



Candidate brief for the position of: **Teacher of Geography** – September 2022

Bullers Wood School for Girls and Sixth Form

Application Deadline: ASAP





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Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of Teacher of Geography at Bullers Wood School. The information in this pack will, we hope, give you a good flavour of the school, as well as the application procedure and I hope having read it, you will decide to apply.

This post is available in September 2022 and offers an exciting opportunity to join an enthusiastic staff and very supportive department whose members are committed to making a real difference. The school was last fully inspected by Ofsted in May 2011 and we were awarded Outstanding. The report is available on our website. We are very proud of our achievements and prior to the pandemic had regularly been congratulated by the Minister of State for Schools on our achievements at GCSE level placing us in the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England. In addition, we were in the top 100 for students achieving the English Baccalaureate. We have also regularly been in the top 10% nationally (out of over 2,500 schools and colleges) for our A level performance assessed by ALPS.

We are looking for a passionate individual to help us to ensure that in every way Bullers Wood remains an outstanding school at our next Ofsted inspection, and that every one of our students achieves and exceeds both their targets and expectations.

The successful candidate will join Bullers Wood at an exciting time as September 2018 saw the opening of a new secondary free school, Bullers Wood School for Boys, who have now moved into their brand-new permanent building. Our two schools led to the establishment of the Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust, giving opportunities for enhanced professional and career development for colleagues working within the Trust. The successful candidate may be required to work at either school.

When completing the application form, please follow the instructions below and demonstrate clearly how you meet the person specification and job description. If you have any questions or wish to visit before applying, please do not hesitate to contact our Human Resources Manager, Caroline Sharp csharp@bwsmat.org

I very much look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

Simon Hardwick
Headteacher



An Introduction to Bullers Wood School for Girls

The School

Bullers Wood is a highly successful comprehensive 11 – 19 girls' school with boys admitted to the sixth form. We are significantly oversubscribed, with admissions from over 50 primaries, and enjoy an excellent reputation in the community.

The number on roll is 1581, including 425 students in the mixed sixth form. We serve a very supportive community, and parents/carers have a choice of Bullers Wood School for Girls as a comprehensive school for girls or selective education within Bromley and other LAs (Bexley, Kent). The proportion of students eligible for free school meals is below the national average. About a fifth of the total roll is from an ethnic minority background and some 20 languages are spoken. Very few students are learning English as an additional language. The behaviour of students is excellent, with all keen to learn and succeed.

In 2019, 77% of students achieved 5+ GCSE's at A* - C (9-4) including English and Maths, and 40% of A level results were graded A* - B. Our P8 score was well above average at 0.61.

The staff at Bullers Wood School for Girls are friendly, hardworking and conscientious. We actively promote continuing professional development for all staff, in line with the needs of the individual and those of the School. We offer a full and comprehensive induction and ongoing support programme for all new staff. ECTs are allocated a dedicated mentor to support them through their ECT year.

The School is a founder member of the highly regarded Bromley Schools Centred Initial Teacher Training Collegiate which enables our staff to share their expertise and good practice with others. We also train teachers through the Graduate Teacher Programme.

Twenty-two acres of woodland and landscaped grounds surround Bullers Wood House, a mansion with interior design by William Morris and exterior by Ernest Newton – both leading Victorian designers. This makes it unique, creating a high-quality environment and atmosphere which students enjoy and remember.

Our Ethos

Our purpose is to develop well qualified, confident and appreciative individuals who show tolerance and co-operation and are ready to play positive roles in the international community.



Expectations

At Bullers Wood School for Girls, we expect our Teachers to:

- Have a passion for education and be open to innovative approaches in everyday aspects of school life
- Be passionate about their subject area and lifelong learning
- Be committed to securing the best outcomes for all students in the school
- Offer enrichment and extra-curricular experiences related to their subject area and beyond
- Contribute to the overall development of the school
- Be flexible in their approach, adapting to new challenges

In return, we will offer you:

- The opportunity to be part of a forward-thinking team
- The opportunity to work with pastoral and subject leaders to create an exciting and engaging curriculum
- Enhanced professional and career development opportunities
- The opportunity to work across both schools in our Trust



The Role

Job title: Teacher of Geography

Reports to: Head of Geography

Start Date: September 2022

This is an excellent opportunity for an outstanding, ambitious and passionate Teacher of Geography to join the team.

The Geography Department at Bullers Wood

There is a wide range of experience within the department. It is lively, forward-looking and is committed to achieving success for all its students. The staff work well together as a team, are innovative and passionate about their subject. Many also help lead D of E, World Challenge and whole school environmental projects.

Staff fully embrace new initiatives and contribute to Cross Borough CPD. We work closely with our newly opened Boys' school to help develop our curriculum. The Department continually reviews its Schemes of Work and pedagogy to improve student attainment and supports school-based CPD. For example, we are currently adding more GIS into our schemes of work and have led on the use of visualisers in lessons. Departmental meetings take place on a regular basis and all staff contribute to discussions.

