



# Teacher of Psychology

Required from September 2021

## Alcester Grammar School

# Welcome from the Principal

I am very proud to be the principal of this wonderful school. We are one of the country's highest performing state schools, and we pride ourselves on being an uplifting place to work and study and a community where everybody is happy and valued.

Teachers who work here have been heard to say it is the best job they have ever had and many choose to remain with us for a long time. If you do join us you will be part of a like minded community who enjoy their teaching, make a huge contribution to extracurricular activities, and obtain a great deal of job satisfaction.



I can safely say that teaching here is a huge amount of fun. There is virtually no poor behaviour or disruption in lessons and the children exhibit a voracious appetite for learning. One of the many joys of working here is that you can focus on your teaching and on bringing your subject to life. You do not need to have had any experience of the selective sector, either as a student yourself or as a teacher. Indeed some of our teachers have joined us having developed their skills in the non-selective sector, and what they find to be different here is simply the overwhelmingly positive attitudes to learning and appetite for hard work amongst the students. This truly is a place where you can do the job you trained to do, with every opportunity to try out new teaching techniques and ideas in lessons.

The senior leadership team are supportive, broad minded and keen to see all staff and students succeed. Our vision is that the school should always be a place for professionals who would like to refine their teaching skills and implement innovative and creative ideas. Central to our philosophy are the key concepts of professionalism, autonomy and consultation, all within a sensible and reasonable framework of accountability. We operate light-touch monitoring, with few graded lesson observations, and you will enjoy the freedom to focus on education rather than jumping through hoops to meet the supposed demands of OFSTED.

We are located in a highly convenient location in South Warwickshire, just over half an hour's drive from Birmingham and easily commutable from Worcester, Stratford, Coventry, Warwick or Cheltenham. It is a beautiful part of the country with superb amenities and eminently affordable housing, including plenty of good quality new build developments nearby. Anybody joining us is likely to see not just a significant increase in the quality of their professional life, but a commensurate increase in the quality of life outside of school.

We always want to appoint the best candidates we can, and so we would welcome applications from both newly qualified teachers and more experienced teachers. Prospective candidates are most welcome to visit the school and I am confident that if you do so you will very much want to come and work for us!

I look forward to receiving your application and meeting you soon.





## Pay and Conditions

This is a full time, permanent position.

Responsible to: The Head of Psychology

Salary: MPS/UPS

## Leadership Structure

The structure of the current Senior Leadership Team is as follows:

Clive Sentence	- Principal
Frances Coyles	- Finance and Operations Director
Jeremy Slater	- Vice Principal (Curriculum)
Ian Young	- Vice Principal (Head of Sixth Form)
Helena Tingle	- Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)
Joanna Turner	- Assistant Principal (11-16 school, Safety and Wellbeing)

## The PRE Department Team

Head of Department: Lisa Draper

Teaching staff: Beth Littleford (also Head of Year 10)

Stephanie Waldron



# The Psychology Department

We are looking for someone with a passion for teaching and excellent subject knowledge to join our hardworking team. We welcome innovative thinking and seek somebody to share our vision of teaching our relevant and practical subject.

## The AGS Psychology Department will:

- Enthuse students in the subject
- Empower students by developing their independent study skills
- Equip our leavers with a diverse range of skills suitable for higher education or employment

The department has resources for the whole of the new course although we are constantly striving to always improve and think of better ways of teaching the content. There is a strong emphasis on teamwork. The successful applicant will be very well supported throughout their time here. This is an excellent opportunity to work in an outstanding academic environment with experienced colleagues and keen, well-motivated students.

## The curriculum

The department follows the Edexcel specification. The topics covered include all approaches, and in Year 13 Clinical Psychology, Criminal Psychology and Child Psychology. Within each of these, students also learn about methodology and carry out their own practicals.

We provide an interactive forum for discussion and utilise a variety of teaching methods to provide a vibrant learning environment. Each group is typically taught by two or three members of the department so that the students receive a varied input into their education on a weekly basis. We feel very strongly about the value of homework and giving students as much feedback as we can to help ensure they are as fully prepared for the exams as they can be.





# The Psychology Department

## The curriculum

The successful candidate will benefit from a cohesive and supportive network of experienced specialists. Nevertheless, they will need independence and resilience to manage change.

Psychology is an extremely popular subject here and we currently have 102 students in Year 12 and 89 in Year 13. We have a strong record of success with a significant number of our students going on to study our subject at university.

We are a close-knit team who are experienced in supporting each other through collaborative teaching and planning. We are also examiners for Edexcel which informs best practice and benchmarking in our assessment. This additional element greatly enhances our ability to deliver in the A Level classroom.

## Extra-curricular

Here are some of the extra-curricular opportunities we offer to students at the moment. We fully welcome new ideas and initiatives:

- 'Behind Bars' conference
- External speakers
- International visits - We have recently been to Krakow, Warsaw, Vienna and are currently planning a trip to Poland in December

For further information, please contact [j.dyos@alcestergs.com](mailto:j.dyos@alcestergs.com)



## Person Specification

Criteria	Essential requirements
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QTS and a good honours degree in the subject</li></ul>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A track record of producing outstanding results in A level Psychology</li></ul>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be familiar with the requirements of, and preferably have experience of, teaching Psychology, although not necessarily with Edexcel</li></ul>
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A commitment to students as individuals</li><li>• A sensitive attitude to students of all abilities and the ability to differentiate teaching to meet the needs of the most able and those with Special Educational needs</li><li>• An ability to create a stimulating and challenging learning environment for students</li><li>• A recognition of the importance of partnership with parents</li><li>• A supportive and co-operative approach to colleagues</li></ul>



## Person Specification

Criteria	Essential requirements
Personal Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hard working and adaptable</li><li>• Happy to work independently or in collaboration</li><li>• Able to carry initiatives through to their conclusion</li><li>• Friendly and approachable</li><li>• Well organised and able to meet deadlines</li><li>• A willingness to continue learning and developing as a teacher</li><li>• A reflective approach to their own practice and to the overall performance of the department</li><li>• Demonstrate a passion for our subject and an ability to enthuse students of all ages</li><li>• A commitment to safeguarding children's well being</li></ul>





## Application Procedure

Please complete the school application form available on the vacancies section of our website and provide a supporting statement (on no more than two sides of A4). The supporting statement should address your particular strengths and how your experience to date has prepared you for this particular role.

Applications may be submitted via email to [j.dyos@alcestergs.com](mailto:j.dyos@alcestergs.com)

**Please note that applications will only be accepted on the Alcester Grammar School application form. CVs and online applications will not be accepted or included in the shortlisting process.**

**The closing date is 9am on Wednesday 21st April 2021.  
Interviews will take place on Monday 26th April 2021.**

Alcester Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be carried out prior to the commencement of any offer of employment.







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