



Ridgewood School Recruitment Pack

**Position:
Teaching Assistant**

Prepare for the road ahead

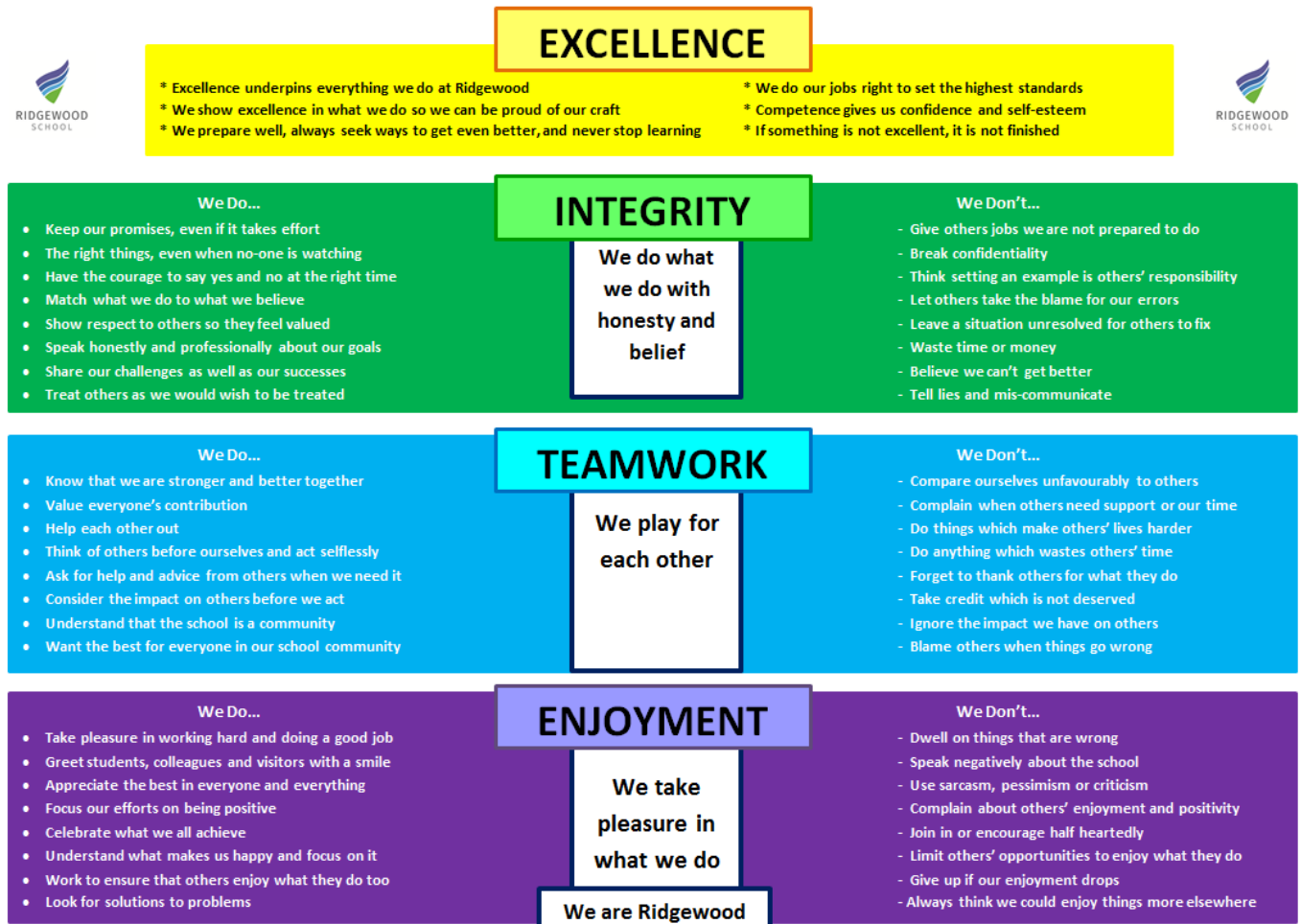
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Ridgewood School – Values and Ethos

Our Values

We educate the whole child. Ridgewood School seeks to provide all its students with the opportunities and support which enable them to achieve and exceed their potential, not only in terms of academic achievement, but as a valuable member of the school community, and of the wider society beyond.



