



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE



Post of

Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)

Start date: March 2025 or earlier

Information for Candidates



Welcome to the Aylesbury Vale Academy

Thank you for expressing your interest in the post of Teacher of English (Maternity Leave). This is a school where we aim to go beyond the expected to ensure that students' life chances are enhanced.

We are proud of our non-selective, fully inclusive status and believe that children and young people, regardless of their background, ability or circumstances can thrive and succeed here. That is why we place **respect**, **aspiration** and **resilience** at the heart of everything we do.

As a large all-through school, we can offer learners an ambitious range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We place significant importance on academic excellence through high expectations but value, just as highly, the wide range of experiences learners can access. It is this balance which helps to ensure that learners are fully rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to society.

To improve the life chances of all the learners we serve at AVA we:

- Ensure our **teaching** and **all our work** with young people is grounded in **high expectations** so that learners achieve exceptionally well.
- Deliver a **broad, ambitious and rich curriculum**, going beyond the expected.
- **Close all gaps** between the performance of different groups of learners.
- Empower learners by developing their **character** so that they are **resilient, aspirational, respectful** and have excellent attitudes to their learning.
- Inspire **attendance** to be consistently above the national average.

We look forward to welcoming you for an informal visit prior to your application. Please do contact us if you would like to arrange one or if you have any questions about the post.

Mr Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal



Our Staff Community

The Aylesbury Vale Academy is a large, vibrant and warm community of over 200 staff. Staff wellbeing, happiness and job satisfaction is essential to ensuring the school achieves its goals. We value our staff and provide a welcoming and supportive working environment in which they can develop as professionals and progress in their careers. We are committed to our status as a workplace signed up to the DfE Wellbeing Charter and continuously review our practices to improve school culture and workload.

We look for staff who want to share in our vision for children and young people but who also want to work as part of a close-knit caring and supportive staff team. Personalised CPD is important to us, and we provide all staff with free access to courses through our subscription to the National College.

How to Apply

All applicants are asked to complete the Buckinghamshire Council Teaching Application Form as fully as possible. Applications should be returned, by the closing date to:

Mrs E Perrin
The Aylesbury Vale Academy
Paradise Orchard
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP18 0WS

Or by email to vacancies@theacademy.me

For further information contact Mrs E Perrin, HR Manager at vacancies@theacademy.me.

Closing date: **Noon, 13 December 2024**

Visiting the school prior to submission of an application is warmly encouraged.

Our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children will be reflected throughout the recruitment process and the successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and an online screening check.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible as the school reserves the right to close the advert should we feel able to appoint an appropriate candidate.

The Post – Teacher of English

We are a highly supportive school with strong subject and senior leadership to help you develop. We are looking for an ambitious professional to join our English department; someone who is passionate about their subject and the teaching profession, communicates well with young people and makes a positive impact on their learning.

The English department comprises of 12 English teachers, including members of the Senior Leadership Team. We work collaboratively to provide a broad, ambitious, and unique curriculum to all learners. A priority to all in our team is wellbeing, job satisfaction and the all-important balance of home life and work.

The English subject offers a broad and ambitious curriculum that empowers teachers to tailor their learning to their students' academic, social and emotional needs. With bespoke assessment objectives scaled across KS3, teachers are encouraged to select texts and material suitable to the learners in their classes and have flexibility in how they assess learning to ensure the best outcomes for their students. We are continuously adding new texts and resources to our curriculum and are eager to develop the curriculum to meet the needs of teachers and learners alike. KS4 students study the AQA specification and explore themes of power, control, and oppression through the set texts: *An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth*, and *A Christmas Carol*. They further explore these themes through the Power and Conflict poetry anthology. At KS4, the curriculum utilises interleaved practice to ensure students are prepared for their exams by retrieving prior knowledge regularly and making connections between texts, contexts, themes and ideas.

The successful applicant will be passionate about teaching and learning, have a desire and an eagerness to contribute to the subject area.

Teacher of English Job Description

JOB PURPOSE

- To carry out the professional duties of a teacher to a high standard as described below.
- Meet the Professional Standards for Teachers and actively support the vision, ethos and policies of the Academy.
- To ensure that the aims of the Academy are put into practice and that high standards of work and behaviour are maintained.
- To ensure all students reach their potential through delivery of high quality teaching and learning alongside effective monitoring, assessment and target setting.
- To undertake any reasonable task as directed by the Principal.

ORGANISATION

- Demonstrate an attention to detail.
- Have the ability to self-manage in such a way that tasks are achieved and targets met.
- Is able to meet arising demands of the role whilst achieving long term priorities of the role.

