



**BEACON  
ACADEMY**

AMBITIOUS FOR EXCELLENCE

# TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

Information for applicants  
May 2024



**MARK**  
Education  
Trust

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## Welcome to MARK Education Trust

After operating as a Single Academy Trust for several years, we were delighted to become a fully functioning Multi Academy Trust when Uplands Academy joined our first school, Beacon Academy, on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Our trust's motto is 'ambitious for excellence' and this applies to all aspects of its work, including governance. From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, our trust moved from being a multi academy trust operating as a single academy trust, to a fully functioning multi academy trust containing our two East Sussex based secondary schools, Beacon Academy in Crowborough and Uplands Academy in Wadhurst.

### **Our trust's mission statement is:**

MARK Education Trust provides the best possible education for our students, preparing them for life, so they can stand equally alongside their peers, locally, nationally and globally.

### **The guiding values of MARK Education Trust are:**

M – Motivated: to create exceptional, caring and safe educational establishments

A – Ambitious: high expectations of staff and students

R – Resourceful: ensuring efficiency and value for money

K – Knowledgeable: valuing learning for life

### **Our vision**

#### **MARK Education Trust will create:**

- Schools with their own strong identity underpinned by shared values
- Schools with expertly taught broad and balanced curriculums which give students the knowledge they need to further their education and thrive in adult life
- Schools which through collaboration constantly improve so that they are recognised for their outcomes at a local, regional and national level
- Schools which are the school of choice for their community and the employer of choice for the best professionals
- Safe and happy environments which enable students and staff to thrive and succeed
- Governance, leadership and management which is robust at all levels, ensuring that the trust is fully accountable to its stakeholders
- A strategy of 'growth with care', ensuring that the trust is able to meet the needs of and invest in its own academies as well as the capacity to support further academies

# Letter from our Executive Headteacher



## **Post of Teacher of Geography**

We are seeking applications from dedicated and hardworking professionals with a desire to work in a successful, thriving and supportive 11-18 Academy. We wish to appoint a dedicated, hardworking Teacher of Geography. The successful candidate will have high expectations as well as genuine ambition. They will consistently plan and deliver impactful lessons that enable every student to make excellent progress. They will join a team of six other specialist teachers, including the Head of Geography.

## **Context**

We are a split site, semi-rural, mixed 11-18 non-selective converter academy with approximately 1630 students, including over 250 students in our Sixth Form. We are situated centrally in Crowborough on the outskirts of the Ashdown Forest, an area of outstanding natural beauty. We are close to Tunbridge Wells and the South Coast. The vast majority of our staff travel to Beacon from a variety of destinations within the South East, including Brighton, Eastbourne, Lewes and Tunbridge Wells.

Our catchment area generates our truly non-selective intake, both in terms of ability and socio-economic background. We are an oversubscribed school. We draw students from more than 10 primary schools in Crowborough and the surrounding areas. We also attract applications from an increasing number of students outside of our catchment area, however, due to our oversubscription we are generally only able to offer places to those within our pre-defined community area.

Our sixth form provision is accommodated entirely at our Green Lane site, an 800m five minute walk from our main Beeches site which accommodates years 7-11. We are immensely proud that we retain a high proportion of our Sixth Form students from Beacon Academy as well as recruiting students from other local and international schools.

## **Vision, culture, expectations and outcomes**

Our vision is to provide the best possible education for all of our students and to be ambitious for excellence in all we do. Whether a member of staff, trustee (governor) or student, we all work relentlessly to inspire and believe in one another to achieve our ambitions and succeed in life.

At Beacon Academy there is an expectation that as staff and students, we will work hard, be ambitious, self-motivated, inquisitive, resilient and determined to succeed. Our students work incredibly hard, are polite, respectful, well behaved, well presented and ready to learn. They are expected to be caring, considerate and tolerant in lessons, social time and whilst travelling to and from school. These areas are reinforced and adopted positively by staff and students alike – there is a tangible sense of pride in being part of Beacon. Our students are meticulously supported by our experienced, loyal, highly skilled and highly effective team of staff. This includes a dedicated, non-teaching Student Support Team consisting of a Head of Year (teaching staff) and an Assistant Head of Year (non-teaching staff) for each year group who support them throughout their time at Beacon Academy.

