



FORT PITT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Science Technician

Candidate Application Pack

A **Beyond** ACADEMY
SCHOOLS TRUST

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“A caring and supportive ethos permeates the school. Relationships are exceptionally strong between pupils and staff. Pupils behave extremely well. They are polite, articulate and considerate.” *(Ofsted October 2022)*



Message from Nicky Archer, Headteacher

Thank you for showing an interest in the role of **Science Technician** here at Fort Pitt Grammar School. This is a really important appointment for us and the successful applicants will be integral in ensuring our high educational standards and expectations are met.

Recently described as a “**remarkable place to learn**” (Ofsted 2022), Fort Pitt is also a wonderful place to work. Our staff are proud to work here and we have strived to ensure workload and the wellbeing of staff is a key priority.

Our aim is a simple one; to be the best school in the country, and by that we mean that all of our students receive a better education here than they would if they went to any other school in the whole country. Fort Pitt is a vibrant and dynamic school with high expectations and great ambitions for all of our students.

As a grammar school, academic rigour is part and parcel of our teaching, and we believe that the biggest factor influencing students’ success is the quality of the learning experience they receive both in and out of lessons. We are looking for an outstanding person with the drive, tenacity and commitment to help ensure that student wellbeing is a key focus for the school moving forward.

As a school our popularity continues to grow year upon year, and as a result there will of course be future promotion opportunities for the right candidate. At Fort Pitt the happiness of students and staff is central to what we do. This application pack will only give you a little flavour as to what ‘we are all about’ but it gives a good indication. I believe in all of us working together to ensure the best outcomes for the young people we have been entrusted with. They get one chance to get it right, so it is vital we help them every step of the way. I do expect everyone to work hard, but I also want people to enjoy themselves whilst doing so!

You will find further information on Fort Pitt Grammar School in this pack, on our website, and via our social media channels, visits are also encouraged and warmly welcomed, and will of course follow COVID-19 protocols. If you wish to visit please contact my PA **Mrs Mary Burling**, on **01634 842359** or headteacher@fortpitt.co.uk.

I believe that Fort Pitt is a fantastic place to work and hope that having read the information, you agree and decide to make an application.

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,



Nicky Archer
Headteacher



About Fort Pitt

At Fort Pitt, our values run through everything we do, and reflect our culture of ensuring our girls' happiness is at the heart of all our decisions; they are a set of core beliefs devised by both students and staff, which we feel encapsulates what we wish our students to strive towards during their seven years with us.

FORT PITT VALUES



Fort Pitt opened as a grammar school in 1984 and is one of the remaining 163 out of 3109 secondary schools. Prior to this it was the first technical school for girls in the country and opened in 1926 serving the communities of Rochester and Chatham. Our history is deep rooted in the local area with its oldest building dating from 1853 when it was a military hospital during the Crimean war and Florence Nightingale's first teaching hospital. Visited three times by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the buildings, estate and school continue to be of national historical significance.

The school's values of 'aspirational, resilient, collaborative, respectful and successful' pervade all aspects of school life. (Ofsted October 2022)



We are not a 'super-selective' school and accept any student who has passed the Medway 11+ test. We do not rank students according to test scores when awarding places, differing from most other grammar schools. Our oversubscription criteria are very inclusive. The Trustees and Governors are committed to keeping the entry criteria as they are so that more students, including boys, have the opportunity to benefit from a grammar school education at KS5, even if they did not have this opportunity at KS3 and KS4.

We are known for having a strong supportive ethos providing an individualised approach to both pastoral care and academic support. We have a thriving Sixth Form, which became co-educational in September 2013. The school is comprised of five forms of entry in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and four in Year 11. The Fort Pitt community is comprised of six houses: Aderin, Angelou, Attenborough, Kahlo, Mandela and Turin. House names were put forward through surveys from both staff and students, and decided through a whole school vote.

At the centre of all that we do is high-quality learning and teaching, whilst maintaining the wellbeing of both staff and students. We have worked tirelessly to ensure teacher workload is as balanced as possible, and that everyone can focus their skill and time on delivering excellent lessons.

Most importantly, Fort Pitt is a supportive, caring, nurturing, challenging and fun place to study and work.



In addition to this we are members of the Beyond Schools Trust, a Trust with a strong belief in the value of lifelong learning, and one that fully prepares children, so they have the skills, knowledge, values and character to be successful in the world beyond our doors. Everything we do is aimed at providing our staff with the resources and leadership to achieve their best. We believe that a happy, supported and motivated team create the best environment and opportunities for students to achieve their full potential.