Courses chosen are dynamic and topical to capture student interest. Lessons are inspiring and well prepared. All lessons for KS3, GCSE and A level are on the VLE and the students have full access to lessons, resources and revision materials.

The curriculum

We encourage students to use their geographical knowledge to develop an understanding of contemporary challenges facing our planet, in turn helping them to develop a growing awareness of their own local communities in a global setting. Our curriculum in Geography is built around enquiry-based learning. It is focused on 7 key concepts including sustainability, interconnection, place and scale. We believe fieldwork is a vital element to the study of Geography and so include this where possible.

Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 curriculum develops from a more local and national scale in Year 7 to a more global outlook in Year 8. In Year 9 students develop their synoptic skills, developing more of an ability to think geographically. Students are taught in mixed ability sets and assessed through activities including decision-making activities, projects, and tests. We like to take students outside and utilise the school site and local area for fieldwork. We currently have a trip to Rochester in year 7 and would like to add more as we update our KS3 curriculum. There is also a chance for students to test their Geographical knowledge through an inter house quiz.



Key Stage 4

At present there are over 200 students taking Geography GCSE. We follow the Edexcel B specification and students are taught in mixed ability groups. We go on two fieldtrips one to Reculver to investigate coastal management and the other to Stratford, East London to assess quality of life. In 2019 we had 100% pass rate with 50% of students achieving 7-9 grades.

Sixth Form

Geography is a popular subject in 6th form and we currently have 45 students on roll. Students are taught in mixed ability groups and we follow the Edexcel specification. In 2019 we achieved 100% pass rate with 20% of students achieving an A*/A grade. We go on numerous fieldtrips throughout the year as we believe that outdoor learning is vital for education. This includes that within the local area e.g. Bromley, woodland on the school site and our annual 4-day fieldtrip to Swanage in the Spring term. Every couple of years we also offer students the opportunity to go abroad to places such as Iceland.

The successful candidate will also be a form tutor.

Classroom Teacher Responsibilities:

Core purposes of post

- To provide positive support and guidance with regard to the personal, academic, social and moral development of all students.
- To provide a high-quality educational experience for all students.
- To help the school achieve its purpose, aims and values

General Duties and Responsibilities

- To carry out the duties of a School Teacher as set out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document.
- To continue to meet the Professional Standards for Teachers in England
- To follow school, faculty and departmental procedures.
- To support the school ethos and adhere to school policies
- To be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

Knowledge & understanding

- Be aware of and actively promote the school's aims, values, priorities, targets and action plans.
- Have a secure knowledge and understanding of specialist subject(s)
- Have a detailed knowledge of the relevant aspects of the students' National Curriculum and other statutory requirements.
- Understand progression in specialist subject(s)
- Cope securely with subject-related questions which students raise and know about students' common misconceptions and mistakes in their specialist subject(s).

Planning & setting expectations

- Identify clear teaching objectives, content, lesson structures and sequences appropriate to the subject matter and the students being taught as identified in the school's Teaching & Learning policy
- Set appropriate and demanding expectations for students' learning and motivation.



- Set and monitor clear targets for students' learning, building on prior attainment.

Teaching & managing student learning

- Ensure effective teaching of whole classes, groups and individuals so that teaching objectives are met, pace and challenge are maintained, and best use is made of teaching time.
- Use teaching methods which keep students engaged, including stimulating students' intellectual curiosity, effective questioning and response, clear presentation and good use of resources.
- Participate in preparing and presenting students for public examinations
- Identify students who have special educational needs, and implement and keep records
- Identify students who are gifted and talented and provide appropriate stimuli

Assessment & evaluation

- Assess how well learning objectives have been achieved and use this assessment and school provided data on a regular basis for future teaching and target-setting.
- Keep regular records of student progress
- Set homework in accordance with the School's homework policy
- Mark and monitor students' class and homework providing constructive oral and written feedback, setting targets for students' progress.
- Understand the demands expected of students in relation to the National Curriculum, KS4 and post-16 courses.
- Record and report on student progress, following school and departmental policy.

Behaviour Management

- Set high expectations for students' behaviour, establishing and maintaining a good standard of discipline through well-focused teaching and through positive and productive relationships, following the school systems.
- Consistently apply the school's Behaviour Management policy, encouraging positive behaviour, using the classroom code and taking appropriate action in cases of indiscipline

Relationships with parents & the wider community

- Prepare and present informative reports to parents.
- Attend parents' evenings and Open Evenings as required
- Recognise that learning takes place outside the school context and provide opportunities to develop students' understanding by relating their learning to real and work-related examples.
- Be prepared to liaise with agencies responsible for students' welfare.

Management of performance & development

- Take responsibility for own professional development and to keep up-to-date with research and developments in pedagogy and in the subjects taught, within the context of the School Development Plan.
- Understand professional responsibilities in relation to school policies and practices.
- Set a good example to the students in presentation and personal and professional conduct.
- Evaluate own teaching critically and use this to improve effectiveness.