The rigorous focus on all of our students as unique individuals is paramount. There is an unprecedented determination and commitment from everyone who works at Beacon that they will succeed. We work diligently on our unapologetically high expectations and standards, allowing us to foster exceptional relationships in an environment that is consistently calm, safe, happy and orderly. I have no doubt that the combination of this with our broad, balanced curriculum and outstanding teaching contributes significantly to our sustained improvements across the board. Our latest A-Level and GCSE results are testament to this and to the teamwork of our phenomenal students and staff.

### **Exam Success**

We consistently achieve well above average outcomes for our students. Progress 8 is the Government's main performance measure and reflects the value that schools add to the progress of their students in respect of their final GCSE grades, compared to that of their peers of similar prior ability across the country. In 2023 our Progress 8 score was 0.43. As ever, this is a reflection of our vision and our determination to consistently provide the best possible education for all of our students, and to become an exceptional school for our community, both locally and nationally.

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form students. In 2023, 90% of students who applied to University were successful in meeting the requirements for an offer, with 33% of those students leaving to attend a prestigious Russell Group University.

### **To apply**

Once again, thank you for your interest in the post of Teacher of Geography. Further details are provided in this pack on how to apply for this role. Completed application forms should be e-mailed to the HR Department at [hr@beacon-academy.org](mailto:hr@beacon-academy.org)

If you wish to have an opportunity to discuss this post informally, please contact our HR department on 01892 603000, or email [hr@beacon-academy.org](mailto:hr@beacon-academy.org).

Beacon Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Please come and visit us at any time and see for yourself. To arrange a visit please contact the HR Department.



**Anna Robinson**  
**Executive Headteacher**



# Beacon Academy Examination Results and Student Destinations 2022-2023

## Key Stage 5 - A-Levels only

	2022			2023		
	Beacon	National	E/Sussex	Beacon	National	E/Sussex
Average Grade	B-	B	B-	C+	C+	C+
Average Points	37.6	38.9	36.3	32.78	34.16	32.46
Progress Score	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects	18%	21%	12%	15%	16%	9%
Grade and points for a student's best 3 A Levels	B 40.3	B- 38.25	C+ 34.73	C+ 34.89	C+ 34.68	C 31.27
Students completing their main study programme	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Key Stage 5 - Applied General

	2022*			2023		
	Beacon	National	E/Sussex	Beacon	National	E/Sussex
Average Grade	Merit+	Dist-	Dist-	Merit+	Merit+	Merit+
Average Points	29.9	32.0	31.0	27.33	29.52	29.90
Progress Score	-	-	-	-	-	-
Students completing their main study programme	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Key Stage 5 - Tech Level

	2022*			2023		
	Beacon	National	E/Sussex	Beacon	National	E/Sussex
Average Grade	Dist+	Dist-	Dist-	Dist	Merit+	Merit+
Average Points	41.6	30.6	30.3	35.39	28.50	27.24
Completion & attainment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Students completing their main study programme	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Key Stage 4 - GCSE & Equivalents

	2022			2023		
	Beacon	National	E/Sussex	Beacon	National	E/Sussex
Attainment of the year group on entry to secondary school (KS2 APS)^	103.4	103.5	102.6	105	104	-
9-7	31%	26%	-	26%	23%	-
English & Maths 4+ Standard Pass	82%	69%	66%	77%	65%	63%
English & Maths 5+ Strong Pass	63%	50%	46%	60%	45%	41%
English 4+ Standard pass	90%	70%+	76%	83%	70%+	72%
Maths 4+ Standard pass	84%	65%	70%	85%	65%	69%
English 5+ Strong pass	77%	54%+	62%	70%	54%+	56%
Maths 5+ Strong pass	69%	47%	51%	70%	47%	48%
Entering EBacc	40%	39%	33%	42%	39%	33%
Ebac APS	4.98	4.27	4.06	4.77	4.07	3.81
Attainment 8	55.01	48.8	46.5	51.6	46.4	43.6
Progress 8	+0.63	-0.03	-0.11	+0.43	-0.02	-0.19

# The Geography Department

The Geography Department is a developing department at Beacon with an ethos to create a rigorous, academic approach which motivates and inspires students

The Geography Department has a suite of well-equipped classrooms complete with data projectors and desktop PCs. As with all departments in Beacon, we encourage students to use a variety of resources and their own materials to enable them to develop independent learning skills. In addition, we have bookable ICT suites and are pioneers in the E-learning agenda across the school.

