
VILLAGE COLLEGE

Melbourn is undergoing considerable investment and improvement with a new artificial pitch that opened in late 2021 and work due to start on upgrading classrooms in summer 2022.

St Peter's School, Huntingdon

St Peter's School is located in the heart of Huntingdon and offers a nurturing and supportive environment for around 1200 students from a diverse multi-cultural catchment.

The school joined the Trust in 2016 and has undergone significant change with Ofsted now rating it as a 'Good' school. There has also been major investment in its buildings and infrastructure with a complete refurbishment of the Sixth Form and more work scheduled for Summer 2022.



Everton Heath Primary School



Everton Heath
Primary School

Located just over the Bedfordshire border, Everton Heath is the smallest school in the Trust with just over 70 students. However, the installation of two new classrooms in 2021 has given it capacity to grow.

It has joined forces with larger neighbours, Gamlingay Village Primary (less than two miles away) and the second smallest Trust school, Offord Primary, in a new collaborative West Village Partnership. It is a catchment school for Comberton Village College.

Everton Heath Primary School is part of the newly formed West Village Partnership.

Gamlingay Village Primary

Established as a full primary school by the Trust in 2018 from Gamlingay First School, it was relocated to the former middle school site following a major upgrade to the existing buildings.

It is now a thriving school for more than 380 pupils and includes specialist primary provision for students on the autistic spectrum, many of whom go on to Comberton Village College's similar secondary offering as Comberton is the school's designated 11-16 provider.



Gamlingay Village Primary School is part of the newly formed West Village Partnership.

Hartford Infant and Preschool



Renamed in early 2022 to reflect the addition of a bespoke preschool, the team are proud of their caring, secure and purposeful environment to nurture youngsters at the start of their educational journey.

The school shares a site with the Junior School in a suburb of Huntingdon and most pupils make the natural transition across the playground before going on to St Peter's, allowing them the full educational experience within the Trust.

Hartford Junior School

Hartford Junior School has two-form entry at the start of Key Stage 2 with the majority switching from the Infant School next door.

Rated 'Good' at their first inspection since joining the Trust in 2017, they are proud of their progress in recent years, based on their ethos of 'effort, encouragement and excellence'.



Jeavons Wood Primary School, Cambourne



Jeavons Wood is one of four primary schools located in the growing South Cambridgeshire community of Cambourne and is a feeder school for Cambourne Village College.

It has more than 400 pupils in a modern, airy building constructed 10 years ago and works unswervingly to support all their pupils both socially and academically.

Offord Primary School

The newest full members of the Trust, Offord joined in 2019 and undergone significant changes with a new headteacher and the recent collaborative partnership with Gamlingay and Everton Heath.



They are the first primary school in the Trust to obtain enough iPads for every pupil after securing a generous donation from a local charity which supports education in Offord D'Arcy and Offord Cluny.

Offord Primary School is part of the newly formed West Village Partnership.



Thongsley Fields Primary & Nursery School, Huntingdon

Thongsley Fields Primary & Nursery School was created in 2003 from separate junior and infant schools built to serve families on the Oxmoor estate in Huntingdon. They joined the Trust in 2018 and with a new headteacher are developing grand plans for their curriculum., their grounds and the provision and support for pupils and their families.

Like Hartford Junior School, they are a partner primary for St Peter's School with whom they share a Governing Body.

Bourn Primary Academy

Bourn Primary Academy, a single form entry Church of England school, became the Trust's first associate members in September 2021, cementing an already close relationship with both Comberton and Cambourne Village Colleges, which it lies between.

All the Trust's services are available to Bourn, which is in the Comberton catchment, and they now work closely with all the other schools and staff across the Trust, sharing experiences and best practice.



Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Cam Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, barred list check and other relevant pre-employment checks.

The Vacancy

Senior Science Laboratory Technician

NJC Scale 5, SCP 12 (range SCP 12 -17 £26,421– £28,770 FTE)

33 hours per week, term time plus 5 additional training days

Actual salary of £20,211.24 based on hours and weeks worked.

Required January 2024

Comberton Village College is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Senior Science Technician to join our friendly, collaborative and hardworking group of teachers and technicians, who all share a common enthusiasm for science and students' education.

The Senior Science Technician will have oversight of the management and ongoing development of KS5 including the preparation of new resources and ensuring the quality of practical tasks carried out; working with local industries to assist in organising work experience opportunities for year 12, collaborating with the BTEC teaching team to look at how we may implement T levels and working with teachers to support tracking of the assessed PAGs setting up PAG trackers.

The successful candidate will have had previous experience of working in a relevant discipline within a laboratory or similar environment, have had previous line management experience and hold A Level / higher qualification or NVQ level 4 or equivalent in a science related discipline. They will be well organised and self-motivated, have a high level of accuracy and attention to detail, proficient IT skills, and be able to build and form good relationships with students and colleagues.

For further details including a job description please visit our website www.combertonvc.org.

