



Beacon Academy

Ambitious for excellence in all we do

# TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY

Information for applicants  
May 2022

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# Letter from our Headteacher

## **Post of Teacher of Psychology**

Thank you for your interest in this post at Beacon Academy which offers an exceptional opportunity to teach in a large highly successful, happy, well-resourced, exceptional non-selective 11-18 school.

At Beacon Academy, our teachers are subject experts who persistently advance their knowledge. They debate its content and pedagogy to ensure that our students are taught the very best, and in doing so, they aim for our students to love their subject. Increasingly and intentionally, our teachers make links with other subjects to draw on students' prior knowledge and enable them to understand new content.

We wish to appoint a dedicated, hardworking, highly skilled and knowledgeable Teacher of Psychology. The successful candidate will be as we have described above and have high expectations, excellent subject knowledge as well as genuine ambition. They will consistently plan and deliver lessons that inspire, engage and challenge each of their students enabling them, including the most disadvantaged and those with SEND to be enthusiastic about their learning, develop a deep knowledge about the most significant ideas and make excellent progress.

## **Context**

We are a split site, semi-rural, mixed 11-18 non-selective converter academy with approximately 1520 students, including over 220 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.

In 2019 we were immensely proud and delighted to be celebrating the best ever A-Level and GCSE results in our sixty year history, and we found ourselves once again significantly above county and national averages. These results placed Beacon Academy as the top performing school in East Sussex and one of the top performing schools nationally.

### **Exam Success (last published results 2019 due to COVID)**

As confirmed by the Department for Education's national league tables, in 2019 Beacon Academy was the number one school in East Sussex for the third year running under the headline Progress 8 measure, in first place in Sussex overall and in the top 1.8% of all schools nationwide.

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 2019 our Progress 8 score was 0.97. As a non-selective, non-denominational, non-fee-paying school, we are immensely proud and delighted to have received this confirmation, once again, of our high-ranking position. We are in an esteemed group of 6% of schools nationally who are now categorised as 'well above average' for two years in a row. There are approximately 25 schools nationally who have been above us for each of the last three years (0.7% of all schools). 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. Amidst significant national changes to the structure and content of A Levels, they have achieved some excellent results and 94% of those who applied to university were accepted at their first choice institution.

Our results for 2019 show an increase in all A Level and GCSE attainment measures. Please note that due to the pandemic, we are not able to publish our 2020 results, however we would have continued and sustained our upward trajectory for both our GCSE and A Level outcomes.

### **To apply**

Once again, thank you for your interest in the post of Teacher of Psychology. 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 [vacancies@beacon-academy.org](mailto:vacancies@beacon-academy.org)

If you wish to have an opportunity to discuss this post informally, please contact Holly Taylor, HR Manager on 01892 603000, or email [h.taylor@beacon-academy.org](mailto:h.taylor@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**  
**Headteacher**



## The Psychology Department

The Psychology department is a well-established department which offers A level Psychology in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, and since 2019, also at GCSE- both courses follow the AQA Specification. The subject is a popular choice for students, with currently two classes in both Y10 and Y11, three classes in Y12 and two in Y13.

The strengths of the department lie in the expertise and commitment of the staff and also the enthusiasm of our students in studying such a fascinating subject. We produce all our own resources, which consist of a set of workbooks relating to each topic taught, with accompanying PowerPoint presentations. Each year, a high proportion of our students continue to study psychology at university. Recently, a number of our students have been successful in obtaining a place to study Experimental Psychology at Oxford and Cambridge.

We offer regular extra support sessions to all students, both during and after school hours, which allow students to have a more focussed level of contact with staff.

We aim to enrich student's experience of the subject by having visitors such as educational psychologists to talk to the classes, and also have run many trips to conferences and workshops. In recent years we have taken groups to see Philip Zimbardo speak in London, to conferences that include hypnosis sessions and to hear first-hand from an ex-convict who had spent time on death row.

Departmental Staffing Structure	Head of Department - Mrs D Morrell Assistant Headteacher – Dr K Grossman Teacher – Miss J Barnshaw
Curriculum	Key Stage 5: AQA Psychology Key Stage 4: AQA Psychology
2019 Results KS4 & KS5	KS 4 n/a KS 5 100% pass rate- A* 9%, A=24%,B=27% C=18%,D=18%,E=3%
Facilities	Dedicated classroom at Green Lane, 6 <sup>th</sup> form centre
Resources	ICT equipment; sets of textbooks, projector
Key areas for development	Ongoing development of resources to support choices of Option topics within specifications. Development of independent learning skills in students.





# Job Description

JOB TITLE:	TEACHER
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 Subject / Department.
ACCOUNTABLE FOR:	The effective implementation of individual lessons / schemes of work and student standards and achievement.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES	KEY TASKS
<b>THE LEADERSHIP OF LEARNING</b> To contribute to the development of the department schemes of work and implement through classroom teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare and deliver exciting and challenging lessons to students of all ages and abilities in accordance with schemes of work.</li> <li>To adopt a variety of strategies to engage all students (including ICT and use of the Creative Learning Centre) and be responsive to advice.</li> <li>To promote good student behaviour</li> <li>To mark, evaluate and give regular appropriate feedback on students work</li> <li>To assess students' progress and report to parents periodically in accordance with the Academy guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>THE LEADERSHIP OF PEOPLE</b> To communicate effectively with members of staff in the department, to develop a collegiate working environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to department meetings with creativity and energy</li> <li>To keep close contact with parents, tutors and Head of Department to ensure progress of students is best supported</li> <li>To contribute to House meetings and Year team meetings</li> </ul>
<b>THE LEADERSHIP OF RESOURCES AND POLICY</b> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to the development of curriculum materials</li> <li>To work effectively to carry out tasks as directed by the Head of Department with support and guidance from other team members.</li> </ul>

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.



# Person Specification

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate &amp; Qualified teacher</li> <li>Strong academic background</li> </ul>	<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of commitment to professional development</li> </ul>
<p>Experience</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>Experience</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 3, 4 and 5</li> <li>Experience of utilising both Apple and Microsoft programmes to develop engaging lessons</li> </ul>
<p>Philosophy Commitment to:</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>Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An understanding of Academy status</li> <li>Consistently good teaching with examples of developing outstanding practise.</li> <li>An understanding of Psychology as part of the whole curriculum</li> </ul>
<p>Skills You will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be an effective Teacher</li> <li>Be an effective Communicator</li> <li>Have strong ICT skills (with a commitment to develop further through the utilisation of the 'Creative Learning Centre')</li> </ul>	
<p>Personal Qualities</p> <p>We will look for evidence of personal qualities such as vision, a team player, initiative, solution focused, energy, self-motivation, resilience and a sense of humour!</p>	







## 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**



**Beacon Academy**  
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# 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 2021.

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 603078  
Email: [vacancies@beacon-academy.org](mailto:vacancies@beacon-academy.org)

