



Higham Lane School  
Helping Learners Succeed



## Job Specification

# Temporary Teacher of Sociology

Full-time or Part-time

MPR/UPR

Immediate start/April 2023



Thank you for taking the time to consider Higham Lane School as your next school. Higham Lane is a large, 11-18 comprehensive academy, set on an attractive site on the Warwickshire-Leicestershire border, easily accessible due to excellent road, train and bus connections.

Achievement in all its forms: artistic, academic, social, cultural, sporting and intellectual is equally valued in our diverse five year, knowledge-rich curriculum. We were extremely pleased to have been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in May 2019, one of only a small number of schools in England to have achieved the highest rating that year. We are strongly committed to ensuring that all of the young people in our care make excellent academic progress and we take great pride in securing both impressive progress and high attainment for our students, whatever their starting points. Higham Lane is one of the highest-achieving non-selective comprehensive schools in Warwickshire. We are also delighted to have achieved impressive A level results in our high-performing Sixth Form. Our progress figures indicate that our teaching and learning and student behaviour and engagement are excellent! We are excited by the opportunities which our recent merger with the Central England Academy Trust will bring us and are also delighted that the Department for Education has given us permission to open a new secondary Free School, Higham Lane North Academy, within the next few years. In July 2021, we were granted World Class Schools status, one of a very small number of schools to achieve this.

Our school has a strong ethos based on mutual respect between students and staff and very clear expectations regarding students' effort and behaviour. We enjoy an excellent reputation with parents/carers and are always over-subscribed. You will find a happy, caring and purposeful environment at Higham Lane. Students get on exceptionally well, both with each other and with our staff, who take pride in working here. Our students are encouraged to do their very best in every aspect of their lives and to reach the highest standards, irrespective of their ability. We encourage them to "Be the best you can be!"

At Higham Lane, our staff are our most precious resource. We are committed to offering you:

- excellent continuous professional development
- reduced workload
- behaviour for learning that empowers teachers to teach and students to learn
- a range of imaginative approaches to ensure staff wellbeing.

The closing date for applications is: **Monday 6th February** (If you encounter a problem in meeting this deadline, please contact the School). If you are interested in applying for this post, please complete the application form that you will find on the School's website ([www.highamlaneschool.co.uk](http://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk)) and email it to [jobs@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:jobs@highamlaneschool.co.uk), indicating in the message title the post you are applying for. We welcome applications from both newly qualified and experienced teachers.

If you would like to have a chat about this post, please contact Romaine Charles, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning), on 024 7638 8123.

Higham Lane School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and will also be taken through the School's vetting procedure.

We really look forward to reading your application!

Yours sincerely,



Peter Banks

Acting Headteacher





# WHY WORK FOR HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL?

At Higham Lane, we appreciate that our staff are our most precious resource. We are committed to offering them:

## EXCELLENT CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

- we are passionate about curriculum, teaching and learning, always developing our practice and learning from each other!
- our approach to performance management is on developing staff. Conversations are based around celebrating teacher strengths and focusing on how to be even more effective. This is also reflected in the way we do lesson visits and learning walks.
- our CPD is second to none and highly-regarded by our staff, many of whom often lead sessions themselves. Our staff have led presentations for Pixl and Osiris.
- all staff receive regular training in the most effective teaching and learning techniques based on pedagogical research by leading practitioners such as Lemov and Rosenshine.
- we provide bespoke career stage training such as the new, reformed NPQ programmes as well as Olevi programmes for improving and outstanding teachers and outstanding leaders.
- we have expertise in teacher training and formed the Higham Lane School Partnership comprising 13 partner schools across both primary and secondary phases in collaboration with the University of Warwick, Birmingham City University and the University of Leicester. We are a Designated Lead School for School Direct.
- we are local delivery partners for the Early Career Teacher and Mentor Induction programmes.
- we are actively leading school-to-school support within our local area, sharing our strong practice and expertise and learning from other schools about their effective approaches. Our Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer is a mentor on the ESFA CFO Mentoring Programme.

## REDUCING WORKLOAD

- we are committed to reducing staff workload by always looking to streamline our ways of working, for example in our Feedback Policy, which makes greater use of whole-class feedback, rather than pointlessly marking excessively. Non-judgmental quality assurance conversations with staff celebrate strengths and consider how to make our curriculum and teaching and learning even more effective.
- we minimise admin and data entry so we can truly focus on what is important to allow meeting time to be dedicated to teaching and learning.
- we value our staff as experts in their field. Subject teams have dedicated weekly time and space to work together to develop their practice.
- staff work very effectively in their subject teams to collaboratively produce schemes of learning and resources, so that teachers are not wasting time creating their own materials.
- students use knowledge organisers for revision during homework and assess themselves in our Do Now knowledge tests, enhancing their subject knowledge and reducing teacher workload.

## SAFEGUARDING

- all the staff whom we employ are expected to demonstrate a responsibility for and a commitment to the safeguarding of students. We will offer you regular, high-quality training to enable you to do this effectively.



## BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING THAT EMPOWERS STAFF

- we empower teachers to teach and students to learn!
- our SLT and Progress Leaders move around our site during lessons to supportively visit lessons, support teachers and uphold our ethos.
- where students do not behave according to our expectations, we address this promptly.
- parents/carers fully support our Behaviour Policy.