Ethos and Aims

- To raise the aspirations of students so they desire to achieve and exceed targets set for them, both within and beyond the classroom
- To engender a sense of collaborative purpose, so students and staff work together to achieve their best
- To care for students as individuals and to respect their talents, aspirations, strengths and unique qualities
- To provide opportunities for students to be engaged, interested and challenged by what they do and learn, every day
- To continually strive for improvement in all areas, through hard work, resilience and determination

Letter from the Headteacher

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Teaching Assistant at Ridgewood School.

At Ridgewood, we seek to appoint staff who are fully committed to securing students' success, and who love what they do. It is important to us that you enjoy your time working at Ridgewood, and that you feel able to give 100% in a supportive, innovative and high-energy environment. Our team of staff and governors are dedicated to ensuring that all our students reach their full potential, and that staff also feel they can be the best they can be.

The successful applicant will join a school community of friendly, committed and enthusiastic teaching and support staff. We believe that the best results come when we all work together, and we hope that the successful applicant will soon become part of our community and feel part of our inclusive ethos.

Ridgewood School is very proud of what it offers both students and staff. The opportunities students are given to develop their talents and skills are matched by the opportunities staff receive to develop their practice, enhance their knowledge and become better teachers every day.

I hope you feel that Ridgewood is the right school for you. We believe there is a lot we can offer those who choose to come and work here. If you would like to arrange a visit to the school, please speak to Frances Hamlet who will be happy to arrange it. I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Peirson

Headteacher
Ridgewood School

About Ridgewood School

The school's values of excellence, integrity, teamwork and enjoyment permeate all aspects of school life and are central to our work at Ridgewood. We are extremely proud of our school and the high quality education we provide. We insist on high standards of conduct from all our students and we expect them to behave impeccably: treating each other, our staff and visitors with kindness and respect.

We strive for all our students to meet and exceed their potential academically, however, we also place a great deal of importance on them really enjoying school and developing skills that will enable them to be responsible members of society. Our aspirations for our students drive every action, shape every interaction and inform every decision each day. We work hard to instil a love of learning, develop resilience and build confidence so that our students continue to flourish now, and in the future.

"We want every student who leaves Ridgewood School to aspire to achieve beyond what they thought they could do when they first started with us."

Our curriculum is ambitious for all students, regardless of their starting point. We offer a wide range of courses at GCSE and A Level to meet the needs of all. Our curriculum beyond the classroom is also vast and varied, providing our students with countless opportunities to broaden their horizons and share new experiences.

We want Ridgewood to continue to thrive and be at the heart of the local community. Parents/carers have a huge role to play in this and we welcome feedback from them on what we are getting right and what we can do to improve. Keeping communication channels open is vital in our pursuit of excellence.

– Andy Peirson, Headteacher



Training and Development Opportunities

At Ridgewood, we believe that the effective training, support and development of our staff enables them to be the best they can be, and to give our students an exceptional teaching experience. Ridgewood offers its staff bespoke packages which are tailored to their career point and path, and which encourage them to become reflective, enthusiastic and expert practitioners.

Our CPD is varied and matched to the needs of our staff, both teaching and associate. Teaching staff engage in whole school training in teaching and learning, understanding our school systems and quality assuring data, as well as benefitting from our bespoke coaching programme.

At Ridgewood, we also value a variety of forms of CPD. Training, coaching, shadowing of roles, one-to-one support, and project-based development can be organised in order to support staff to develop effectively in their jobs, and to understand how to make the next step in their career.



Our Curriculum



Our academic curriculum aims to offer students of all abilities and talents an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills across a wide variety of subjects. We are committed to providing a curriculum which is challenging yet accessible, and which fosters a love of learning, as well as enabling students to achieve success in exams and assessments. Students follow a two-week timetable in order to maximise learning time. We regularly review our curriculum, to ensure that the needs of all our students are being met. More details of each subject can be found on our website.



Our Enrichment Opportunities

Because we value a rounded education, our students have access to an extremely wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and trips. We firmly believe that students get out of school what they put in to it, so we encourage our students of all ages to get actively involved in the many clubs on offer.



