

Briefing Pack for Applicants Teaching Assistant Level 2



STOCKSBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

— This is Just the Start —

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The school will undertake stringent and rigorous checks of identity and qualifications to ensure that we maintain the very highest standards of child protection for our students.



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May we take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your application. If, however, you have not heard from us by the proposed date for the interview you should assume that on this occasion your application has not been successful. In that event we wish you every success in any future applications you make.

Section 1: Post Advertisement

Post:	Teaching Assistant Level 2 (x2 posts)
Location:	Stocksbridge High School
Pay scale:	Grade 3, Point 5: £23,500 to Point 6: £23,893 gross per annum pro rata
Actual	
Annual Salary:	£17,754.80 to £18,051.72 (Under 5 Years of Service)
Contract:	Permanent, 32.5 hours per week, 39 working weeks
Start date:	As soon as possible

Minerva Learning Trust is an expanding Sheffield based multi-academy Trust with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. The Trust is passionate that all students should see their time at school as happy and fulfilling with their potential developed to the utmost. Stocksbridge High School is an ambitious and inclusive 11 to 16 comprehensive school firmly rooted in our local community. We are open, friendly and welcoming with great students and a dedicated staff. Stocksbridge High School is part of Minerva Learning Trust and together we have a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools.

We are seeking to appoint two Level 2 Teaching Assistant. The successful candidates will be responsible for the supervising and providing particular support for students, including those with special needs, ensuring their safety and access to learning activities. We are looking for someone who can work as part of a team to ensure the highest delivery of service.

If you have any questions and/or would like to discuss this role before submitting your application, please contact Hannah Taylor to arrange: htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk

The closing date is 9am on Wednesday 25 September 2024 and interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment, further information can be found in our child protection and safeguarding policy on our statutory information page on our website Statutory Information - Minerva Learning Trust. The successful candidate will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. In line with KCSIE, the trust/school will be carrying out online searches on shortlisted candidates as part of their due diligence.

The application form and information pack is available on the Trust's and School's website.

Please ensure that you do not fill in a Sheffield City Council application form in respect of this vacancy, only Minerva Learning Trust application forms will be accepted.

Section 2: Letter from the Chief Executive – Bev Matthews

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this role within Minerva Learning Trust. Minerva Learning Trust was established in October 2014 with the vision of providing outstanding education for pupils who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield. During 2017-18 the Trust expanded and brought together four secondary schools across Sheffield to create a new partnership of schools which supports the education of over 5000 pupils. In September 2020, Chapelton Academy joined the Trust and enhanced the post-16 provision within the Trust in the north of the city and in September 2021, we were delighted that Woodthorpe Community Primary School became the first primary school to join the Trust. We resolutely believe that we are stronger together and that each school within the MAT has individual strengths and we celebrate the diverse and unique qualities of each particular school.

As a Trust our mission, vision and values are central to our work and are the driving force behind all that we do. Our vision of Outstanding Together, Working Together and Learning Together is underpinned by our core values of Inclusion, Independence, Respect and Success. Through our values we foster an ethos of collegiality, we ensure inclusion is at the heart of all we do and we work hard to ensure that every child succeeds, no matter what their background or circumstance.

We recognise that the commitment and care shown by all our staff is fundamental to the success of our young people. As such, we work hard to ensure that staff are supported, encouraged, developed, respected and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment. Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

The professional development of staff, including opportunities for research, is a key priority of Minerva Learning Trust. As such, we seek to enrich employee capability and maximise the strength and contribution of each individual who works with us. The Trust believes in investing in the learning and development of its employees through a range of opportunities which are aligned to the needs of the organisation and its young people.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Trust. If you choose to apply you will be choosing to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals who passionately believe in the power of education to change the life chances of young people.

If you believe you have the experience, skills and ambition to support our aims and contribute to the delivery of the very best for our pupils then we look forward to receiving your application.



Bev Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

Section 3: Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Candidate,

I am delighted that you are considering making an application for this position at Stocksbridge High School. We are an ambitious and inclusive 11 to 16 comprehensive school firmly rooted in our local community. You will find us to be open, friendly and welcoming with great students and a dedicated staff.

Every one of the young people we serve is entitled to thrive at school so that they may leave skilled, qualified and confident to make a success of their next steps in life. This is achieved through high quality leadership, teaching and support from our staff so that all students learn and progress well. Working at Stocksbridge High School means that you will always hold young people in high regard and have nothing but the highest of expectations for their learning, conduct and aspiration. This is reflected in our core vision of Believe, Achieve, Succeed' and felt by our values of:

- Be Positive
- Be Kind
- Be Confident
- Be Reflective

We are here to make a difference to the young people and families of Stocksbridge and we aim to be recognised as outstanding in this endeavour. It is an exciting time to join our school and if you share that ambition and determination, I look forward to receiving your application.



