



**GREENSHAW**  
LEARNING TRUST



# Teaching Assistant

## Recruitment Pack

**ALWAYS  
LEARNING**

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Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in the role of Teaching Assistant at Brakenhale School. We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, motivated and reflective colleague to join our wider team. Our school is driven by our three values: Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility. These values permeate everything that we do and, as a result, they enable us to help fulfil our vision whereby we prepare our students for their individual successes and future careers. Each and every one of us has a role to play in ensuring that our students get the very best.

We are an 11 to 18 school situated on the southern side of Bracknell town centre. Our commitment to high standards and outstanding teaching has led us to become the school of choice for families in Bracknell Forest. Our progress score this summer has been the highest since its inception, but there is still a long way to go, we are committed to moving our P8 to +1.0 to ensure our students have the best possible life chances. In the Sixth Form, three quarters of grades for vocational courses were graded a Distinction or Distinction\*. Being an integral part of our local community is something that we value.

At Brakenhale, we work to do the simple things well, over and over again, as this is what 'great schools do'. We have disruption free lessons, so that teachers can focus on teaching. We have worked to simplify systems and structures within our school to help us manage what we do: students line-up every morning so that our children start the day in a calm and orderly manner; we centralise detentions so that teachers are not expected to do these daily; we 'live mark' so that teachers do not take class sets of books home; we have two data drops for each year group which reduces the unnecessary need to collect data.

With the above in mind, a vital element of any school and its continued development is the people who are part of it. Every single member of staff matters. They contribute, individually and within teams, to ensure we drive standards and outcomes. As a result, the enthusiastic, motivated and reflective individual joining us will be eager to be part of this culture. They will whole-heartedly believe in our vision of increasing the life chances for our students.

We are proud members of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, a 'family' of like-minded schools, that collaborate to provide mutual support, share their good practice and learn from each other, whilst retaining and developing our own distinctive character.

The Trust is a vibrant and forward-thinking community of teachers, support staff and learners committed to educating the 'whole child' to improve life chances, whilst securing the best possible outcomes for students. We encourage all young people to work hard and make the most of the opportunities they are given. Our amazing team of teachers and support staff themselves demonstrate and encourage a lifelong love of learning, both within and beyond our curriculum.

As one of the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the country, we currently comprise of thirty six schools: eleven in South London, six in Berkshire, one in Surrey, fifteen in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, and three in Plymouth. We are continuing to grow and have further schools joining us on a regular basis.

We are ambitious about diversity and inclusion and very much look forward to receiving applications from candidates whose personal qualities and values reflect those in the person specification and whose experiences also place them in a strong position to deliver the challenges set out in the job description. We encourage applications from candidates regardless of age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, religion, belief, or race.

Brakenhale School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people therefore this appointment will be subject to vetting, including an enhanced DBS disclosure.

The school websites provide a clear picture of our aspirations and our vision; however, please do not hesitate to contact us to seek further information by completing this form on our website: <https://brakenhale.co.uk/contact-us/form>. We very much look forward to receiving applications from candidates whose personal qualities, values and experiences support and reflect ours.

Yours sincerely



Camilla Douglas  
Headteacher

## Greenshaw Learning Trust – ‘Always Learning’

GLT is one of the highest performing multi academy trusts in the country that provides high quality comprehensive and inclusive education. The Trust is committed to meeting the needs of every student and our schools offer a broad curriculum and wide range of special needs provision in a welcoming and challenging environment.

We are extremely proud of our success, but we are not complacent. We believe that we can – as an academy trust, as schools and as individuals – always improve. We are all ‘Always Learning’.

Each school in GLT is led by its own leadership team and a governing body, which have the support of the wider Trust to help them achieve their objectives for their school. Being part of the Trust provides our schools with an effective structure, collaboration, and support. Our culture of trust and openness fosters mutual support and continual improvement.

At GLT it is really important to us that our classrooms are disruption free and the schools are calm and orderly. Our shared behaviour policy assists to make this happen and enables our teachers to have the greatest impact on the educational outcomes of the children in their classes.

School-to-school collaboration is enabled by regular contact between school leaders. Our shared services professionals provide a wide range of effective, rapid and flexible support, advice and guidance to our schools, including curriculum support, school improvement, staff training and development, admissions, attendance, behaviour, safeguarding and SEND, pupil services, estates, finance, HR, IT, catering, clerking, procurement and governance.