Trips

Experiencing 'real world' versions of what students are taught in a classroom helps embed learning and broaden students' knowledge and understanding. For example, our Engineering students get to see how engineers work on a massive scale, and visit companies such as TATA Steel to witness first-hand the theory they learn in class. Other subject-based field trips include performing arts students visiting Doncaster's CAST theatre and watching a live performances, as well as taking part in the iSing event and the band competition Stage Invasion.

Outside lessons, students get to travel both nationally and internationally. In October 2019, a group of students went to New York to experience all the city has to offer. In summer 2018, students made a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Tanzania. Closer to home, a large number of students take part in the National Citizenship Programme each year where they spend three weeks involved in adventure pursuits, social action planning and volunteering in the community.

Sixth Form students are also heavily involved in enrichment, and won the prestigious Helena Kennedy Debate Competition held at Sheffield Hallam University this year.



Clubs

Within school, there are over thirty clubs that students can join. These range from those aimed at students who enjoy sport (badminton, hockey, rugby, football, netball, basketball, table tennis and zumba) to those for our aspiring businessmen and women, including the established Young Enterprise Scheme. We also submit entries to the Connections Competition, a high profile National Theatre competition, and the South Yorkshire Road Safety competition, which we won for two years in a row. This year we are focusing on 'New Views'.

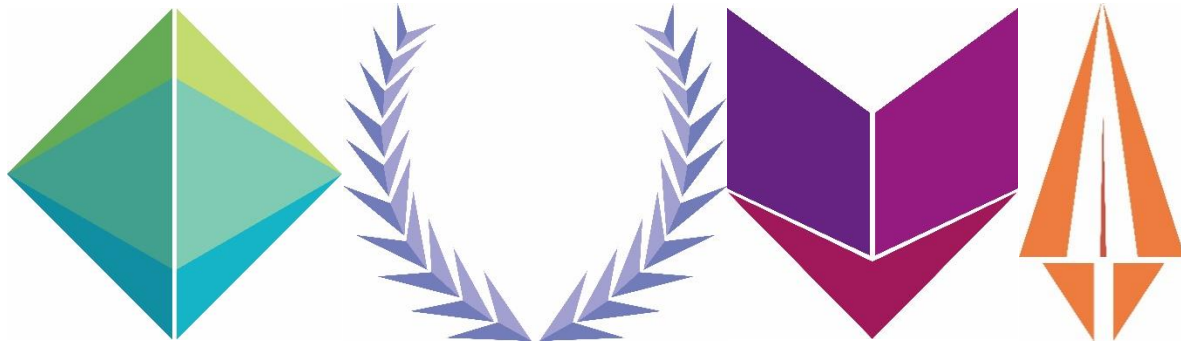
Examples of clubs on offer include:

- Elite band
- Guitar choir
- Athletics
- Book club
- Basketball
- Code club
- Table tennis
- Netball
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Zumba
- Cheerleading
- Science club
- Football
- Rugby
- Art
- French film club

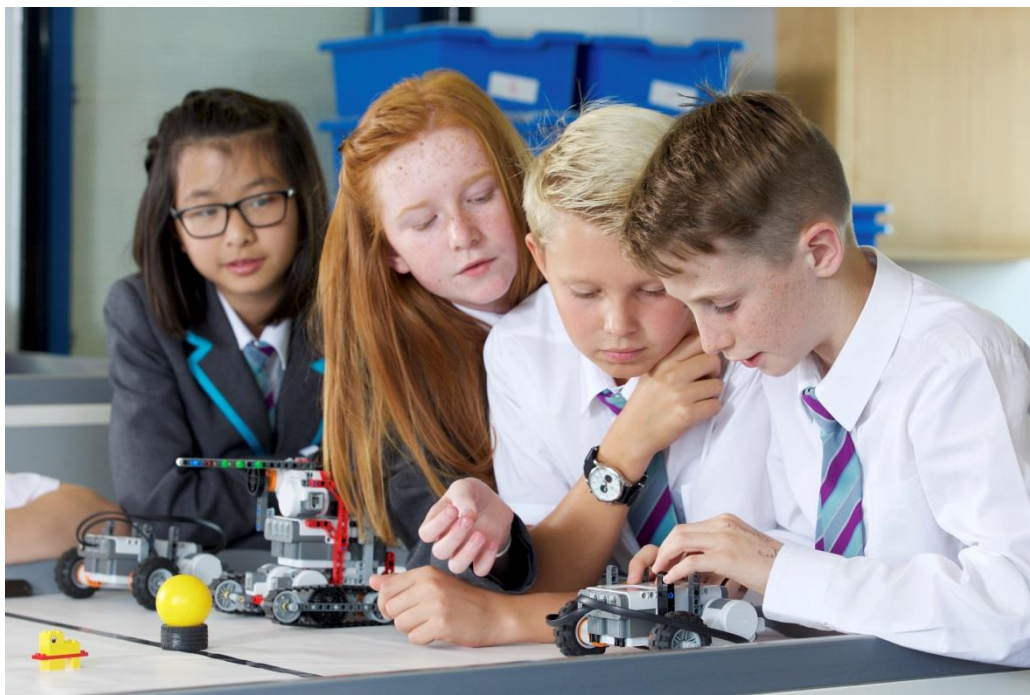
To support academic progress, there are also revision sessions which run alongside the enrichment programme.