Ben Gilder
Headteacher

Section 4: About Stocksbridge High School

...THIS IS JUST THE START...



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission:

All pupils have the opportunity to grow academically, socially, morally and spiritually to ensure that when they leave our care every door to a potential future remains firmly open.

Our Vision:

Our vision is based upon our core principles of 'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'

Believe

We generate **belief** in students through personal development, raising aspirations and self-respect, and encouraging all students to pursue their dreams.

Achieve

We have a relentless and unapologetic focus on the outcomes of students to ensure that they **achieve** their dreams.

Succeed

We recognise and celebrate **success** for students on a daily basis with a positive learning culture.

Our Values:

Be Positive

We smile, we accept compliments, we are polite, and we are respectful

Be Kind

We are caring, we show empathy, we have good manners, and we are considerate

Be Confident

We develop our self-esteem, we show resilience, we are ambitious, and we set high standards for ourselves

Be Reflective

We learn from our mistakes, we identify our targets, we always look to improve, and we celebrate our successes

Our Beliefs:

We drive our Mission through the school by believing in the pupils, staff and community to work together. To do this we:

- Develop **belief** from the community by engaging key stakeholders in every aspect of school life and working together to create a world-class learning environment for their children.
- **Believe** in the staff we have to develop professionally and encourage a culture of succession and personal aspiration.
- **Believe** in a solutions-focussed continuous improvement cycle to drive change and raise standards.

Our Mission, Vision and Values

Leaders at SHS	All Staff at SHS	Parents at SHS	Pupils at SHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead with a positive approach • Are solutions focussed • Are highly visible • Are highly active and act quickly to resolve issues • Model expectations and never ignore problems • Are reflective, support and develop colleagues within our teams • Have high expectations of all stakeholders • Are accountable and confident to hold others to account • Are kind and mindful of well-being, physical and mental health • Communicate with clarity in a timely manner • Put the school's vision and values front and foremost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have high expectations for all stakeholders and build confidence • Are reflective and continually strive for improvement • Look after their own well-being and that of others • Put relationships at the heart of everything they do through kindness • Have a relentless focus on outcomes • Uphold standards positively and support the school's drive towards excellence • Use policies and guidance to provide clarity of purpose • Recognise achievements of all stakeholders and celebrate through a culture of success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be part of the decision-making process by involving themselves as part of the school community • Support school decisions by reflecting on the rationale and encourage their children to • Understand that pupil success is at the heart of the school's values • Engage with the school and respond positively • Be kind to staff that are working hard to do the best for their children • Be confident to approach the school about how we can work more closely together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have high expectations of themselves and their peers • Be positive in all that they do • Be kind, compassionate and caring to others • Be confident to make choices even when they might be difficult • Be reflective and consider the impact of our actions on others • Understand that staff are here to help them to be the best version of themselves • Be part of the decision-making process by fully engaging in leadership opportunities • Adhere to the school's policies

Our Mission, Vision and Values

Believe:

- Generate **belief** in students through personal development, raising aspirations and self-respect, and encouraging all students to pursue their dreams.
- Develop **belief** from the community by engaging key stakeholders in every aspect of school life and working together to create a world-class learning environment for their children.
- **Believe** in the staff we have to develop professionally through a comprehensive CPD package that takes into account career stage and encourages a culture of succession and personal aspiration.
- **Believe** in a solutions-focused continuous improvement cycle to drive change and raise standards.

Achieve:

- Have a relentless and unapologetic focus on the outcomes of students to ensure that they **achieve** their dreams.
- Improve the life chances of the community by creating a generation of **high achieving** young people that can drive industry and entrepreneurship, both locally and further afield.
- Celebrate staff **achievements** and recognise their contributions through a morally driven and determined staff body.
- Be recognised nationally for our **achievements** in outcomes and our wider enrichment offer.

Succeed:

- Recognise and celebrate **success** for students on a daily basis with a positive learning culture.
- Be an oversubscribed, **successful** school that is the choice of parents both locally and further afield.
- Have **successful** teachers that are driven to improve their own practice and develop their careers.
- Make our vision a reality, then we will have **succeeded**.

