



MONK'S WALK SCHOOL

Teacher of English with Drama

Candidate Information Pack



‘Excellence for All’

This post

We are seeking an enthusiastic colleague to join us as an English and Drama teacher, with a rough ratio of 6:4. This is a permanent post from January 2023 which can either be full or part-time.

A generous relocation package is available for candidates moving house to take up this post; please see our website for details.

Closing date for applications: **noon on Friday 14 October 2022**

Key facts about Monk's Walk School

All Ability

For students aged 11-18 of all abilities. Over 1400 students

Popular and oversubscribed

690 applications (246 first preference) for 236 places in Y7. 92% of parents say they would recommend the school (Parent survey June 2022)

Strong ethos

Inclusive ethos with focus on mutual respect and good behaviour. We aim for our students to be co-operative, courteous and kind.

Academically successful

Record breaking outcomes at both GCSE and A Level in 2022

Broad Curriculum

27 courses delivered at GCSE and 26 at A Level, including English Literature and Drama

Broad extra-curricular programme

A wide programme of activities, trips and visits and enrichment activities

Popular sixth form

260 in the sixth form and a member of the Welwyn Hatfield consortium.

Strong focus on wellbeing

For both staff and students. 99% of staff say they enjoy working at MWS (Staff Survey July 2022)

Strong focus on staff development

We are committed to staff development including Initial Teacher and Early Career Framework training.

Our school

We are a mixed school of about 1,400 11-18 year old students in Welwyn Garden City, a Hertfordshire new town on the outskirts of London. Transport links are superb – direct rail links to London in less than 30 minutes; M1, A1(M), M11 and M25 all minutes away. WGC is a pleasant place to live – it even has John Lewis! The school is situated in a greenbelt area in the prosperous northwest corner of the city. Our grounds are magnificent and the view from the school is lovely. In September 2020 we opened a new teaching block to replace one of the more rundown ones. We have just secured the funding for a new sports hall.

Monk's Walk is a genuinely comprehensive school, although the intake profile is changing – the prior attainment of students coming into the school is rising. The number of students with learning challenges is below the national average, with 11.6% supported at school action plus or with an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP). Our support for students with SEND is a real strength of the school.

We have a small number of blind or partially sighted students who receive specialist support. We also work very closely with Knightsfield School, a special school for deaf children on our campus.



Parental confidence in the school is high; there were 693 applications for 236 places in Year 7 for September 2022, with 246 of those as first preference. Each year we hear appeals for students wishing to join the school.

The school has an extremely effective behaviour policy and in general behaviour is very good indeed. Our students want to learn and our parents are, on the whole, extremely supportive. Attendance is high. Our aim is for our students to be co-operative, courteous and kind.

There is a genuine 'buzz' around the school and we have a very strong reputation in the city. In February 2018, the school was judged once again by Ofsted to be 'good' - please read the inspection letter which can be found on our website (or on Ofsted's) should you wish to apply. We were really pleased with the comments made by inspectors.

Whole-school GCSE exam results in 2022 were the best ever for both A Level and GCSE and are above national on all measures published thus far. In the basics, 61% of students gained a strong pass and 79% a standard pass. This puts us well above the national average. Our attainment 8 was 55.2. Results in both English and Drama at GCSE and A Level are very good indeed, as are they in A Level Media Studies.

In terms of progress, disadvantaged and SEN students do better in the school than they do nationally. BAME students attain very well and have good progress, as do each of the ability groups. We pride ourselves on the fact that Monk's Walk is an inclusive school.

The school has about 260 in the sixth form and this is the largest sixth form the school has ever had. We are also a member of a consortium with four other schools which provides a wide range of opportunities for students. Monk's Walk has the largest sixth form of the five schools and currently we have high numbers of guest students in Years 12 and 13, studying one or two A Levels at the school.. At Monk's Walk we concentrate on providing A Level only (with the exception of iMedia), with decent numbers of students studying the facilitating subjects. Vocational programmes can be taken at Oaklands College or in other consortium schools.