Our House System

Our house system is all about ensuring that students become well-rounded individuals who contribute and get involved, whatever their talent or passion. It provides every student in the school with a plethora of opportunities to engage in competitions, support and mentor others, represent the school in a range of activities, and learn what it means to be part of a community. We are extremely proud of our house system.



When students arrive at Ridgewood, they are assigned to one of four houses: Imperatrix, Voltigeur, Ambidexter or Margrave. These houses reflect both our geographical location in Doncaster, and the history of the area.



Our unique student reward system ALTUS

The Latin word 'altus' means high, noble or profound. We thought this was an appropriate way to describe the students who achieve this status at Ridgewood, and so we developed the Altus reward scheme in order to recognise outstanding effort and attitude. As well as having a Latin meaning, we have also attributed the qualities of our Altus students to each letter of the word:

A is for attitude
L is for leadership
T is for teamwork
U is for understanding
S is for success

After each round of Creating Futures data has been entered and distributed to students and their parents, those students who display a 'Motivated' or 'Outstanding' attitude in all their subjects, will be rewarded with an Altus badge in a special Altus assembly.

Behaviour for Learning

Our Behaviour for Learning policy (BfL) ensures that students are able to learn and work without distractions, and that praise is at the forefront of every lesson. It has four simple rules which students must follow:

- Remain on-task at all times
- Remain silent when the teacher is talking
- Speak to other people in a pleasant way
- Do not touch another student

Those students who do not follow these rules will receive consequences which may lead to an after school detention if the rules are consistently broken. Students who follow the rules will receive praise from their teachers, and will be eligible for the Altus reward system. We strive to create an environment where teachers can teach, and students can learn.



Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students have a consistently impressive track record of securing places at their first choice universities and on prestigious higher apprenticeships.

Facilities

We have excellent facilities, many of which are uniquely available to our Sixth Form students in our Faraday Sixth Form Centre.

- A purpose built Sixth Form Centre which includes subject-specific classrooms
- Purpose built Science and STEM laboratories
- Resource centres housing key texts, journals and access to bookable equipment such as tablets and digital cameras
- Several IT suites
- A 200-seat, multi-use auditorium
- A mix of study and social spaces
- A café

As well as the facilities in the Sixth Form Centre, students have access to main school facilities.

- A gymnasium, a full sized sports hall, a fitness room, three 5-a-side football pitches, one 9-a-side football pitch, two 11-a-side football pitches, one full sized rugby pitch and recently refurbished multi-purpose courts.
- An iMac suite featuring 26 iMacs with MIDI keyboards with Sibelius, Garage Band and Logic Pro X software
- Six fully restored music practice rooms (benefitting from an electric drum kit, keyboard, guitar, bass, microphone and multi-channel amp)
- Laser cutters, 3D printers, CNC Milling machines, and a range of state of the art engineering facilities
- A kiln for clay work
- Validus, a dedicated wellbeing centre equipped to meet the needs of all our young people



Activities and Events

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

A highly prestigious, nationally recognised qualification offered to all Sixth Form students, DoFE enables students to develop a vast range of skills, both physical and mental, and they are supported by specialist, highly trained staff.

Young Enterprise

Students involved with the Young Enterprise programme at Ridgewood have won almost 40 awards in just four years. The programme provides students with the opportunity to run their own business, source finance, manufacture a product and sell it to members of the public.