ABOUT US

Stocksbridge High School joined the Trust in December 2017. Our aim is to create and sustain educational excellence for all young people, whilst still developing the whole person, building in them the skills they need to be confident, happy and successful.

Based in a superb new building we are proud to offer a stimulating environment for learning. As a growing school we have a unique opportunity to get to know every child individually, enabling us to develop and support them throughout their time at our school. We are driven as a school to constantly challenge ourselves and to accept the challenge of our parents to improve all that we do.

We want all students to make progress from their individual starting points and achieve outcomes that enable them to move on to the next phase of their education at the highest possible entry point.

To ensure this happens we:

- Are relentlessly positive with all students every day, believing they can and will succeed.
- Work tirelessly to remove barriers to learning for all students so that all students can be successful.
- Deliver high quality (quality first) teaching and learning experiences all day every day.
- Provide opportunities for all students to develop the skills required to be successful beyond their formal education.
- Ensure that students are safe at school.
- Work with students, parents, carers and the community to support our values of respect and tolerance.
- Celebrate the achievements of all students, recognising that achievements are personal to every child.
- Create an environment in which all staff and students' value and enjoy learning.
- Care for and support each other.

Our school is a popular, thriving 11-16 comprehensive. Our greatest asset lies in our people – a wonderful team of enthusiastic students, committed staff and supportive parents and governors. We value the contributions that each person brings. We are passionate about making school life enjoyable and challenging, providing varied opportunities for learning and securing the highest possible levels of achievement for each and every student. We believe our students deserve every opportunity to flourish, not solely in academic pursuits, but emotionally, socially, spiritually and culturally. We seek to ensure that every student develops vital transferable skills for life and work that will allow them to become active, informed and responsible citizens of the 21st century.

We look forward to your application and thank you for your interest in our school.

Further information about the school including access to the full Ofsted Report can be found on our website: [Stocksbridge High School](#)

Section 5: Job Description



Minerva Learning Trust Job Description



STOCKSBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL
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Minerva Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

POST TITLE	Teaching Assistant Level 2
GRADE/SALARY	Grade 3, Point 5: £23,500 to Point 6: £23,893
CONTRACT	Permanent, Full-time
HOURS/WEEKS	32.5 hours per week, 39 working weeks
LOCATION	Stocksbridge High School
RESPONSIBLE TO	SENDCO
RESPONSIBLE FOR	Not applicable
PURPOSE OF THE JOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer extra support to teachers, supporting children with complex learning needs such as Autism, ADHD, Speech and Language Difficulties and Physical Disabilities. To work under the instruction/guidance of teaching/senior staff to undertake work/care/support programmes, to enable access to learning for pupils. Work may be carried out in the classroom or outside the main teaching area
RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good standard of literacy and Numeracy to GCSE/Level 2. NVQ 2 for teaching assistants or equivalent qualifications or experience Training in the relevant learning strategies e.g. Literacy First Aid trained (training will be provided).

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The post-holder, must at all times, carry out his/her duties and responsibilities within the spirit of Minerva Learning Trust and School policies and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

MAIN DUTIES

Support for Pupils

- Supervise and provide particular support for pupils, including those with special needs, ensuring their safety and access to learning activities
- Assist with the development and Individual Support Plans and Care Plans.
- Establish constructive relationships with pupils and interact with them according to individual needs
- Promote the inclusion and acceptance of all pupils
- Encourage pupils to interact with others and engage in activities led by the teacher
- Set challenging and demanding expectations and promote self-esteem and independence
- Provide feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievement under guidance of the teacher

Support for the Teacher

- Create and maintain a purposeful, orderly and supportive environment, in accordance with lesson plans.
- Use strategies, in liaison with the teacher, to support pupils to achieve learning goals
- Assist with the planning of learning activities
- Monitor pupils' responses to learning activities and accurately record achievement/progress as directed
- Provide detailed and regular feedback to teachers on pupils achievement, progress, problems etc.
- Promote good pupil behaviour, dealing promptly with conflict and incidents in line with established policy and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Establish constructive relationships with parents/carers
- Administer routine tests and undertake assessments under the direction of the MALP.

Support for the Curriculum

- Undertake structured and agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, adjusting activities according to pupil responses
- Undertake programmes linked to local and national learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, KS3, early years recording achievement and progress and feeding back to the teacher
- Support the use of ICT in learning activities and develop pupils' competence and independence in its use
- Prepare, maintain and use equipment/resources required to meet the lesson plans/relevant learning activity and assist pupils in their use

Support for the School

- Be aware of and support difference and ensure all pupils have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop
- Contribute to the overall ethos/work/aims of the school
- Appreciate and support the role of other professionals
- Attend and participate in relevant meetings as required
- Participate in training and other learning activities and performance development as required
- Assist with the supervision of pupils out of lesson times, including before and after school and at lunchtime
- Accompany teaching staff and pupils on visits, trips and out of school activities as required and take responsibility for a group under the supervision of the teacher
- Any other related duties as may arise.

