March 2024

Dear applicant.

**Teaching assistant**

Thank you for taking an interest in this post. No doubt all schools describe their job opportunities as exciting but this post gives you the chance to join a happy, friendly and successful school in a critical role that offers both job satisfaction and also opportunities for professional development.

I joined the school in September 2011 and can confirm that it is a wonderful place to work. The location, the facilities, the students, but above all the enthusiasm, professionalism and “team spirit” of the staff really are something special. This is not a school in which there is a divide between teachers and support staff. Here we all work together as a team to educate young people.

This is an unusual school; it was created by merging a special school with the local comprehensive school and we combine provision for students with moderate to severe special educational needs with the normal provision of a mainstream secondary school. Our large teaching assistant team is essential to making our school work. Without our highly skilled teaching assistants the school simply would not operate.

Teaching assistants take on varied roles here, some will work across all of these roles and some may specialise in one or two areas. As a teaching assistant you could be supporting students with difficult GCSE work, supporting a student to improve their behaviour, or supporting personal care for students with complex physical needs. We understand that different people will work better in some of these areas than others, and we try to timetable our teaching assistants to play to people’s strengths.

We are very happy to receive applications from people who would like to make a career of being a teaching assistant, or from recent graduates considering a career in teaching who might like to do the job for a year before training to teach. Being a teaching assistant provides superb experience to support an application for teacher training. Several of our recent teaching assistants are now teaching.

We do not ask for formal teaching assistant qualifications, we believe finding the right person is more important. There are lots of opportunities for training and development once appointed.

I hope that the information in this pack, and on our website leaves you keen to apply; if so we would be delighted to hear from you. Your application should consist of the completed application form, and a statement/letter of no more than two sides of A4.

If you do apply, the “Notes on Applying” which are enclosed should help you.Good luck and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

**Simon Grieves,**

**Headteacher**