COMMUNICATION

- Have excellent written and oral skills.
- Display a clear sense of vision.

PROFESSIONAL

- Be a graduate with a teaching qualification.
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner.
- Have a wide interest and knowledge of the use of ICT.

PERSONAL

- Have a passion for teaching and learning and ongoing commitment to CPD.
- Have integrity, optimism, flexibility and resilience.
- Have a sense of humour

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Encourage and enable all students to achieve the highest possible standards of learning by:
 - Setting and sharing clear aims, goals and purposes.
 - Planning, conducting, reviewing and evaluating learning experiences with regard to continuity and progression content, activities, resources, feedback.
 - Making sure the learning environment in the teaching space is stimulating, well organised, attractive, safe and secure.

- Ensuring that the best possible quality resources are used.
- Ensuring that a variety of teaching methods and styles are used with students.
- Making sure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed.
- Undertaking accurate, relevant and regular assessment, recording and reporting of achievement.
- Deploying support staff and other adults effectively in the classroom, involving them, where appropriate in the planning and management of students' learning.
- Secure a high standard of student behaviour in the classroom by establishing appropriate and high expectations and dealing with inappropriate behaviour in the context of the Behaviour Policy of the Academy.
- Support team commitment, through collaborative planning and by sharing good practice to create a stimulating learning environment for teaching and learning.
- Evaluate your own teaching critically and use this to improve your effectiveness. Take responsibility for drafting performance management objectives and ensuring agreed evidence is available for review against agreed criteria. Take a positive attitude to professional development.
- Comply with the Academy's Health and Safety policy, to undertake risk assessments as appropriate.
- Lead or be involved in an after school activity as appropriate

How We Look After Staff Wellbeing

At Aylesbury Vale Academy we see the importance of Wellbeing. To us Wellbeing means having a sense of community, being listened to and heard, and having a sense of purpose. When we prioritise wellbeing, we feel positive, respected, happy and appreciated. This allows us to achieve our tasks and work together to achieve a common goal. (Wellbeing Ambassadors and Wellbeing Working Party, February 2022).

We have a Staff Wellbeing Party that meets regularly to discuss staff wellbeing as well as a regular staff voice throughout the year. Staff also have access to a 24/7 helpline if required – Employee Assistance Programme.

Within the English Department, we place great importance on staff wellbeing and strive to maintain a good balance between work and home life. We are committed to:

- Using email only during reasonable working hours
- Setting deadlines that prevent any need to work over school breaks
- Sharing responsibilities for resources development and purchasing base resources where appropriate to reduce workload
- Having a bank of resources available for teachers to work from, reducing planning time
- Reducing marking strain by encouraging in-class feedback and employing strategies that make marking more manageable

What Staff Benefits Are Available?

There are a wide range of staff benefits that are available to all members of staff employed directly by The Aylesbury Vale Academy. Some of the benefits include:

A few of the things we can offer you:

- A workplace fully committed to the principles of the DfE Wellbeing Charter
- Priority admissions for school staff
- Bespoke CPD that is often self-directed
- Free employee assistance programme – 24/7 phone line for free emotional, bereavement and financial concerns
- Well-embedded systems that provide clear structures at the same time as allowing individuals to work with autonomy
- 10% discount on pre-school places
- 10% discount on Primary wraparound care
- 25% discount on the use of the Lettings facilities (sport pitches, sports hall, drama studios, Community suite, party rooms)
- Access to Local Government Pension Scheme

Quotations from the last Ofsted visit May 2024:

- “Staff feel positive about the school’s approach to workload.”
- “Leaders and governors prioritise making the school’s improvement sustainable. As a result, everyone within the school is committed to achieving success for pupils.”
- “Pupils of all ages enjoy their time at school here. They are polite and courteous.”
- “The school is ambitious for every pupil to learn and achieve.”
- “Pupils achieve well and perform well in national tests and examinations.”
- “Pupils’ conduct supports the learning ethos of the school”.
- “Staff set clear boundaries for how pupils are expected to behave.”

Testimonials

“The school has been very helpful and supportive in helping us to catch up with work whenever we are training or competing during term time. I would highly recommend the school as it has great facilities and members of staff, making it a wonderful place to learn.” Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova, Olympic and European gymnastics medallists and Year 13 AVA students.



“There is an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect across the school. Pupils’ conduct is calm and orderly.” (Ofsted 2019)

“Primary and secondary teachers know their classes very well.” (Ofsted 2019)

“We believe that the Aylesbury Vale Academy will create an achievement climate where our daughter can be an active participant in their learning and have opportunities to flourish.” (Year 7 Parent)

“I made this choice because my daughter is very good at performing arts and this school has an exceptional drama, dance and music department. The teachers are lovely and friendly and the atmosphere is very positive. My daughter felt really happy when we went to visit it.”