How to apply:

Please complete and return the Support Staff Application form. Your application should be supported by a letter of application (consisting of no more than 2 sides of A4 printed) which explains the reason for your interest and your relevant track record that confirms you could fulfil the expectations of the role.

Applications should be submitted to: HR Assistant on personnel@combertonvc.org or via the post, by 9am on **Monday, 11th December 2024**. Please note that we do not accept CV's.

The Cam Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, prohibition from teaching check, section 128 check (as required) and a medical questionnaire.

We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is as important as safeguarding against any other vulnerability. As such, all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We believe that everyone should be treated with respect whatever their race, gender, sexuality, religious belief, special need, or disability. As part of our commitment to safeguarding and child protection we fully support the Government's Prevent Strategy.

Information about Comberton Village College & Comberton Sixth Form



We are delighted that you are interested in our Village College. Since opening as a secondary Village College in 1960, we have been true to our roots. We still seek to serve our community and to be at the heart of that community. The school has

developed a very great deal, but our community ethos remains.

'Excellence for All' is our over-arching aim and it is the driving force behind all that we do at Comberton Village College. A long-standing national reputation for academic excellence and outstanding opportunities for all of our pupils does not mean that we rest on what has happened here. We always want every single one of our pupils to do his or her best and always seek to strengthen our work to enable this. Ofsted inspections consistently grade the overall effectiveness of our school (including the most recent inspection in February 2013) as 'outstanding'. However, we continue to look for ways that we can improve and do more and do it better for the sake of all pupils and our local community. Our very high-quality and committed staff are at the heart of this and of all that we do.

We seek to ensure that all our pupils receive a broad and rounded education that enables each of them to become capable, caring and confident. The many opportunities available outside of the formal curriculum enable a whole range of talents and attributes to be developed in all of our pupils. These include exciting opportunities overseas in line with our aim to provide education with an international outlook.

The addition of a Sixth Form in September 2011 has enabled us to offer the same excellent standard of education now also to 16-19 year-olds. It was very gratifying that all aspects of our Sixth Form were also graded as 'outstanding' at the first time of asking in February 2013. Understandably, very many students are now making the Comberton Sixth Form their first choice for their Sixth Form years.

As a village college, we remain committed to Henry Morris' vision of the college at the heart of the local community. Our community provision is a central part of our role. We see ourselves very much as an "extended school".

Comberton Village College is at a significant and exciting stage in its development as part of a multi-academy trust. When we set up the Comberton Academy Trust early in 2011, we were determined to have a Trust based on fundamental core values in keeping with the very best of Village College and community-based education in order to deliver excellence for all pupils across each of the Trust's academies. As part of this focus on the future, we took the decision in September 2016 to rename the Trust to become The Cam Academy Trust.

The Cam Academy Trust now comprises 11 academies and we work closely with them to ensure mutual support and challenge for all of the pupils they serve.

In all cases, we see all of them as part of our over-arching remit to provide excellent educational opportunities and outcomes for all pupils in a comprehensive, community context. These core values are articulated in the values of our Academy trust. These values represent our unchanging guide through these very significant and exciting developments.

We are absolutely committed to provide the very best education possible for all of our pupils and for our local community. We trust that this website helps to give you a helpful insight into that.

Job Description

Senior Science Laboratory Technician

Salary: NJC Scale 5, SCP 12 (range SCP 12 -17 £26,421– £28,770 FTE)

Hours of work: 33 hours per week, term time plus 5 professional days.

Line of Responsibility: The senior laboratory (science) technician will be directly responsible to the Head of Science.

Purpose

The senior laboratory (science) technician is responsible for:

- Ensuring that a safe, effective and efficient laboratory technical service is provided for use by students and teaching staff.
- Providing technical advice and assistance in the classroom to support students and to assist teaching staff with the provision of learning activities.
- Co-ordinating the use and development of practical resources and facilities within the science department.
- The line management of all science technicians including their induction, training and performance management.
- Liaising with the Head of Science to ensure that health and safety requirements and other relevant regulations are in place and adhered to, including the completion and recording of necessary checks.

Duties and Responsibilities

Main duties and responsibilities are indicated below. Other duties of an appropriate level and nature may also be required, as directed by the Headteacher.

Operational

The post holder shall:

- establish and maintain good relationships with all students, parents/carers, colleagues and other professionals.
- organise and monitor the science technicians' workloads to meet departmental and cross-curricular needs including checking and distributing cover in the case of teacher absences, delegating tasks appropriately.
- Liaise with the Head of Science to ensure that staff in the science department/s are aware of and comply with all health and safety requirements and other relevant regulations.
- in discussion with the head of science organise and put in place contingency plans to meet the needs of the science department/s in the event of emergencies such as absence, power cuts or equipment failure.