Welcome from our Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to Beyond Schools Trust!

We are an ambitious organisation of 5 schools, serving the educational needs of nearly 4,000 children and young people aged 3 to 19.

Our academies are based in a tight geographical area drawing students and employees from Kent and Medway in the Southeast of England.

We employ around 600 people in a range of roles designed to support children to be successful when they leave the Trust. We also rely on the time and commitment of over 70 volunteer Trustees and Governors, who share our ambitions for our schools and our students. These are expressed in our vision, our mission, and our values.

We have a strong belief in the value of lifelong learning and in this plan, we set out to develop a Trust that fully prepares children, so they have the skills, knowledge, values, and character to be successful in the world beyond our doors. We also believe that our greatest asset as an organization, is our people, and we are privileged to be involved with such courageous, committed and child-centred employees. Everything we do is aimed at providing our staff with the resources and leadership to achieve their best. We believe that a supported and motivated staff create the best environment and opportunities for students to achieve their full potential.



Andrew Minchin - CEO



About the Beyond Schools Trust

Our vision is simple:

To be the most respected family of schools - trusted to provide the highest quality of educational experiences in our communities.

We believe that by working together, rather than in isolation, we can accelerate school improvement and embed our vision in our academies. In working and collaborating towards our common strategic objectives, we can create more opportunities for lifelong success for our students.

The fundamental philosophy behind the Beyond Schools Trust's vision and strategic plan is all about thinking beyond the present day; looking at what is right for our students and staff both now and in the longer term.

Put simply we strive to:

- Develop and retain the best employees that know how to provide the best educational experience
- Support, motivate and reward our employees to go above and beyond for our students
- Be responsive to our students' and employees' needs so they are prepared for a rapidly changing world.

Our Values

Everyone in our Trust has a part to play in bringing the ethos and culture of our values alive. We are committed to ensuring everyone knows why we should value each other and how we should value each other, so we can create a community where we all aspire to succeed. Our values are not the static states of play but things we are always striving to develop and uphold as part of our culture.



Our Mission

To provide opportunities for everybody to be the best they can be.

We want every one of our students, teachers, or Governors to be the best that can be.
We will work tirelessly to support them to reach their potential.



Beyond Schools Trust, Fort Pitt Grammar School, Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent ME4 6TJ



01634 888115



www.beyondschoools.co.uk



hello@beyondschoools.co.uk



Job Description – Science Technician

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY

To work as the Science Technician supporting and developing experiments and practical lessons in Chemistry, Biology and Physics at both GCSE and A Level. This will also involve supporting the teaching staff in all areas of science and supervising student learning activities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Preparation of workshop apparatus/equipment and materials as required
2. Advising and assisting in the preparation and trialling of practicals and controlled assessments and to keep confidentiality where necessary
3. To collect and replace equipment and materials after use and clean when necessary.
4. To check and maintain equipment ensuring it is in good working order and, where possible, repair of apparatus
5. To supervise students while they are working with science equipment
6. To support, guide and supervise groups of students with their planned learning activities
7. To work with the teachers to develop lessons, work plans and the classroom environment
8. To be proactive in managing behaviour, promoting self-control, independence and integration of the students
9. To assist with the ordering and storage of equipment, stock and stationery
10. Organising the stock taking of all equipment, with relevant risk assessments, and using storage and disposal arrangements as required
11. Safe disposal of restricted waste materials
12. To check and update the department's inventory, on an annual basis
13. To undertake routine safety checks as prescribed and maintain a safe environment
14. General clerical duties concerned with keeping textbooks and coursework (as required) in good order
15. Responsibility for Health and Safety within Science department, considering Risk assessments for experiments and demonstrations and informing staff about potential risks when necessary.
16. Ensuring H&S records are accurately maintained and up to date.
17. To attend relevant courses concerning the work of technicians and to keep up to date on Health and Safety matters.
18. To act as a First Aider for the area (negotiable)
19. The Headteacher also reserves the right to ask any member of staff to undertake any additional duties that may be necessary and reasonable to ensure the smooth running of the school.

The above constitutes a "job description" only and is not necessarily a comprehensive definition of the post. It may be subject to modification or amendment after consultation with the post-holder.



Generic duties relevant to all members of staff

It is expected that all staff work collaboratively as members of the Trust to share good practice, resources, and ideas and realise the Trust's visions and aims. All staff should act with professional integrity at all times, following the "Code of Conduct".