## STAFF WELLBEING

- staff wellbeing is very important to us. We care about each other. Staff know that they can always approach SLT members and staff governors with any wellbeing or workload concerns.
- we believe that successful schools are rooted in strong teamwork where everyone plays their part and is valued.
- we ensure a work-life balance in the way we organise our meetings and INSET days and release our calendar before the start of the academic year.
- we ensure emails are used sparingly and only at agreed times (7am-7pm, Mondays-Fridays).
- we support staff to look after themselves, for example by signposting health awareness events.
- we discuss what is working effectively and what needs to be done differently in our half-termly Staff Governors and Unions meetings.
- we get on well together and celebrate our many achievements in a range of social events.

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

- students play an active part in the running of our school (such as through the Junior Leadership Team, Year Ambassadors, Student Voice groups and so on). Students' views are important to us and influence the school's strategic planning.
- we have excellent relationships with parents/carers and value their feedback.
- we actively support our local community through fundraising and supporting local charities such as the Nuneaton Food Bank.



# The Social Sciences Department

## STAFFING AND ACCOMMODATION

- The Social Sciences Department has five members of staff, including the Subject Leader.
- The subjects offered in the Department comprise Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care and Modern Ethics.
- We have a range of accommodation including three specialist rooms in the main school, one of which is an ICT suite. There are also two dedicated Social Sciences rooms in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Each member of the Department is provided with a laptop.
- Teamwork is a real strength of the Social Sciences Department. Teachers work closely together on writing Schemes of Learning and sharing practical approaches to teaching each aspect of every course.

## KEY STAGE 4

- In Years 9, 10 and 11, students can opt for GCSE Sociology and/or Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care. Both are very popular option choices with typically 3 classes in each year group for Sociology and two for Health and Social Care.
- Students receive four hours of teaching per fortnight for each option subject studied.
- The Department follows the AQA specification for Sociology.
- Groups are mixed ability.

## KEY STAGE 5

- We teach the AQA A-level Sociology specification in the Sixth Form, with the optional topics covered including Families and Households and Crime and Deviance.
- The L3 Cambridge Technicals qualification is offered for students wishing to study Health and Social Care in our Sixth Form.
- A-level Psychology is a popular subject in the Sixth Form with typically 2 classes in each year group. We teach the AQA A-level Psychology specification.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The Department prides itself on its excellent range of extra-curricular provision for students. This includes our annual Enrichment Week trip, Sixth Form Conferences and visits from guest speakers. In the Sixth Form we have subject societies where students support each other through mentoring and A Level students also support in lower school classes.

## 2019 EXAMINATION RESULTS

### GCSE Sociology

69.9% of students achieved grades 9 - 4

15.7% of students achieved grades 9 -7

### A-LEVEL Sociology

45.4 % of students achieved grades A\*/A

100% of students achieved grades A\*-C

# Job description

## Job Title:

Temporary Teacher of Sociology (Full time or Part time)

**Date of Commencement:** immediate start or April 2023

Applications are invited from suitably-qualified, experienced and enthusiastic teachers to teach Sociology at Key Stage 4. Experience of teaching Sociology at KS5 would be desirable. Experience of teaching Health and Social Care at Key Stage 4 and 5 would also be desirable, but this is not essential and would not prevent suitable candidates from being shortlisted, if they meet the person specification.

## General Duties and Responsibilities

The expectations and duties of a Standard Scale Teacher at Higham Lane School are set out in the national Teachers' Standards, which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards>

Pastoral responsibilities will include form tutor duties such as registration, monitoring progress and behaviour, checking uniform and student organisers and reporting and liaison with other staff as necessary.

Please note our clear expectations regarding **personal and professional conduct of staff and the safeguarding of students**:

- To have total regard for the need to safeguard students' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
- To have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the School, and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- To have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

## Person Specification for Temporary Teacher of Sociology (full-time or part time)

1= application form; 2= selection day activities; 3=documentary evidence.

Category	E/D	Criteria Indicated E (Essential) or D (Desirable)	How Identified
Qualifications	E	Degree level qualification.  Qualified Teacher Status.	1,3
Experience	E	Experience of teaching Sociology at GCSE.	1
	D	Experience of teaching Sociology at A-level.	1
	D	Experience of teaching Health and Social Care at Key Stage 4 & 5	1
Knowledge and understanding	E	Of exam board specifications for Sociology	1,2
	D	Of exam board specifications for Health and Social Care	
	E	Of a range of effective, differentiated teaching and learning, assessment for learning and marking and feedback techniques.	
	E	Of how to make secure judgements relating to student progress and performance.	
	E	Of how to use ICT to enhance teaching and learning and raise standards.	
Professional Skills and Attributes	E	<p>The ability to motivate, influence and challenge all students to achieve their best performance.</p> <p>The ability to consistently deliver 'good' or 'outstanding' lessons.</p> <p>The ability to assess students' work and offer them feedback in line with the School's Marking and Feedback Policy.</p> <p>The ability to ensure excellent Behaviour of students.</p> <p>The ability to be well-organised, keep efficient records and meet deadlines.</p> <p>The ability to communicate effectively.</p> <p>The ability to work effectively as a member of a team.</p> <p>The ability to take responsibility for your own professional learning.</p> <p>Energy, enthusiasm, commitment and perseverance.</p>	1,2
Health and Attendance	E	A good health and attendance record.	3



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