Sixth form results are good and improving, but our ambition is for them to be even better. In 2022 our average point score per entry was 42.1, above national even for 2021 when CAGS inflated outcomes nationally. We are very proud of the destinations of our sixth form students. In 2022 all students who applied made it to their first or second choice university, high quality apprenticeship or employment. Students access a range of universities, including two to Cambridge in 2022, joining 6 other students from Monk's Walk already studying there.



We do not pursue academic achievement at the expense of the wider development of the individual, however. Form tutors, heads of year and heads of house all have important roles in the social, personal and academic support of individuals. Our house system is strong, providing a range of all-ability competitions and activities for mixed age groups. All members of staff are allocated a house, except me who has to try to stay impartial of course.

Unfortunately, some schools are making cuts in creative subjects such as Art, Music, Drama and PE and even some DT specialisms. At Monk's Walk, these subjects are strong as we see these areas providing important learning opportunities for our students. All of these subjects are running at GCSE and A Level.

We have a full orchestra (as well as other musical groups), thriving Art, Music, PE and Sport and an outstanding Drama department. Members of other departments involve themselves in extra-curricular activities in Music, Sport and Drama.

Knightsfield School (a special school for deaf children) is co-located with Monk's Walk School. We have an outstanding partnership arrangement; at key stage 3 Knightsfield students join classes in Art. A few students are also integrated into GCSE groups. Knightsfield students join ours for lunch every day in our canteen in B Block. One of our music teachers teaches at the school.

The school became an academy in September 2012. The decision to convert was purely pragmatic and trustees have no intention to make changes to teachers' pay and conditions beyond those made as part of national agreements.

Induction, training and continuing professional development have a very high priority in the school. All staff have an induction programme on joining the school.

Safeguarding at Monk's Walk

Safeguarding at Monk's Walk takes precedence over any other activity in the school. It's vitally important to us that students feel safe in school so they can learn and thrive. As part of the recruitment process, we will ask about safeguarding students and obviously questions about candidates' suitability to act as tutor. References will be sought and an enhanced criminal records check will be undertaken for this position.

The English Department

The English department is one of our leading departments. I am incredibly proud of the work of the department and the results are testament to the talent, hard work and commitment of our English teachers. The department delivers both English Literature and Media at A level. The department has a history of good exam results that fall above national averages.

The English department is a strong team with a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise. There are currently seven full time members of staff and three part time. The team is hardworking, innovative and always looking at ways of improving the delivery of the curriculum whilst raising pupil achievement. Our teachers are highly passionate and are always keen to share this enthusiasm with the students and encourage students to love the subject as much as they do. The team is very friendly, approachable and they work very closely to support each other.

At key stage 3, the year is organised into several diverse units of work with a clear long term plan that covers reading, writing and speaking skills. Schemes of work are fully resourced and are updated regularly in order to maintain students' interest. All classes are set by ability from Year 7. The key stage is currently led by Hannah Hawkings and Katie Boswell, both experienced, enthusiastic teachers.

At key stage 4 students are set using their Year 9 Progress Levels and their end of year exam. Schemes and texts taught at key stage 4 reflect both students' interest and academic ability. All schemes of work are fully resourced and are updated regularly. All students sit both the English Language GCSE and the English Literature GCSE following the AQA specification. The department also offers additional revision sessions for students in Year 11, throughout the year. These are well received and highly popular with students.

English Literature is popular choice at key stage 5. Students study the Edexcel specification and enjoy reading a wide range of texts. Media Studies A-level follows the Eduqas specification and is an increasingly popular and exciting option for our students. Key stage 5 is led by Josie Rochford, who is also currently the second in department.

The department has a large English office with plenty of space to work. The school library is located close to all English rooms and also boasts excellent ICT facilities. Most teachers have their own teaching room and display area. All classrooms have projectors and visualisers and several of the classrooms have recently been redecorated.