At Key Stage 3, students' high order thinking skills are developed through an analytical and academic approach to prepare them for a knowledge rich curriculum at Key Stage 4.

In Key Stage 4, all students select either Geography or History as a GCSE. Geography is a well subscribed and has classes across the ability range. The breadth of our provision highlights the strength of our faculty and the students' enjoyment of our options. We have a strong focus on academic success and have achieved outcomes both above the National and Beacon averages.

At Key Stage 5 we offer A-levels in Geography and Geology. Many of our students progressing onto these courses at some of the premier universities in the UK.

The Humanities Faculty works collaboratively, learning from one another and sharing our successes. We have a collective educational pedagogy that has seen the faculty make great strides in embedding the six principles to ensure that all student groups maximise their progress in our subjects and we are excited to welcome a new member to further develop our successful team.

# Departmental Information

<p>Departmental Staffing Structure</p>	<p>Head of Geography &amp; Geology: Mr R. Arthur          Teachers of Geography: Mrs C. Urquhart, Mr L. Vaughan, Mr D. Callard, Mrs M. Spearman, Ms K. Webb, Mr R. Mannering</p>
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>KS3: National curriculum Geography (4 hours a fortnight)          KS4: GCSE Edexcel Geography A, (5 hours a fortnight)          KS5: A2 level Edexcel Geography (9 hours a fortnight)</p>
<p>2023 Results          KS4 &amp; KS5</p>	<p>GCSE Geography: 24% 7+, 72% 4+          A2 Geography: 21% A*-B, 58% A*-C</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Our large and vibrant Sixth Form are housed in a purpose-built site less than a quarter of a mile from the main campus. Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 lessons take place on the Beeches site, where there are seven humanities rooms. All of the Key Stage 5 Humanities courses are currently taught at the Sixth Form Centre where we have a dedicated Geography/ Geology, History, Philosophy &amp; Ethics and Sociology classrooms.</p>
<p>Key areas for development</p>	<p><b><u>OBJECTIVE</u></b> – to develop our exam results across the faculty.</p> <p><b><u>Strategy 1. Outcomes and Tracking Progress</u></b>          To develop the % of A*-A at A' Level and 9-5 at GCSE. To reduce the gap between our disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.</p> <p><b><u>Strategy 2. Quality of Teaching and Learning</u></b>          To develop consistent teaching and learning practice that allows students to achieve outstanding outcomes.</p> <p><b><u>Strategy 3. Assessment and Marking</u></b>          To create a consistent approach to marking that maximises the opportunity for students to reflect on and develop their performance.</p> <p><b><u>Strategy 4. Knowledge-Rich Curriculum</u></b>          To develop current KS3 units into line with college, national pursuit of knowledge rich curriculum</p>



# Job Description

JOB TITLE:	Teacher of Geography
JOB PURPOSE:	To ensure that the negotiated aims and objectives of the department (which reflect those of the academy) are achieved through classroom teaching and contribution to department policy via department meetings.
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	Head of Department.
ACCOUNTABLE FOR:	The effective implementation of individual lessons / schemes of work and student standards and achievement.

## Key Accountabilities:

### The Leadership of Learning

- To contribute to the development of the department schemes of work and implement through classroom teaching
- To prepare and deliver exciting and challenging lessons to students of all ages and abilities in accordance with schemes of work.
- To adopt a variety of strategies to engage all students (including ICT and use of the Creative Learning Centre) and be responsive to advice.
- To promote good student behaviour
- To mark, evaluate and give regular appropriate feedback on students work
- To assess students' progress and report to parents periodically in accordance with Academy guidelines

### The Leadership of People

- To communicate effectively with members of staff in the department, to develop a collegiate working environment
- To contribute to department meetings with creativity and energy
- To keep close contact with parents, tutors and Head of Department to ensure progress of students is best supported
- To contribute to House meetings and Year team meetings

### The Leadership of Resources and Policy

- To help develop the department resources and provide an effective, safe learning environment. To contribute to the review, development and presentation of department policies and objectives
- To contribute to the development of curriculum materials
- To work effectively to carry out tasks as directed by the Head of Department with support and guidance from other team members.