“I like the way the lessons are planned; it helps me to learn and progress in the subject we are studying. The teachers are understanding and obviously care for our education and that is something I am truly grateful for.” (Current student)



“My favourite thing about the lessons is that they are fun and interesting and a good learning environment for me to develop my skills.” (Current student)

“The things I like about AVA is that there is always a teacher you can go to.”

The school is celebrating its highest Progress 8 score, out-performing all local schools with a similar context with above average progress. SEN/PP gaps in progress have closed and are above national average.

Tutor Groups

In order to provide a clear focus on the highest levels of achievement for your child, the Academy has a horizontal tutoring system. This enables experienced tutors to help students develop the skills relevant to their age group, allowing them to become confident and knowledgeable learners.

Our tutor programme ensures that students have the best possible start to the day. Students are involved in activities such as reflection, year group assemblies, literacy and numeracy activities, debating and discussion. We also use this time in the day to answer any questions students have resolve any issues and to check uniform and equipment.

Students follow the Princes Trust programme to develop key skills needed in their personal and academic development.



Behaviour for Learning

We have very high expectations of behaviour based on our values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience. We believe that good behaviour leads to good academic achievement, welfare, wellbeing and all aspects of learning

The AVA Curriculum

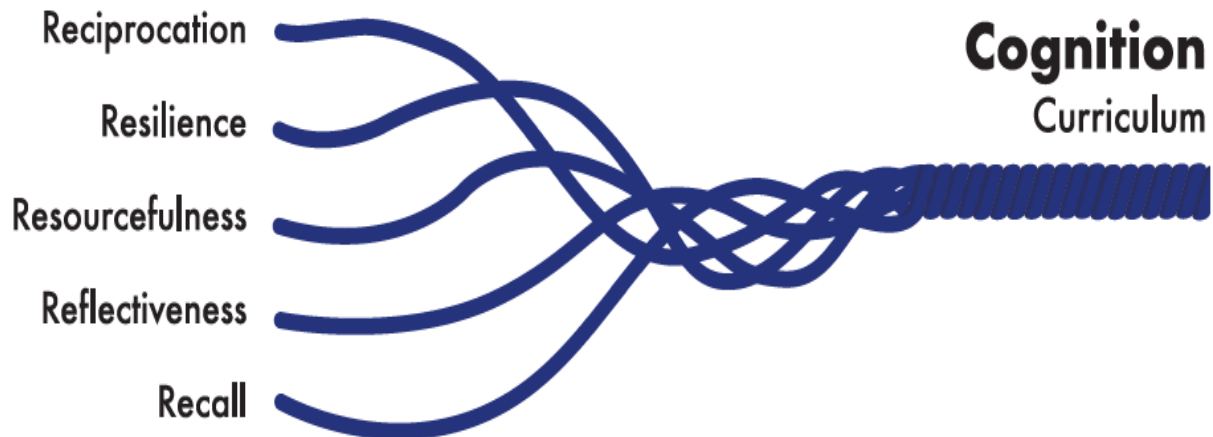
The Aylesbury Vale Academy (AVA) is an all-through academy and the curriculum we follow develops and grows with our students as they move from primary school into secondary school. The aim of this curriculum is to provide a broad, balanced and ambitious education which prepares our students by giving the best possible chances for their future life choices and helping them to discover their role in society, where they will make valued contributions. In order to meet these aims the AVA curriculum has been designed to have three threads running through it which we refer to as the 4 Cs: **Cognition, Culture, Core and Careers**.



We believe that the 4 Cs are integral to meeting the needs of our students. AVA is a large community and our students benefit from being taught how to become effective independent learners. The AVA Curriculum aims to teach students how to learn effectively and with an ever-increasing degree of independence.

The Cognition Curriculum

The Cognition Curriculum teaches students how to become effective learners by developing the key skills of **Reciprocation**, **Resilience**, **Resourcefulness**, **Reflectiveness** and **Recall**. We teach these skills explicitly because they help our students become faster, better and more confident learners.



