



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST MARY • DEVON EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher: Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NPQH



May/June 2023

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Teaching Assistant at The King's School.

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-18 comprehensive school (OfSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1120 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. In challenging financial times, we have maintained a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16. This allows students to select subjects that they are passionate about and offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff. We have also continued to invest in the school site with approximately £2 million of capital projects over the last 5 years.

The experiences of our students reflect our 'Achievement for All' ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We have a highly effective Skills for Learning team that works alongside classroom teachers ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of our students progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. Students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

Academic outcomes only give a narrow view of the success of a school. Therefore, The King's School places a strong emphasis on personal, as well as academic, outcomes. We have strong pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our smart uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sports offer. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology Evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching school hubs, multi-academy trusts and teacher training organisations. As a result, there are a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools, training teachers, and undertaking nationally accredited CPD such as those offered on the NPQ programmes.

Our Skills for Learning Department is a real strength in the school. This was recognised in 2014 by the Pearson's Teaching Awards when the Skills team won the 'Team in a School' in the South West and attended the national finals. They offer support in learning to students across every key stage (Years 7-13) and have an excellent record

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of success. It is a very cohesive and supportive department where everyone works together to ensure that every child with whom they work gets the best possible academic and personal support.

The role will be to work across the curriculum to support students in classrooms, either individually or in small groups. Although the role is mainly to be involved in working with students in lessons you will also work with small groups in the Skills for Learning area and act as a key worker to designated students. This aspect of the role will include maintaining information and records about these children's individual progress and, under the direction of the SENCo and SENCo Assistant, maintaining regular contact with the parents so that they are involved in how their child is making progress. You will also be a part of the Red Coat lunchtime supervision team.

This post requires a good level of literacy, good communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team but also the ability to work under your own initiative. Very importantly, you need to have an interest in, and be able to work effectively with, young people with a genuine enthusiasm for helping our students to achieve their best.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King's School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important asset of the school is its staff and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful, but if you would like further information or you wish to visit the school in advance of an application please contact Mrs. Pocock (recruitment@thekings.devon.sch.uk). When applying for the role, it is important that you refer to the school's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** and the **DBS Disclosure Policy**, which can be found on our website (About Us – Policy Documents).

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children educated at the school, and someone who lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have very hardworking and supportive staff who enjoy being part of this community and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R J Gammon

Headteacher