Equality and Inclusion

The Trust is dedicated to creating an environment free of bullying, harassment, victimization, and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of ALL staff are recognised and valued. It is therefore the responsibility of staff to conduct themselves to help the Trust provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination. All staff, as well as the Trust, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against colleagues/staff, pupils, contractors, stakeholders and members of the public.

Safeguarding

Beyond Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all staff must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations put in place. All staff are to have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection procedures as set out by Beyond Schools Trust. Any safeguarding or child protection issues must be acted upon immediately by informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the site where you are located.

ICT

All staff will be expected to utilise ICT and to improve communication and reduce paper use where possible. Security procedures must be followed when using ICT systems and particular care and attention should be taken with any communications that may result in a breach of GDPR. All staff are expected to follow (and ensure students follow) the procedures as laid out in the Trust's Acceptable Use Policy. Staff are also expected to ensure that they follow Trust policies with regard to professional conduct when using ICT systems or Trust ICT equipment.

Health and Safety

Employees are required to work in compliance with the Trust's Health & Safety Policies and under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (as amended), ensuring the safety of all parties they come into contact with, such as members of the public, in premises or sites controlled by the Trust.

In order to ensure compliance, procedures should be observed at all times under the provision of safe systems of work through safe and health environments, including information, training, and supervision necessary to accomplish those goals.



Teaching and Learning

This is our core business and therefore it is an absolute priority. Although this role is not a direct teaching role, you are expected to support all teaching staff, irrespective of seniority, to ensure they concentrate on the core business. This may mean undertaking tasks outside of your area of responsibility where required.

This job description forms part of the contract of employment of the person appointed to the post. The duties, responsibilities and accountabilities highlighted in this job description are indicative and may vary over time at the discretion of the Trust and the Head of People. This job description will be reviewed annually and is an integral part of the Appraisal and line management process.



Person Specification

Qualifications	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be educated to at least GCSE Level in a Science subject • Good all-round level of education to include Maths and English to GCSE (Grade A–C) or equivalent level 2 • First Aid Certificate or willingness to achieve within a specified time period. • Competent Microsoft Office user 	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good all-round education to include relevant qualifications at level 3 in a Science subject. • NVQ2 in Laboratory Associated Activities (LATA) or NVQ in Laboratory Technicians in Education
Experience	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous technician experience • Experience of managing and organising resources • A good knowledge of relevant Health and Safety requirements • Demonstrable knowledge of Equality and Diversity 	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of Child protection (Safeguarding Agenda) and the willingness to increase knowledge • Previous experience working in an educational environment
Skills and Attributes	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant practical skills • Well organised with excellent attention to detail • Good interpersonal, time management and organisation skills • Flexible and adaptable individual • Articulate and capable of working on own initiative. • Ability to work positively with children and young people • Understands the importance of following school policies and procedures, and able to show initiative where appropriate. 	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of raising student aspirations and ambitions
Personal Qualities	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive, grit, innovation and creativity • Enthusiasm, positivity and a sense of humour! • Honesty, integrity and a desire to put students at the heart of all you do • A willingness to 'get stuck in' and help make the school exceptional! • Commitment to inclusion, diversity and equality 	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to be reflective, adaptable and self-critical • Ability to empathise



Summary of Terms & Conditions

Start date:	To start ASAP
Contract Type:	Full-time permanent
Place of Work:	Fort Pitt Grammar School Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent ME4 6TJ
Hours & days of work:	37 hours per week, Mon-Friday, term-time only plus 1 week
Salary:	Trust salary scale, point 4-11 £21,189 - £24,054 Full time salary. Pro rata this equates to £18,123-£20,574
Holiday:	Entitlement of 24 days annual leave rising to 28 days after five years of service – this, together with bank holidays is included in your annual salary as no entitlement to take holiday on a term time only contract
Induction Period:	This post has a 6-month induction period
Pension:	Membership of the Local Government Pension for support staff
Notice period:	One month to be worked during term-time
Car insurance:	Trust employees who use their private vehicles in the course of their duties must be covered with their insurers to cover business liability



Benefits

Benenden Healthcare:	Non-contributory membership of Benenden Healthcare Scheme.
Continuing Professional Development	A comprehensive induction programme for all staff with a commitment to continuing professional opportunities across the Trust.
Staff Wellbeing:	Whole Trust approach to well-being.
Pension Scheme:	Support staff with a contract of more than 3 months will be automatically enrolled in the Local Government Pension . Contribution bandings are based on actual salary. Contribution rates from 1 st April 2022 are as follows:

Annual Salary Rate	Member contribution Rate
Up to £14,400	5.5%
£14,401 to £22,500	5.8%
£22,501 to £36,500	6.5%
£36,501 to £46,200	6.8%
£46,201 to £64,600	8.5%
£64,601 to £91,500	9.9%
£91,501 to £107,700	10.5%
£107,701 to £161,500	11.4%
£161,501 and above	12.5%

Other Benefits:	Two-week, half-term break in October
Family Friendly Policies	The Trust offers generous family friendly policies including maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoption.
Cycle Scheme:	The Trust is a member of the Cycle to Work Scheme.
Car Parking	Free onsite parking
Catering:	On site catering at affordable prices
Employee Discounts schemes:	Details available upon joining



The Recruitment Process

Closing date: Friday 2nd December 2022 at 12 noon

Interview date: Week beginning 5th December 2022

We reserve the right to bring forward the closing date where interest and applications received are high, therefore we encourage early applications.

To apply please complete an application form which can be found on the Trust's website - [Our Vacancies | Beyond Schools Trust](#) Completed application forms should be returned by the closing date to headteacher@fortpitt.co.uk

If you wish to discuss the role, please contact **Mrs Mary Burling** on **01634 842359** or headteacher@fortpitt.co.uk

The application form

Please complete the application form as fully as possible. Gaps in employment do need to be explained, therefore please provide as much information as possible. For example, if you undertook a gap year or had a period of unemployment, please state this.

All applications will be acknowledged, and you will be contacted thereafter of next steps.

Right to work in the UK

Unfortunately, if you do not have right to work in the UK, we are unable to process your application. If you are invited to attend an interview, you will be asked to produce original and up-to-date documentary evidence of your right to work in the UK.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our highest priority; therefore, pre-employment checks will be undertaken prior to a successful candidate joining. This includes references from current or most recent employer, an enhanced DBS with children's barred list check, and original certificates of qualifications will also need to be provided. It is an offence to apply for a role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children. If you are shortlisted for interview, you will be required to complete a self-disclosure form this will be sent with your invite to interview and must be completed, signed, and returned prior to interview. The Trust will also undertake an online search as part of its safeguarding duties at offer stage. The schools safeguarding Policy can be found [here](#)

CV

We do not wish to see your CV so please do not include it.

Cover letter

A cover letter can be provided, though not essential. Do keep to a maximum of one page.



Supporting Statement:

Your supporting statement is important and will be the basis of our shortlisting and progressing your application, therefore you need to ensure you answer the following as concisely as possible:

- Why you believe you are a strong candidate for the position.
- Set out impact you have made in your current/previous positions.
- Refer to the job description and person specification to set out how you meet the criteria.

References:

Do provide referee details as outlined, please ensure you indicate whether references can be taken up before interview.

Additional skills:

Aside from your professional skills relevant to the role you are applying for we are interested in you as an individual, therefore do share with us any additional skills, hobbies, and abilities that you would like us to know about

Equal opportunities monitoring:

This will be kept separate from your application and used only for monitoring purposes by the HR department

Special arrangements:

Please do set out in the application form any special arrangements we should try to make if you are invited to interview.

Retention of Personal Information:

Any information supplied by an unsuccessful candidate will be destroyed six months after date of shortlisting.

Any data about you will be held securely with access restrict to those involved in dealing with your application in the selection process. By signing and submitting your application form, you are giving consent to the processing of your data.

Our Privacy policy is available on our [Our Vacancies | Beyond Schools Trust](#)

Equality and Diversity:

We recognise the benefits of a diverse workforce. We are committed to eradication discrimination in the workplace, becoming an employer of choice, for all staff to believe that they have a voice and be empowered to make a difference.

Criminal Convictions:

All education establishments in the UK are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. In practice, this means that all applicants must inform on all spent and unspent convictions on the application form and when completing a Discloser and Barring form. Failure to provide this information may result in dismissal. List 99 is also obtained on anyone who will be working on or coming into contact with children; and must be received by the school before employment can commence.



Science Technician



Salary: Trust salary scale, point 4-11 £21,189 - £24,054 Full time
Actual salary £18,123-£20,574

Hours: 37 hours per week, Mon to Fri, term-time plus 1 week

Start date: ASAP

Location: Fort Pitt Grammar School, Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent ME4 6TJ

Closing date: Friday 2nd December at 12 noon

Interview date: Week beginning Monday 5th December 2022

We are seeking to appoint a skilled Science Technician to join our happy, supportive and committed Science team. We need someone who can deliver high quality support enabling all our students to achieve the very best.

