

TEACHER OF SCIENCE

INFORMATION BOOKLET

FEBRUARY 2021



Introduction

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

Vandyke is a school with high expectations and a caring ethos and our Annual Survey consistently shows that staff feel well supported, are supportive of one another and that students enjoy coming to school. We believe that “Everyone Matters”. It has a ‘special atmosphere’ - one that visitors to the school often comment upon. This ‘special atmosphere’ is based on our emphasis on high quality relationships: staff-to-staff, student-to-student and staff-to-student.

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 full time teacher of Science to join our outstanding team of 11 teachers. This post would suit either an experienced or newly-qualified teacher.

Science at Vandyke

All students in year 9 have 6 hours of Science teaching per fortnight, which increases to 10 hours in years 10 and 11. At A level, we offer Biology, Chemistry, Physics as well as BTEC Human Biology, all taught by subject specialists, and recruit very well.

The ethos of the team is extremely positive, with a proven track record of excellent outcomes. We are aspirational, dedicated and innovative in our shared practice. We continually strive to achieve at the highest level. To this end, planning together and sharing resources is very important to us and contributes to our success.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, show initiative and be willing to learn any new skills required to support the ever-changing needs of a modern, rigorous and challenging Science curriculum. You will be joining a highly successful team that provides a great deal of support, including training and career development opportunities.

We have brand new generously sized science laboratories, all equipped with projectors and white boards. The whole school is covered by a wireless network, which enables all teachers to use their school-provided laptops in any classroom and allows students to use their own laptops and wifi-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.

Our School

Our students achieve outstanding outcomes, making very strong progress in all year groups and achieving excellent examination results at GCSE and A Level. GCSE results in 2019 were once again outstanding with 73% of students achieving grades 9-4 in English and maths and 52% achieving grades 9-5 in English and maths. Progress 8 for the School in 2019 was also very strong at +0.50 representing outstanding progress from all starting points. A Level outcomes were also impressive with a 99.5% pass-rate and ALPs score for A2 was again ‘2’ indicating that year after year our sixth form students make excellent progress.



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.”

“Students spoke very positively about the additional support provided to ensure that they exceed national expectations. The curriculum in the sixth form includes a very strong focus on guidance for further education and careers. Students spoke very highly about the quality of guidance and the ways in which staff support and nurture individual aspirations. As a result, the number of students continuing to either higher education or work is above average.” (OFSTED, May 2018).

Our commitment to high standards and to regularly reviewing, evaluating and improving our practices is recognised in the many awards we hold. We are proud to hold the Youth Sport Trust gold quality mark 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 150 students from all year groups participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We are a member of PiXL (Partners in Excellence), which provides professional development opportunities for staff.



Facilities at Vandyke are excellent and include a theatre, drama studio, dance studio, sports hall, sports activity area, music suite, café, and library/study facilities. Our two food technology rooms have recently been completely refurbished to provide updated facilities.

As a successful and popular school, Vandyke was requested by Central Beds local authority to expand to accommodate additional students: this expansion has provided 10 new classrooms and additional PE changing rooms to increase

capacity to 1200 students. With increased housing growth nearby, a further exciting programme to provide a new Sixth Form centre, 12 new science labs, additional classrooms and expanded café and social space is now complete and will bring the number on roll over the next few years to 1450.

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 Monday 15th March.

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.