The Drama Department

Currently, there are two part-time members within the department, along with the full-time head of department. It is an enthusiastic, experienced, cohesive, and hardworking team, always looking for ways to inspire and engage students and to raise students' levels of achievement. Drama trips are organised, as are many extra-curricular events which raise the profile of the department (e.g., our successful involvement in competitions such as the Youth Drama Festival, held at a local theatre, a fantastic house drama competition). Last year, the department organised a production of 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell and our last musical in collaboration with the music department (we also have a full orchestra!) was 'We Will Rock You' in 2019. The department has a fantastic reputation for such events.

In Year 7 students receive an introduction to drama which focuses on the use of performance skills, along with a very disciplined approach to group work, encouraging students to communicate effectively and contribute ideas in a safe and respectful environment. Students go on to focus on the origins of theatre, within a Greek Theatre scheme of work, through to creating improvisations and the use of drama techniques. Year 8 create a class performance using music and movement based on the story of Macbeth and develop creative ideas 'from page to stage' focusing on a variety of scripts/extracts. Year 9 are introduced to the GCSE text 'Blood Brothers' and have an opportunity to create a devised performance in groups, showcasing their knowledge of techniques, style, and practitioner influence.

Drama is an option for all students at KS4. We use the OCR GCSE examination board. GCSE numbers are really beginning to increase with 60 students in our current Year 11. 2022 results for drama were excellent and fell above national average with 89% of students gaining grade 9-4, and 44% students gaining grades 9-7.

Drama is studied at A Level, again with the OCR examination board. Our results for A Level in 2022 were good with 100% students achieving C or above. We frequently have consortium students from other local schools undertaking their Drama A Level with us.



The drama department has a large and impressive main studio, with a smaller studio based nearby. The larger studio is well-equipped with stage lighting, sound and has the capacity to hold an audience of 250, a fantastic space for the annual music/drama school production. We have recently made a substantial investment into the main drama studio - making it a first class teaching and performance space.

Being an ECT at Monk's Walk

We offer the full two-year ECT induction programme, offering a blend of face-to-face and online training for ECTs and their mentors, based on the Education Development Trust's DfE accredited provider materials. This provides training on key aspects of teaching such as

assessment and behaviour for learning, as well as providing a local network of support with other ECTs in similar subject areas through the Alban Teaching School Hub. Additionally, all staff have access to a bespoke CPD programme which has learning and teaching at its centre. We know too that there is much to take on board when starting at a new school and provide a bespoke programme of six well-timed training sessions for ECTs and those new to the school to ensure that you are supported and fully informed about the procedures of the school.

Monk's Walk School's 'coaching culture' ensures that all ECTs are supported by experienced and trained instructional coaches, as well as by their Heads of Department and department colleagues. We provide opportunities to observe other colleagues, both within and across departments, as well as provide opportunities, Covid-permitting, to visit other schools.

Monk's Walk School is a fantastic place to start your teaching career. In the words of one of our previous NQTs (ECT): "I joined MWS as an NQT (ECT), and felt fully supported not just by my department, but by the staff as a whole. Everyone is so friendly and always willing to help if you need it. The school has a great atmosphere and ethos. This filters through to the students' behaviour and general attitude to learning, which has always been fantastic."
Angelina Sordillo (DT teacher)

Job description

Post Title: Teacher of English with Drama, full-time or part-time, from January 2023
Job Grade: Teachers' Pay Scale
Responsible to: Rebecca Griffiths, Head of English

Job Purpose

- To support the school in keeping all students safe
- To ensure that students fulfil their potential in the classes you teach
- To oversee pastoral care and support the progress of your tutor group, if appropriate
- To contribute to the effectiveness of the teams in which you work (departmental, year group, house)
- To support the school's aim of providing an enjoyable educational experience for its students.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Planning, Teaching and Class Management

- To prepare and teach lessons of a high standard so your students make expected or above expected progress
- To contribute to the department's extra-curricular and enrichment programme
- To follow designated programmes of study
- To set prep in line with school and departmental policy
- To ensure that your students' behaviour is conducive to learning.

Monitoring, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- To follow designated programmes of study, carry out all assessments and marking, recording, reporting and target setting in line with departmental and school policy.