- ensure that the technician team is well resourced, organised and developed to meet the performance standards required by the science department/s.
- liaise with the head of science in order to put in place requirements for practical school and public examinations.
- coordinate the putting up and maintenance of appropriate classroom and corridor displays within the science department/s.
- ensure that equipment is in good working order and overseeing, in conjunction with the teachers and the other technicians, that laboratories, preparation areas and storerooms are in a clean, safe and orderly condition.
- under the guidance of the head of science hold responsibility for the promotion and observance of a healthy and safe working environment. This includes:
 - Actively leading and co-ordinating the assessment, monitoring and review of health and safety procedures and information resources.
 - Keeping up-to-date with current procedures and practices through continuing professional development.
 - Providing technical advice on health and safety issues and other relevant regulations to teachers and support staff.
 - The safe treatment and disposal of used materials, including hazardous substances, and responding to actual or potential hazards.
 - The safe storage and accessibility of equipment and materials.
- take a lead role in the design, development and maintenance of specialist resources and/or long term projects, and offer professional guidance, assistance and support to students and teachers on the practical aspects of the curriculum.
- hold responsibility for setting up and monitoring systems used in the management and control of practical resources, including:
 - Stock control, compiling orders, liaising and/or negotiating with suppliers, and maintaining appropriate records.
 - Monitoring, controlling and maintaining financial records of departmental expenditure.
 - o Ensuring the availability of suitable materials and suggesting alternatives for suitability, sustainability and economy.
 - Undertaking the lead role within the department/s on routine and non-routine checking, maintenance, calibration, testing and repairing of equipment to the required standard.
- provide technical assistance to students, either individually when they are carrying out investigations or projects, or in-class assisting or advising students and staff on the practical aspects of the curriculum.
- carry out and update risk assessments in accordance with school policies.

Personnel

- establish and maintain good relationships with all staff, students, visitors, suppliers and contractors.
- identify the training needs of science technicians and organise appropriate development opportunities in discussion with Head of Science.

- complete science technicians' annual reviews, including the setting of appropriate targets.

Administrative

- ensure that all administrative duties, checks and documentation are completed to the required level of accuracy, including returns and reports.
- collate information, statistics and prepare reports as required by their line manager, the Principal and the governing board.
- oversight of online prep-requests and the sourcing of equipment / products by applying best value principles.
- ensure that financial procedures and activities are carried out within the department/s in accordance with school policies and procedures.
- complete equipment and stock inventories as required.

General

- attend relevant meetings and training sessions.
- oversee departmental first aid boxes ensuring that they are kept up to date and well stocked.
- keep up to date with developments and changes in requirements and regulations and communicate appropriate information to colleagues.

Conditions of employment

The above responsibilities are subject to the general duties and responsibilities contained in the written statement of conditions of employment (the Contract of Employment).

The post holder is required to support and encourage the College ethos and its objectives, policies and procedures as agreed by the governing body.

The post holder shall uphold the Colleges policy in respect of child protection and safeguarding matters.

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

The post holder shall be subject to all relevant statutory and institutional requirements.

The post holder may be required to perform any other reasonable tasks after consultation.

This job description allocates duties and responsibilities but does not direct the particular amount of time to be spent on carrying them out and no part of it may be so constructed.

This job description is not necessarily a comprehensive definition of the post. It will be reviewed at least once a year and it may be subject to modification at any time after consultation with the post holder.

All members of staff are required to participate in the College performance management scheme.

Last reviewed Dec 23

Person Specification

Senior Science Laboratory Technician

Qualifications and experience	Essential	Desirable
5 GCSEs (grade 4+ / A*-C) or equivalent in English, Mathematics and a science	Y	
A Level / higher qualification or NVQ level 4 or equivalent in a science related discipline	Y	
Experience of working in a relevant discipline within a laboratory or similar environment	Y	
Experience of working in a school or similar establishment.		Y
Experience in the line management of staff	Y	
Experience of working with children/young people		Y
Experience of income generation i.e STEM clubs / grant applications		Y
Knowledge/Skills (ability to)	Essential	Desirable
Ability to build and form good relationships with students and colleagues and work constructively as part of a team.	Y	
Competence in leading, developing and motivating a team of staff, delegating duties as required.	Y	
Ability to improve own practice/knowledge through self-evaluation and learning from others	Y	
Verbal and written communication skills appropriate to communicating effectively with colleagues, students and other professionals.	Y	
Good standard of numeracy and literacy skills	Y	
Ability to operate a range of ICT equipment and other specialist resources		
Proficiently use MS Office including SharePoint, Teams and OneNote.	Y	
Working knowledge of online platforms ie Google docs		Y
Working knowledge of putting in place and monitoring regulations/legislation relating to laboratories such as health and safety and COSHH requirements, risk assessments	Y	
Personal Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Initiative and ability to prioritise one's own work and make informed decisions	Y	
Able to follow direction and work in collaboration with line manager	Y	
Able to work flexibly to meet deadlines and respond to unplanned situations	Y	
Efficient and meticulous in organisation.	Y	
Desire to enhance and develop skills and knowledge through CPD	Y	
Commitment to the highest standards of child protection and safeguarding	Y	
Recognition of the importance of personal responsibility for health and safety	Y	
Commitment to the school's ethos, aims and its whole community	Y	