From its establishment as a multi academy trust in 2014, the Trust has grown significantly and currently employs around 3,700 people and educates over 23,500 students. Further information about our schools can be found [here](#).

## The Greenshaw Learning Trust Mission Statement

*We are ambitious for our schools and their students. We believe that there is no ceiling on what can be achieved by anyone, regardless of their circumstances or background.*

*We are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment, giving every young person the opportunity to fulfil their potential now, and in the future.*

*We seek to realise the power of individuals and organisations working together in collaboration whilst retaining their individuality, and we recognise that we can always improve.*

## Greenshaw Learning Trust Employee Benefits

The GLT recognises that our employees are our most important asset, and we are aware that the quality and commitment of our employees is critical to our success. We offer all our employees the following staff benefits:

- A supportive ethos and concern for the well-being of all colleagues
- Excellent CPD opportunities and career progression
- Employer contributions to Local Government (LGPS) or Teachers Pension Scheme
- Access to Blue Light Card Scheme
- Access to Teacher Art Pass Scheme (teaching staff only)
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Gym membership scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Free eye tests
- Car benefit scheme
- My Health discounts

## Terms and Conditions

<b>Line Managed by:</b>	SENCO
<b>Line Management:</b>	n/a
<b>Contract:</b>	Permanent
<b>Salary:</b>	Salary calculated in line with Support Staff pay scale Points J3 £23,426 – J6 £24,582 full time equivalent salary <b>(£17,658 - £18,529 p.a. actual salary)</b>  (starting salary and pay points will be aligned with relevant regional NJC spine on appointment, dependent on the location of the postholder)
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	32.5 hours per week term time only + 4 inset days
<b>Place of Work:</b>	Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire
<b>Medical Examination:</b>	The appointment is subject to a satisfactory medical report
<b>Superannuation:</b>	Under the Social Security Act 1986 the post holder has the right to make their own pension arrangements. They may choose to contribute to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) or a Personal Pension Scheme. Details of the Local Government Pension Scheme are available at: <a href="https://www.lgpsmember.org">https://www.lgpsmember.org</a>
<b>Holiday Entitlement:</b>	The postholder will be paid an enhancement for holiday pay, which is included in the salary details above
<b>Probation Period:</b>	New employees are required to complete a six-month probationary period
<b>Disclosure &amp; Barring Service Check:</b>	This appointment is subject to the receipt of a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check
<b>Right to Work Check:</b>	This appointment is subject to verification of the right to work in the UK. Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas in the last five years, such checks and confirmations may be required in accordance with the statutory guidance

## Job Description

The duties and responsibilities in this job description are not restrictive and the post holder may be required to undertake any other duties that may be required from time to time. Any such duties should not however substantially change the general character of the post.

### Key Responsibilities and Duties

- To assess, manage and deliver pastoral and learning support
- To work alongside teachers in the classroom to deliver learning to support the academic achievement of all pupils
- To support students during transition periods
- To provide feedback to pupils, the SENCO and the class teachers
- Assist the teacher with preparing materials for the class and assist at the end of lessons, always ensuring to maintain a safe working environment
- To support the pupils to understand instructions and develop independent learning skills
- To work in line with the behaviour for learning policy
- To support students with their social, emotional well-being and reporting concerns where appropriate
- To assist in responding to low level safeguarding concerns
- To support the SENCO in the identification of the needs of students on the SEN register
- Record basic student data
- Assist with break and lunch time supervision as required
- Assisting with extra curricular clubs, sometimes out of the normal hours
- To complete required training
- To follow all Health & Safety, safeguarding and GDPR requirements
- The post holder is responsible for ensuring that the school safeguarding/child protection policy is adhered to and concerns are raised in accordance with this policy.
- To be first aid trained, and willing to assist students where necessary.
- To assist students with personal care as required.
- To carry out tasks as reasonably required by the Headteacher.

