

TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY INFORMATION BOOKLET

DECEMBER 2021



Introduction

Thank you for enquiring about our **Teacher of Geography** position. We hope after reading the information in this pack, you will be excited by the prospect of joining our team.

Vandyke is a great place to work, with high expectations and a caring ethos. "Everyone Matters" here at Vandyke. Our Annual Survey consistently shows that staff feel well supported and are supportive of one another, students enjoy coming to school and our parents/carers are hugely supportive of our school. We often find that competition for posts at Vandyke is strong and the experience colleagues gain here can be a stepping stone to further promotion.

The successful candidate will be joining a thriving school, with a growing reputation for excellent teaching and achievement, innovative and inclusive practice, and excellent leadership and management that puts students and learning at the centre.

The Role

We are looking to appoint a teacher of geography to join our outstanding team of teachers. This post would suit either an experienced or newly-qualified teacher.

Geography at Vandyke

Students in year 9 enjoy 4 hours a fortnight of geography teaching, geography is a very popular option subject at GCSE with 5 hours of teaching per fortnight. It is a highly popular choice at A-Level also (9hrs per fortnight). Our results at GCSE and A-Level are consistently excellent and above national expectations. The ethos of the team is inclusive and driven by Growth Mindset; nearly every Vandyke student will be entered for a History or Geography GCSE, so classes comprise of students with mixed prior attainment. Expectations are high for all students.

Students regularly go on to study geography based courses at university and show a real interest in current events making them a pleasure to teach.

The ethos of the team is extremely supportive and positive, with a proven track record of outstanding outcomes. Geography has consistently been a strength of the school which is reflected in all external quality assurance and exam results.

The successful candidate will need to be reflective, innovative and be willing to continually develop their practice to meet the demands of the specification but more importantly be able to alter their lessons to the needs of our students year on year. You will be joining a highly effective team who work collectively to move student progress forward each year, both within the geography team and the wider school. All geography lessons are taught in suited accommodation alongside history with shared office/team workspace. All of these rooms are equipped with projectors and whiteboards and benefit from the schools wireless network; this allows students to use their own laptops and Wi-Fi-enabled devices where this is appropriate within the curriculum. Every student and member of staff has their own e-mail account and full access to the internet and intranet. Staff have a school laptop.



Over the years the geography team have run an extensive array of fieldwork both compulsory for the specifications and as experience weekend excursions. A willingness to investigate, organise and run potential fieldtrips both at home and abroad would be a welcome attribute of a successful candidate.

Our School

Our students achieve very well, making strong progress in all year groups and achieving outstanding outcomes at GCSE and A Level from all starting points. In 2019, Progress 8 was +0.49 and value-added in the Sixth Form was also high building on strong progress at KS4. Results in 2020 and 2021 were at a similar level and allowed students to progress to their chosen next steps. For the majority of Y13 students the next step was university with students going on to a range of courses at many different universities including two students going on to Oxford. In May 2018, we had an OFSTED inspection that judged Vandyke overall to be a “good” school. The report states that “students are very proud of their academy. They behave well and display highly constructive attitudes to their learning.”

The ethos of Vandyke is based on strong, positive relationships between staff and students. The atmosphere is of a “college” whereby we seek to allow students autonomy and independence. Students respond very well to this creating a “special” atmosphere around school often commented upon by visitors. Staff go out of their way to provide great teaching and support and additional learning opportunities for students. Parents and carers are supportive of the school and feedback from parents and carers is always that the school is welcoming and friendly.

In March 2015, we had an OFSTED inspection that judged Vandyke overall to be a “good” school. The report states “students are very proud of their academy. They behave well and display highly constructive attitudes to their learning.” In May 2018 the OFSTED inspection was again “good” with the report confirming “There is a harmonious learning environment throughout the school”, “What shines through is the way that staff work together and really know each student” and “Students are pushed and challenged to make the best possible progress.”

We are pleased to hold Sportsmark and Artsmark (Platinum) awards in recognition of our commitment to Sport/PE and our outstanding programme of extra-curricular sport and performing arts activities. Over 160 students take part in the DoE award scheme each year.



Facilities at Vandyke are excellent and include a theatre, drama studio, dance studio, sports hall, sports activity area, specialist athletics jumping facility, floodlit netball centre, floodlit astro-turf pitch, music suite, café and extensive library/study facilities. Construction of a 3G pitch is due to begin shortly to add to the impressive facilities.

In September 2020 we opened a new teaching block comprising 12 new science labs, 10 new maths classrooms, Sixth Form centre including Sixth Form café and accommodation for staff. A

further new build extension of the sixth form centre is due to be completed ahead of the start of the new school year in September 2022.

The Recruitment Process

To apply, please complete the application form in full, in accordance with the accompanying guidance notes, including a letter of application addressing why you are a suitable candidate and what you can bring to the post. CV applications will not be accepted as the information provided on a CV may not be consistent with the information we require.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 19th January 2022.

Vandyke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All shortlisted candidates will be required to bring proof of identity and original qualification certificates to the interview. The successful candidate will be required to complete an application for an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS). Please refer to the separate information provided about the process and acceptable forms of identification.

All applicants are also required to confirm their eligibility to live and work in the UK. Please ensure one of the documents you produce to support your DBS application is also included on the enclosed list "Asylum and Immigration Act 1996" to satisfy this requirement.