To be successful at Fort Pitt, you will:

- Provide exceptional support to ensure our students make outstanding progress across all key stages
- Commit to our supportive but challenging ethos and culture
- Be a team player but also have the initiative to work independently
- Constantly challenge yourself to become a better practitioner
- Be committed to enabling our successful extra-curricular programme
- Enjoy working with young people and have a good sense of humour!

In return, we will offer you:

- a new £4m Science building to work in
- a happy school where all students are enthusiastic and keen to learn
- an incredibly supportive group of colleagues and leaders
- a two-week October half term
- Flexible working conditions

Please visit [Our Vacancies | Beyond Schools Trust](#) for a full job description and application form. Completed application forms should be returned by the closing date to headteacher@fortpitt.co.uk

Visits to the school are strongly encouraged. For further information and to arrange a school visit, please contact **Mary Burling on 01634 842359** or headteacher@fortpitt.co.uk

We reserve the right to bring forward the closing date where interest and applications received are high, therefore we encourage early applications

Safeguarding commitment

The **Beyond School Trust** is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all staff and students. Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, an enhanced DBS with children's barred list and online check will be required for all successful applicants

Equality & Inclusivity Statement

At **Beyond Schools Trust** we strive to be a diverse and inclusive workplace where we can ALL be ourselves. We particularly encourage applications from under-represented communities, including but not limited to those who identify as Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic background.



Our Location

Fort Pitt Grammar School

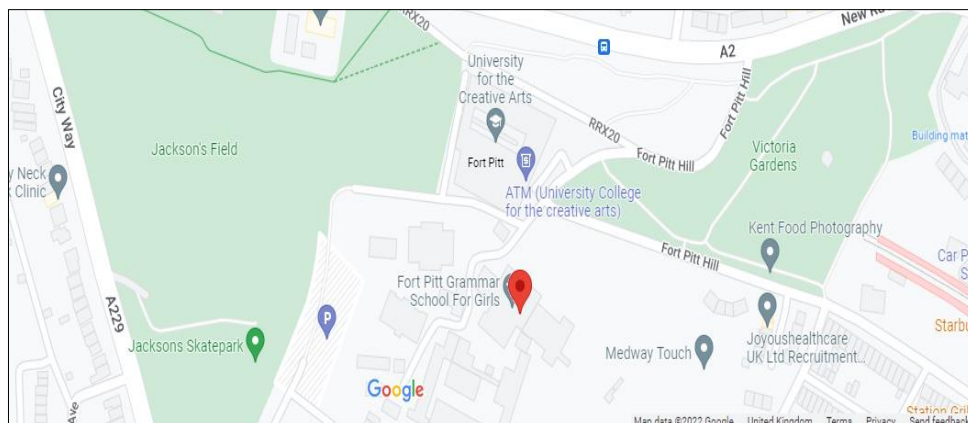
Fort Pitt Hill
Chatham
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ME4 6TJ

Tel: 01634 842359

Email: office@fortpitt.co.uk

Website: www.fortpitt.co.uk

what3words: <https://w3w.co/sofa.land.mime>



Living and working in Medway

On the banks of the River Medway from which it takes its name, Medway is the second largest conurbation (after Brighton) between London and continental Europe. This combined with its comprehensive transport links, makes Medway a gateway to the capital, the county of Kent and the continent.

A multi-million-pound regeneration programme is currently transforming Medway's landscape bringing 29,000 new homes, many of them stunning riverfront developments. Its ambitious vision provides economic and housing opportunities across all five major towns – all of which act as a magnet for a diverse range of businesses, property hunters and investors.

"Its comprehensive transport links make Medway a gateway to the capital, the county of Kent and the continent."

Families and commuters are attracted to Medway by the choice of accommodation and facilities in Medway and can live close to schools, railways, and town centres, including Rochester's historic high street. Not only does Medway boast the biggest regeneration zone within the Thames Gateway, but it is surrounded by award-winning green spaces and world-renowned heritage sites. Medway's housing landscape is very diverse – from Victorian period properties and cottages to newly-developed modern builds and suburban developments. There is something for everyone from families big and small to couples and individuals wanting to find their perfect home.

Medway has the lowest council tax in Kent and one of the lowest rates in the M25 corridor.

Medway is a place in which you can enjoy both living and working. A thriving business location but also within an easily commute to London and yet beautifully green with seven green flags accredited parks. It's a great place to put down roots and make a life.

More than 80% of Medway schools have an OFSTED rating of good or better and it is home to 4 universities.