Pastoral Duties

- At all times ensure that your students are subscribing to school policies in terms of behaviour, appearance, academic work and social interaction and follow the guidelines given in the staff handbook if any pupil is infringing these policies
- To adhere to the school's requirements on safeguarding at all times.

Other Professional Requirements

- Work as a team member within the department(s), sharing ideas and resources and asking for guidance and help from fellow teachers when necessary
- Participate in all CPD activities that will improve your professional performance
- Take part in the school's appraisal process and enter into a professional discussion with your line manager about your strengths as a teacher and any areas which are in need of improvement
- Address any areas of weaker performance, taking advice from your line manager and actively engaging in any actions that might be suggested
- To maintain, at all times, the reputation of this great profession and of the school.

Resource Management

- To take a shared responsibility to ensure the accommodation in which teaching takes place is vibrant and conducive to learning
- To ensure that all department resources used are kept in good order and any defects are quickly reported to the Head of Department.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. The Headteacher may vary the duties from time to time without changing their general character or the level of responsibility entailed.

Monk's Walk is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This post is classed as having a high degree of contact with children or vulnerable adults and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. A Disclosure and Barring service check will be sought as part of the school's pre-employment checks. If you are invited to an interview, you will receive more information.

Person specification

1. Educational Qualifications/Training

- Honours Degree in an English or Drama specialism
- DfE recognised Qualified Teacher Status
- A portfolio of training and continuing professional development
- Successful school-based training in secondary age range

2. Professional Experience

- Ability to teach at English to key stages 4 and 5 and Drama to Key Stages 3 and 4 (D)
- Proven track record in raising standards of student achievement

3. Professional Knowledge and Understanding

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Safeguarding students
- Effective practice and approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in a tutoring context
- Current educational trends and thinking
- Current developments in teaching subject
- Effective use of ICT in teaching
- Strategies for motivating and inspiring students

4. Personal Qualities and Skills

Ideally, we are looking for someone who:

- Can lead, motivate, enthuse and inspire students, and win the confidence of staff parents and trustees
- Has the ability to think strategically with imagination, vision, creativity and originality
- Is reflective, self-critical, motivated and ambitious
- Has passion and believes that every student can succeed at Monk's Walk School
- Is an effective communicator and presenter
- Can plan and organise effectively
- Possesses excellent inter-personal skills
- Is resilient
- Has a life outside school
- Has a fantastic sense of humour!

That's all!

Your role in our future

Monk's Walk School is a thriving, vibrant, learning community where our aim is to bring the best out of everyone. It is a very good school and like most good schools, we know we need to keep on improving to provide the best for our students.

I hope this information has given you a flavour of our school. Please read the Ofsted report and visit our website and Facebook page – Monk's Walk School Official - for more information. If you feel you can contribute to the high standards of teaching and learning in English and would like to join us, then please apply.

How to apply

I really hope the information we have provided makes you want to apply to join us. If you would like to discuss the position or visit the school before applying please contact Matt Grinyer, Deputy Headteacher. Matt is the SLT member with line management responsibility for English. His email is magriny@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk or he can be contacted by phone at the school.

Please apply using the application form on our website. You should also write a letter of application. In your letter of application, please can you explain how you demonstrate that you fulfil the requirements of points 2, 3 and 4 on the person specification (page 9 in this pack). Shortlisted candidates are likely to be able to show how their work has impacted on students' achievements, experiences or attitudes – all in about two sides of A4! I am interested in appointing someone who is, or has the potential to be, a highly effective practitioner.

The deadline for us to receive your application is **noon on Friday 14 October**. Please e-mail your application to: recruitment@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk, marked for my attention.

We look forward to hearing from you.

What happens next

We will shortlist for this post and then we will contact shortlisted candidates by telephone or e-mail to invite them for interview. We will ask referees of shortlisted candidates to complete our reference form, a copy of which can be found on our website for your reference. We reserve the right to call candidates for interview before the deadline.

Kate Smith
Headteacher
September 2022