Sports Leaders Award Level 3

For those studying PE at Sixth Form, there is an opportunity to take part in the Sports Leaders Award programme. As part of this scheme, students have the opportunity to lead on a particular area of sport, and to design and deliver sessions to others to help improve fitness.

National Citizens Service (NCS)

Ridgewood School is proud of having formed an exciting partnership with the Doncaster Rovers Club Foundation in order to provide students with opportunities to take part in the NCS programme. Students complete the scheme during the summer holidays and spend two weeks away from home; the first week involves a residential activity and the second week is spent volunteering within local charities.

Camps International

A group of students previously participated in an exciting once-in-a-lifetime trip to Tanzania, co-ordinated by Camps International. As part of the programme, students volunteered for two weeks within a Tanzanian village, helping to develop vital infrastructure including schools, medical centres and houses. They spent a further week taking part in a PADI scuba diving course, leading to their first PADI qualification.

Internships

Students in Year 12 complete a week-long internship within a professional working environment and we are fortunate to have access to a wide range of internship providers. We work closely with our students at all stages of the process to ensure that they are matched to the appropriate internship placement.

The internship scheme truly enables students to expand their horizons, experience a taste of the careers they wish to pursue and in some cases, provide opportunities for a taste of independent living. Vital relationships have been developed as a direct result of internships, particularly in the field of medicine. Students are not confined to the local area for their placements, and some have taken this chance to complete placements in France and Spain. As well as providing a unique window into a potential future career, the scheme has also allowed students to establish key contacts and points of reference that they can use throughout their careers.

Student Wellbeing

Validus Centre

We are extremely proud to be able to offer our students Validus, a dedicated wellbeing centre equipped to meet the needs of all our young people.

Validus provides a programme of holistic support, including qualified counselling support, professional and targeted support for young people experiencing issues, and specialist support for those students experiencing stress, anxiety, depression and low mood. It also raises the profile of wellbeing for all young people and staff and effectively supports our wider school teams. This outstanding facility enables us to effectively coordinate safeguarding, child protection, welfare and health concerns through one central hub and to provide opportunities for working with families and the wider community. It is also an appropriate and confidential venue for external agency workers working with young people and their families in school.

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post Title: **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Grade/Hours: Grade 5 – 30 hours per week, term time only

Responsible to: SENDCo/Deputy Headteacher: Inclusion

Purpose of the post:

- To work within the SEN team and you will be required to supervise and provide support for students with special educational needs, ensuring their safety and access to all learning activities.
- To support the SENCo and Exams Officer and have an active role in the delivery of Exam Access Arrangements for SEN Students during the exam season.
- To be reliable and have the ability to form positive relationships with all students.
- To support the students across all subjects and aspects of the wider curriculum, including the delivery of bespoke physical fitness therapy routines, and must be trained, or willing to train, in moving and handling, and intimate care techniques.

Main duties and responsibilities

Teaching and Learning/Classroom Working

- To provide in class support to students with special educational needs, and an Education Health and Care Plan.
- To work closely with students individually or in groups within a subject area and within the Special Needs Department.
- To support other students, enabling them to achieve maximum access to and participation in the National Curriculum.
- To help students to further develop literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving and study skills.
- To help students develop their language and reasoning skills.
- To assist students in the organisation, preparation and display of assessments, classwork, coursework and where applicable, homework.
- To differentiate and modify written subject tasks in order to provide full curriculum access.
- To attend and assist students with their hygiene, eating and general welfare requirements as necessary.
- To give in-class support to subject teachers thus facilitating students access to the curriculum including assisting teachers of practical subjects as required, with priority being given to Health and Safety.
- To use the school's BfL system, following guidance from classroom teachers and the Head of Department/subject.
- To engage positively and enthusiastically with students, no matter what their difficulty, in order to support them to achieve.
- To reward positive attitude, work and progress using the school's reward scheme.

Supporting the delivery of examinations (during public and mock examination periods)

- Assist the SENCo and Exams Officer with timetabling and rooming of all examinations for students with SEN or concessions.
- Assist with the preparation of the exam access rooms for exams and issue of candidate information packs and exam papers to the invigilator.
- Responsible for checking availability of stationery, laptop, and exam equipment.
- Support with the invigilator information packs.
- Set up all appropriate JCQ signage for each examination room.

