



March 2021

Dear colleague,

Many thanks for your interest in the position of Teacher of Psychology. I hope that this brief letter will give you a better understanding of our school and the context in which we work and, if you like what you read, we would welcome an application from you.

Twynham School and Sixth Form is, quite simply, a very special place. We are a school which believes in the unlimited potential of every child, a school where people are valued above all and ultimately a place where everyone can succeed. We have consistently been in the top 25% of schools and colleges nationally for our students' GCSE and A-Level results and Ofsted (April 2013) rated the school as "outstanding in all areas".

Our success is built on two vital pillars; high quality teaching and learning and, most importantly, the value we place on the very special relationships within our community. Our motto, "Ut Prosim" (*that I may serve*) is lived-out in everything we do and is at the heart of our school. We encourage our students to act as student leaders, to work in the service of others and our student mentoring, eco-council and charity work are integral aspects of the school. Significantly though, it is in our staff that our motto is most truly embodied, a belief that, in our service to our children and our community, we have the power to transform life chances.

This is a very rare opportunity to join our successful department following consistently increased application numbers at Post 16. Our Sixth Form is already highly regarded, being the largest school-based Sixth Form in BCP. However the next 5 years will see numbers increase further as we develop a world-class Post 16 vocational provision which will be co-located across Twynham and The Grange Schools.

Psychology is a crucial and popular subject within the broad Post 16 offer. Numbers are exceptionally high – approximately 100 opting to pursue the subject each year – and outcomes are strong at ALPS 3. The department is ably led by our Head of Psychology and this appointment would see the team expand to 3. An ability to teach a further subject within any of the key stages is desirable but our priority is to appoint a really fantastic Psychology teacher.

We are an ambitious school and have a relentless approach to improving outcomes for all of our students. We believe that students should become experts in each of their subjects and our curricula are designed to ensure that students understand the key underlying concepts in each subject discipline, preferring to slow learning down in order to deepen understanding rather than push students through schemes of work at undue pace.

The other dimension which runs through Twynham School is the way in which we value people and the nature of the relationships across the school. We believe that our young people are precisely that – people. They are not statistics for league tables and everyone works hard to support and encourage each individual to be the very best that they can be and to give opportunities that they may not have known existed. Our staff are expected to contribute to this by providing a range of extra-curricular opportunities. Excellence runs throughout Twynham School and it is important to understand that this applies as much to the arts as it does to other subjects.



We are a member of Twynham Learning, a high-performing and forward-thinking multi-academy trust committed to sharing approaches to pedagogy and collaborative working. Being part of a trust enables us to offer opportunities to work alongside colleagues from all phases of education to broaden an understanding of student learning as well as the chance to work in different contexts. The trust has recently embarked on a “Transforming Learning Communities” review and the successful candidate should be share a vision for “excellence” in all that we do.

This collaborative approach is formalised in our relationship with The Grange School. In January 2021 the schools built on the close working relationship forged in response to the Covid-19 pandemic by federating the senior leadership of the schools. Heads of department work in tandem and curricula are aligned. The vision to provide an equality of opportunity to all young people in Christchurch has seen colleagues begin to work across both schools and allows for a range of further opportunities for staff. Interested applicants should align completely with this vision and be attracted to the opportunity to join a progressive organisation that is committed to transforming life chances across the town.

Within Twynham Learning sits Two Rivers Institute (formerly Twynham Teaching School) which provides high quality CPD and leadership development training for all colleagues across the trust. We seek to continuously improve and, as such, we are not seeking the “finished article” but a colleague who aspires to be the very best they can be in order to provide an exceptional education for our students.

I would encourage you to explore our websites in order to get a better understanding of Twynham School and am delighted that we can offer informal visits to the school following our Covid-19 safety measures should you wish. This is a rare opportunity and the successful candidate will have the chance to work at an incredible school in the heart of one of the most beautiful places in the country with both the beach and the New Forest on the doorstep.

With best wishes

Jy Taylor  
Headteacher