### Personal Responsibilities

- To play a full part in the life of the school community and to encourage staff and students to follow this example
- To actively promote school policies and procedures
- To be responsible for own continued professional development
- To comply with the school's Health & Safety policy and undertake risk assessments as appropriate
- To be courteous to colleagues, visitors and telephone callers and provide a welcoming environment
- To attend meetings scheduled in the school calendar punctually
- To adhere to the School's Safeguarding Policy.

### Safeguarding

- Be keenly aware of the responsibility for safeguarding children and to help in the application of the Safeguarding Policy within the school
- Comply with the school's Safeguarding Policy in order to ensure the welfare of children and young people.



## Person Specification

The successful candidate will meet the following person specification. Please note that the listed criteria will form the basis of the selection process. Applicants should address all elements of the Person Specification, demonstrating experience and where appropriate citing supporting examples within their application.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Training, Qualifications and Experience: On their application form, candidates will demonstrate that they have the following training, qualifications, and school experience:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GCSE Maths &amp; English Grade C/4 or equivalent</li> <li>● Good literacy and numeracy skills</li> <li>● Appropriate experience of operating in a similar role</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Level or equivalent</li> </ul>
<b>Personal and Professional Qualities and Attributes: In their statement of suitability and during the selection process, candidates will demonstrate the ability to:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Knowledge of using IT systems and packages, in particular Microsoft Office</li> <li>● Experience of working with vulnerable young people Experience of working in a school's environment</li> <li>● Strong verbal &amp; written communication skills and an ability to use these to have a positive input on student learning in the classroom &amp; in small groups/1-1</li> <li>● Ability to carry out allocated tasks under the supervision of our SENCO lead</li> <li>● Ability to empathise and move students forward in their learning</li> <li>● Able to build good relationships with students and to support good behaviour in &amp; beyond the classroom</li> <li>● Ability to develop one to one relationships with students with particular learning needs</li> <li>● Ability to work within set guidelines and respond to unexpected circumstances</li> <li>● Ability to cope with exposure to emotionally demanding situations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evidence of continuous professional development</li> <li>● Quick to adapt and take on new initiatives</li> <li>● Willing to undertake further training which may be required</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to work effectively as part of a team or as an individual</li> <li>● Ability to prioritise workloads and have excellent time management and organisational skills</li> <li>● Ability to monitor, control and keep records according to the requirements of the school</li> <li>● Knowledge of SEND policies and procedures</li> <li>● Knowledge of safeguarding processes</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional Requirements:</b> In their statement of suitability and during the selection process, candidates will demonstrate that they can meet the following requirements:</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excellent interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>● Ability to establish positive relationships with staff members at all levels</li> <li>● Be confident in the use of email and database programs</li> <li>● Able to take a whole school perspective on issues</li> <li>● Smart and presentable</li> <li>● Professional attitude at all times</li> <li>● Approachable and Empathetic</li> <li>● Excellent attention to detail</li> <li>● Flexible and enthusiastic</li> <li>● Ability to be self-motivating</li> <li>● Resourceful, creative and enthusiastic</li> <li>● Ability to remain positive</li> </ul>	

## The Recruitment Process

### 1. Application

Visit our website to view our current vacancies [here](#)

To apply for a staff vacancy, please register for an online account and complete the online application form. The recruitment process is managed via your online account and you will receive regular notifications regarding the progress of your application.

You have the opportunity to upload an attachment to support your application if desired. In the application form you should demonstrate how you meet the requirements set out in the Person Specification. Please include specific examples which support your application.

Applications must be received no later than **13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. We reserve the right to close this process early if we have found a suitable candidate.

### 2. Shortlisting

Shortlisting will be finalised with enough suitable applicants. Shortlisted applicants will receive an email inviting them to select their preferred interview time. Please ensure you enter your correct email address on your application form and provide a contact telephone number. References may be taken up after shortlisting. Please ensure you indicate clearly on your application form if you are happy for us to do so.

### 3. Interview Process

Interviews will be held soon after application. Applicants may also be asked to undertake a practical test related to the knowledge and abilities in the Person Specification.

### 4. Feedback

Unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will have the opportunity for professional feedback during the week following the interviews.

### 5. Taking up post

The successful applicant will take up the post **as soon as possible**.

### 6. Additional information

For further information, please contact HR at [hr@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:hr@brakenhale.co.uk)

### 7. Safeguarding

Greenshaw Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS and barred list check.