The Culture Curriculum

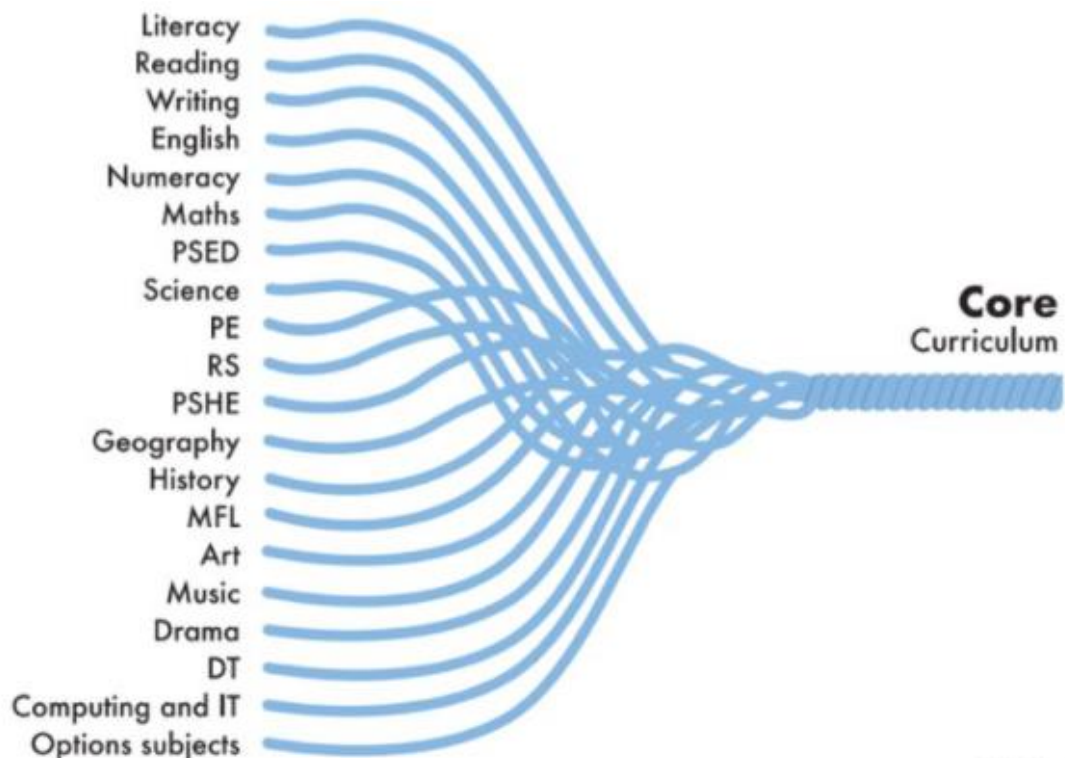
The Culture Curriculum is what we add to the National Curriculum to develop AVA students into well-balanced citizens and it is underpinned by our drive to ensure our students read widely and regularly, both for enjoyment and to learn. Students take part in local and international visits, can access a wide range of clubs, and meet regular visitors and speakers to stretch their learning.



Core Curriculum for Key Stage 3

The Aylesbury Vale Academy offers its students a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum.

During Key Stage 3, all students access courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish *and* French), Personal Health and Social Education, Religious Studies, Music, and Physical Education.



Core Curriculum for Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students have an element of choice which allows them to personalise their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

English, Maths and Science along with core Physical Education are compulsory subjects for all students. The remainder of each timetable is composed of a variety of option subjects including Art, Information and Communication Technology, Music, Media, Business Studies, Health and Fitness, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Studies, Physical Education Health and Social Care, Engineering, Design Technology, Spanish, French and Hospitality and Catering.

Core Curriculum Post 16

Our courses in Years 12 and 13 currently offer a vocational route for further study. Students follow 'pathways' leading to further education, university or a specific career path. Within these 'pathways' students choose from a range of BTEC Level 3 courses such as Business Studies, Media Studies, Information Technology, Sport, Applied Science, Psychology, Mathematics, English Language and Literature, and Health and Social Care. Alongside this they have the opportunity to take part in the national Young Enterprise scheme, Sports Leaders and to complete an Extended Project Qualification. Year 12 and 13 also take part in Physical Education.

100% of all our Post 16 students who applied to university in 2023 received an offer from their first choice university and had the grades to take up that place.



It is an exciting time to join AVA as the school expands its Sixth Form offering.

Enrichment Programme

We have a strong enrichment programme available to all students aimed to broaden student experiences outside of their timetabled subjects, develop life skills, build their cultural capital and embed a love of lifelong learning. The range of activities on offer runs not only through the different core curriculum subjects but also as after school clubs in Years 7-8 as well as our Extended Schools programme for Years 9-11.

Since the pandemic, there are now more trips, visits and careers interactions than before.

The careers programme is broad and ambitious for all learners. Ensuring students leave with the personal skills and qualifications to have ample choice and take up opportunities in whatever career pathway they decide to pursue.