Miscellaneous

- To take an appropriate role in the life of the school supporting its distinctive ethos and values, and actively promoting its policies and practices.
- To take an active role in house activities and competitions, encouraging our most vulnerable learners to engage in the extra-curricular thread of school life.
- To dress in a professional manner in line with the school dress code.
- To undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required by the Headteacher.
- To participate in the process of appraisal.
- To be aware of the responsibility for personal Health, Safety and Welfare and that of others who may be affected by your actions or inactions.
- To co-operate with the employer on all issues to do with Health, Safety and Welfare.
- These duties and responsibilities should be regarded as neither exhaustive nor exclusive as the postholder may be required to undertake other reasonably determined duties and responsibilities commensurate with the grading of the post.
- To undertake appropriate training as required in order to be able to undertake the duties and responsibilities that are required.

30 hours per week, term time only (8.30-3.00pm each day)

All posts at the school are subject to a six month probationary period. Confirmation of the position is subject to satisfactory completion of this period.

Person Specification

| ATTRIBUTES/ REQUIREMENTS | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE | HOW IDENTIFIED |
|--|---|--|--|
| EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 x GCSEs including Maths and English – Grade C or above (or equivalent) • Willingness and ability to obtain and/or enhance qualifications and training for development in the post | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Certificate • Moving and Handling Certificate • EIPEN training | Certificates Application |
| RELEVANT EXPERIENCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of supporting young people in an educational setting | Use of ICT to support learning | Application Interview References |
| KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEN/knowledge of specialist needs • Good understanding of school policies and procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness of the national curriculum and current initiatives • Child Protection procedures | Application Interview References |
| PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to relate well to staff, students, parents and the wider community • Willingness to work in a team and work openly with colleagues • Ability to self evaluate own practice and learning needs • A calm, flexible, pleasant and sympathetic manner | | Application Interview References |
| ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent attendance record • Reliability and willingness to be flexible | | Application Interview References |
| The post is subject to a satisfactory record check being undertaken by the Disclosure & Barring Service | | | |

Job Advert

Job title: Teaching Assistant (1 year fixed term) – (30 hours per week, term time only)

Salary: Grade 5 (Actual salary £12,906 - £13,428)

To start: As soon as possible after appointment

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our associate staff team. The successful applicant will work within the SEN team and will be required to supervise and provide support for students with special educational needs, ensuring their safety and access to all learning activities. The successful applicant will support the student across all subjects and aspects of the wider curriculum, including the delivery of bespoke intervention, and must be trained, or willing to train, in moving and handling, and intimate care techniques.

What makes Ridgewood School special?

Staff and students at Ridgewood work hard every day to embody the school's core values: Excellence, Teamwork, Enjoyment and Integrity. We are enjoying a trajectory of continued success and look forward to welcoming a successful applicant who can join us on our journey. We became a standalone academy in 2011, and we are incredibly proud of the progress we have made as a school, having laid strong foundations for further improvement going forward.

Our school motto, 'Prepare for the road ahead', represents our belief in preparing our staff and students for their future. We exemplify our motto not only in terms of academic achievement, but also in terms of the training, enrichment and experiences which make us all model citizens. Our school values underpin what we do and contribute to our ethos in everything we undertake as a school community. We set our standards high and do not compromise, because we believe in the best for everyone.

Why is the role of Teaching Assistant right for you?

We are committed to offering the staff who work at Ridgewood every opportunity to become the best they can be. Our training packages, for staff at all stages of their careers, are second to none, and we are proud to be able to offer our associate staff a range of individual and group development opportunities.

Are you seeking an energetic, vibrant working environment, working alongside supportive colleagues? Do you want to work in a school with a dedicated team of senior leaders committed to whole school development? Are you ready to be part of a school community dedicated to giving young people the best opportunities possible? If so, Ridgewood School is for you.

Candidates are required to possess 5 GCSEs including Maths and English – Grade C or above (or equivalent).

For full details, to discuss the role or to request an application pack, please contact the school on 01302 783939 or email appls@ridgewoodschool.co.uk. We welcome visits from potential candidates – please contact the school to arrange this. Completed applications should be returned directly to school via post or email: appls@ridgewoodschool.co.uk.

The closing date for this post is 9am on Monday 24 January 2022.

Ridgewood School reserve the right to close this advert prior to the closing date above.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. The school operates a no smoking policy.