

7th April 2017

Dear prospective candidate

I am so pleased that you are considering applying to be the Deputy Head Teacher at our fantastic school.

Rickleton is a large and successful primary school in a very accessible location near the A1 in Washington, Sunderland. We are regularly oversubscribed and have built a reputation for our outstanding pastoral care for our pupils, together with the rich, innovative and varied curriculum we provide. Everyone who visits us remarks on the wonderful atmosphere in the school and the behaviour and politeness of our pupils. Pupils also learn very well and we strive to help pupils meet the highest standards that they are capable of through our excellent teaching and partnership with parents.

I have been at the school for 4 years and in that time we have successfully and continuously made huge improvements. At times this has not been easy – change never is – but I have to say that the staff here are the best, most cohesive and supportive staff I have ever worked with.

It is a feature of our school that we have built a collaborative learning culture that relies on trust and integrity to be successful. We have a whole staff personal learning plan, which covers all aspects of appraisal, professional development and practice development (delivered though a lesson study approach).

As a result, many of our staff are involved in practitioner research (we have links to Newcastle University CfLaT) and other professional and masters level study. Also staff are active in the local authority as moderators, subject network leaders and experts in their fields. The school is a member of the Tyne Valley Teaching School Alliance and a partner school with Schools North East. This helps keep us at the forefront of the local and national education scene, which brings many benefits and opportunities to our staff.

My outgoing deputy will take with her a huge amount of knowledge of our staff, families and community, which we could never replace. Instead, a new opportunity opens for someone to make a difference in our very active, busy and outward looking school.

I am sure you will take the opportunity to research the school and come for a visit – highly recommended! You will have to assess if you ‘fit’ the school as much as us assessing you.

You will be successful if your values and outlook match our own. Take a look at our website, Facebook page, Ofsted report and google us too to find out what we are involved with. Ensure that in your application and personal statement you carefully reference the criteria on the person specification backed up with evidence of success and positive outcomes.

If you are shortlisted, I intend as part of the recruitment process to visit you in your setting and be guided by you to gather evidence of your professional abilities and attributes. On the interview day there will be a task, presentation and interview.

Once again thank you for looking at our school and I look forward to meeting you.

Yours Sincerely



C A Lofthouse

Head Teacher