- Participate in school system of performance management
- Participate in arrangements for further training and professional development, including INSET
- Attend and participate in faculty/departmental and other meetings as required.

Relationships with colleagues

- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues including support staff.
- Advise and co-operate with all colleagues on the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, methods of teaching, assessment and pastoral arrangements

Resources

- Select and make good use of textbooks, ICT, DVD/video, internet and other learning resources which enable teaching objectives to be met.

Health & Safety

- Be familiar with and comply with the School's Health and Safety policies
- Be responsible for the health & safety of students when they are authorised to be on school premises and when engaged in authorised activities elsewhere
- Prepare risk assessments as appropriate
- Take class register on SIMS and inform the office of any concerns

Other

- Undertake any other professional requirements specific to this post.

This job description may not necessarily be a comprehensive definition of the post. It will be reviewed as appropriate and may be subject to modification or amendment at any time after consultation with the holder of the post.

The Person

The successful applicant is likely to demonstrate the following qualities:

Knowledge & Experience

- A good degree in a relevant subject
- Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
- A clear philosophy on how and why your subject should be taught
- Subject knowledge sufficient to challenge students and achieve high outcomes
- Awareness of the strategies available for improving the learning & achievement of students
- A good understanding of curriculum developments in the specific subject area
- Recent relevant professional development
- An excellent classroom practitioner

Skills & Abilities

- Able to use a range of teaching & learning strategies
- An understanding of how assessment for learning can improve student performance
- A confident & competent user of ICT in the teaching of the subject to enhance student learning
- Able to use student level data to raise standards



- Able to communicate both orally & in writing to students & their parents
- Be willing to be fully engaged in the whole life of the school
- Have a commitment to team work

Personal Qualities

- Enthusiasm & a positive outlook
- The ability to motivate, support, inspire and work collaboratively with a team of specialist staff, teaching and support
- The ability to work independently and collaboratively as a member of a team
- Commitment to high student expectations
- Creative in problem solving together with a willingness to take on or try new approaches & ideas
- Commitment to extracurricular activities
- A positive attitude towards professional development and own learning
- Reliability & integrity
- Good personal organisation
- Excellent record of attendance and punctuality
- Commitment to high standards and expectations

In addition, the successful candidate must be willing to uphold the ethos and policies of the school, including the commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people

This job description is not necessarily a comprehensive definition of the post. It may be subject to modification or amendment at any time after consultation with the post holder.

Salary

The DfE no longer publishes any pay scale points for reference. Pay Scales for teaching staff at Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust are based on those published by the NEU.



How to Apply

- i. Read carefully all the information about this post
- ii. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone or email **Caroline Sharp, Human Resources**, on csharp@bwsmat.org. Please also contact her if you wish to have a conversation with the Headteacher, Simon Hardwick before applying.
- iii. Complete the application form as fully as possible. If there is insufficient room on any section of the form, please provide the additional information on a separate sheet. Please note that your application form will be photocopied for the Selection Panel, therefore clarity is essential. *It is important that you do not leave any gaps in your career history – any gaps in employment should be fully explained please.*
- iv. In section 8 Letter of Application, please tell us
 - Why you are applying for this post
 - How your experience, skills, training and/or qualifications equip you for the role.
 - Include details of an initiative you have recently led, explaining the contribution/impact it had on your organisation.

Send your completed application form by email (if downloaded from our website) or through the post to:

Bullers Wood School for Girls and Sixth Form

Mrs Caroline Sharp
Human Resources
Bullers Wood School
St Nicolas Lane, Logs Hill, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5LJ
csharp@bwsmat.org



Appointment Process

- i. Suitable applications will be shortlisted for interview as quickly as possible.
- ii. If you are successful, you will receive either a phone call and/or email inviting you to attend for interview.
- iii. If you require any assistance in attending for interview, please let us know the nature of that assistance in good time so that we may make appropriate arrangements.

Pre-employment Checks

Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and an appointment will be subject to satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Please note that an enhanced check will reveal all criminal convictions on record, including those that might be considered “spent”.

The successful applicant will also be required to:

- Provide details of two referees who know you in a professional capacity, if at a school, one of which must be your current Headteacher. It is our usual policy to take up references BEFORE interviews where possible. Employment is conditional on these references being deemed satisfactory.
- Provide proof of all relevant qualifications.
- Provide proof of eligibility to work in the UK
- Complete a Medical Declaration and receive fitness to work.

Policy on Equal Opportunities

The School is an Equal Opportunities employer and appointments are based on the applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the position. The School is opposed to any form of discrimination against any individual or group and welcomes the fact that our School includes a diversity of individuals from many races and cultures. Behaviour which is discriminatory on the grounds of race, colour, culture, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, will not be tolerated.



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