General:

1. To be aware of, and comply with, Trust and school policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
2. The above duties are not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body.
3. This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Headteacher and Local Governing Body as required. Trade Union representatives will be welcome in any such discussions.

Section 6: Person Specification



Minerva Learning Trust Person Specification



Teaching Assistant – Level 2

Minimum Essential Requirements	Method of Assessment
EXPERIENCE	
Experience of working in a mainstream school.	AF/I
Experience of working as a Learning Support Assistant or equivalent.	AF/I
Experiences of working with students with special/additional education needs.	AF/I
Understanding of special educational needs and associated social, emotional and behavioural impact.	AF/I
Ability to provide clear expression both verbally and in writing.	AF/I
Working in an environment where literacy and numeracy skills have been demonstrated.	AF/I
Ability to demonstrate sensitivity to the pupils needs.	AF/I
QUALIFICATIONS	
NVQ Level 2 qualification e.g. GCSEs Grades 4-9, or evidence of the equivalent level of knowledge gained through work experience.	AF/I
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS	
Understanding of pupils' needs in order to support them effectively by personalised and differentiated learning.	AF/I
Knowledge of issues and needs that affect behaviour and strategies to support.	AF/I
Knowledge of the range of ways that pupils learn and how to motivate them.	AF/I
Full understanding of the range of multi-agency support required and available to pupils.	AF/I
Full working knowledge of relevant safeguarding, equality and health and safety policies, codes of practice and legislation	AF/I
SKILLS/APTITUDES	
Ability to relate well to children and adults and to build positive relationships.	AF/I
Ability to use a range of strategies to support positive behaviour and self-regulation.	AF/I
Ability to work constructively as part of a team, understanding school roles and responsibilities and your own position within these.	AF/I

Ability to deliver pre-planned programmes of work to children using personalised strategies to support reluctant learners to engage and achieve learning goals/objectives.	AF/I
Ability to respond calmly and use initiative, responding effectively to unexpected or unplanned situations or reactions throughout the school day.	AF/I
Ability to use correct English in spoken and written communication.	AF/I
Ability in the use of IT.	AF/I
Efficiency with the administration and maintenance of pupil records.	AF/I
Flexible and able to adapt to change. Ability to support colleagues as and when required.	AF/I
A pleasant disposition and ability to stay calm under pressure.	AF/I
Demonstrate a positive team approach to work.	AF/I
To have a willingness to participate in the whole school approach to mentoring students and play an active role as directed by line manager.	AF/I
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFEGUARDING	
An understanding of safeguarding issues and promoting the welfare of children and young people.	AF/I
A commitment to safeguarding students.	AF/I
Suitability to work with children.	AF/I
A commitment to equal opportunities.	AF/I
Ability to recognise discrimination and willingness to put Equality Policies into practice.	AF/I

Key: AA = Assessed activity
AF = Application form
I = Interview
R = Reference

Section 7: The Appointment Process

These notes are intended to guide you when making an application.

1. The Application Form
Complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. The form may be typed or handwritten but if you do write it by hand please make sure that it is legible and that you use black ink. Indicate clearly on the front page the post you are applying for. You are requested to submit a concise application.
2. Education and Training
State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.
3. Present Appointment
Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is
4. Previous Appointment
When completing this section, it is important that you offer a continuous record, or an explanation of any gaps to allow full account to be taken of your experience, for example, child raising, voluntary work.
5. Referees
Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.
6. The Supporting Statement/Letter of Application
The supporting statement or letter is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post. You should take particular care to demonstrate how you meet the person specification included as part of these details. **Please limit your supporting statement to two sides of A4 in size 11 font.**
7. Arrangements for Interview
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. Referees are contacted prior to the interview stage for teaching and some support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website prior to attending the interview.
8. The Interview
Candidates will be invited to spend a day visiting the school during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the school at work. Interviews are likely to take place in the afternoon.
9. Feedback
Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.
10. Selection for Appointment
Selection is made conditional upon the successful candidate meeting the Trust's requirements for health, physical capacity and conduct.
11. Arrangements for Applications
When you have completed your application, the completed form and covering letter should be e-mailed to htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk by the closing date.