

October 2021

ADB/kb

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Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the Teacher of Food/Design post at Ousedale School.

Ousedale is a dual-campus community based academy: our Newport Pagnell site for 11-19 students and our Olney site (8 miles away) for 11-16 students. The majority of staff teach in one location. We are one school with a single system of governance, leadership and management operating over both campuses. We have an absolute belief that all children can and will succeed through becoming successful learners.

So much information relating to schools is readily available online. Prospective candidates will clearly make use of this, though we know they can never tell the whole story. You'll discover our students achieve highly against national measures and that levels of attendance and parental support are good.

Our results are consistently good at GCSE and A Level. We are consistently placed in the top three comprehensive schools in Milton Keynes at GCSE and in 2019 the DfE ranked Ousedale the top school in Milton Keynes. Our 6th form has been in the top 2% in the country for the last 10 years and regularly achieves the highest proportion of the top A*/B grades in the region.

Our January 2020 Ofsted report rated the school good with outstanding features in all areas: curriculum, achievement, quality of teaching, behaviour and leadership. The lead inspector referenced our strong pastoral care and support for vulnerable pupils. He also concluded the quality of teaching and outcomes had improved since the 2016 inspection. We were delighted but continue on our improvement journey.

Significantly, we embrace our responsibility for education in its widest sense. In all teachers we look for *humanity* and *empathy* and a realistic acceptance that young people make mistakes – our job is to ensure they learn from them. A rarely published statistic is the number of staff who choose (or move) to have their own children attend the school they work at – we have many, and what greater testimony is there!?

You'd expect us to say that Ousedale is an excellent place to work and learn. Annual staff questionnaires indicate over 98% of staff are proud to be a member of the school, 97% say the school is well led and 99% say teaching is at least good. Students and staff are intensely proud of the school. We place significant emphasis on wellbeing; staff have access to a gym, daily tea and coffee and are contracted to work from 8.30 am to 3.15 pm, unless attending a Parents' Evening or meeting. The HMI in January 2020 concluded staff morale was high with the priority placed on workload and wellbeing being much appreciated. Supported by Governors, we continue to use the national pay scale for teachers but have also introduced an annual bonus scheme of up to 3% for those at the top of UPS or leadership spines.

We've always believed good relationships are key to our success. I lead an energetic and motivated senior team determined to raise standards still further, and so we have high expectations of all our staff. There is significant in-house professional development and we are licensed to run accredited courses for middle leadership. We invest in training and development for all staff. Applicants should also know we have excellent support for NQT/ECT teachers and an established mentor scheme for other staff.

You'll discover more about Ousedale on our website, www.ousedale.org.uk, to help your decision whether to apply. I enclose information about the department. Your application form, accompanied by a supporting letter (no more than two sides), should be received by Thursday, 28th October 2021.

I do hope you make an application to join the team and me, and that we will have the chance to meet.

With my best wishes

Andy Burton – Headteacher