# Person Specification

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate &amp; Qualified teacher</li> <li>Strong academic background</li> </ul>	<p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of commitment to professional development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary teaching experience or practice across both Key Stage 3 and 4</li> <li>An excellent practitioner with the drive and ambition to develop further</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of assessment strategies and their effective implementation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching students across prior attainment bands in a large comprehensive school</li> <li>Experience of working in an impact led data driven culture</li> <li>Sees this as a post to further promotion</li> <li>Experience of teaching the most able at Key Stage 4 and 5</li> <li>Experience of utilising both Apple and Microsoft programmes to develop engaging lessons</li> </ul>
<p><b>Philosophy</b> <i>Commitment to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The principle that ‘The Children come first’</li> <li>Working collaboratively with other team members to develop pedagogy</li> <li>Equality of opportunity</li> <li>The responsibility of contributing to whole team effort</li> </ul>	<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An understanding of Academy status and its benefits flexibilities this status brings for the school.</li> <li>Consistently good teaching with examples of developing outstanding practise.</li> <li>An understanding of Geography as part of the whole curriculum</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills</b> <i>You will need to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be an effective Teacher</li> <li>Be and effective Communicator</li> <li>Have strong ICT skills</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Personal Qualities</b> We will look for evidence of personal qualities such as vision, a team player, initiative, solution focussed, energy, self-motivation, resilience and a sense of humour!</p>	

Beacon’s teachers are also accountable for promoting a positive image of the value of education within the student body of the Academy and in the wider community. Other whole Academy responsibilities include tutoring, or a commitment to the Academy pastoral system, attendance at INSET and other reasonable duties as directed by the Headteacher.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. The post holder may be required from time to time to undertake other duties within the school as may be reasonably expected, without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. This is a common occurrence and would not justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.



## Staff Testimonials

Beacon Academy is an amazing place to work because of the friendly and helpful staff, there is a strong culture of collaboration and support that allows everyone to develop their practice. The strong focus upon CPD provides everyone the opportunity to learn the latest cutting-edge developments in education and this is a major benefit for anyone wishing to further develop their practice. Our facilities and new technology allow us to provide engaging lessons to provide our learners with the perfect learning environment.

I would recommend Beacon Academy to anyone wanting to teach in a school that favours aspirational ethics and outstanding practice, because there are so many opportunities for ambitious staff who are keen to collaborate, develop and share best practice in order to progress in their career.

**Senior Deputy Headteacher**

I have thoroughly enjoyed coming to work at Beacon Academy. The commitment and dedication from the staff to ensure students are achieving, and going above in and out of lessons is amazing to see. As an NQT I received so much support from other members of staff and feel like I can ask anyone for help. The commitment and extra time given to the students is what makes Beacon such a good school to work in.

**Teacher of Mathematics**

# Applications

Please note that applications will be considered as they are received and you are therefore advised to submit your application as early as possible, as some interviews may take place, and an appointment may be made, before the closing date is reached for this position.

If, like us, you are passionate about providing the best possible education for all students in a school with sustained improvement and a culture of high expectations and ambition, please ensure you:

1. Complete the statutory application form.
2. Provide a letter of application that is no longer than 2 sides of A4. It is recommended that your letter is structured according to the main headings of the person specification. Please include any achievement data that are applicable to the role you are applying for. If possible, this should be across 3 years; otherwise please provide your latest set of results.
3. Provide two references, one of whom must be the Headteacher from your current school or most recent significant employer.

Beacon Academy is committed to providing the best possible care and education to its students and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Academy is also committed to providing a supportive and flexible working environment to all its members of staff.

The Academy recognises that, in order to achieve these aims, it is of fundamental importance to attract, recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre who share this commitment. Please refer to our Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedures which supports our statutory obligation to comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

Further information can be found on our website.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Human Resources  
Beacon Academy  
North Beeches Road  
Crowborough  
East Sussex TN6 2AS  
Telephone: 01892 603000  
Email: [hr@beacon-academy.org](mailto:hr@beacon-academy.org)

