



Whitworth Park School & Sixth Form College

SUBJECT LEADER FOR GEOGRAPHY

Candidate Information Pack

Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College is a successful, welcoming and caring school.

Whitworth Park was opened in September 2012 following the amalgamation of Spennymoor School and Sixth Form Centre and Tudhoe Grange School. Both schools were highly successful serving the community of Spennymoor and the surrounding villages. The school is situated in a semi-rural location within easy reach of the cities of Durham and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Spennymoor is also ideally located for access to the A1M which is situated close by whilst house prices are moderate when compared to the National average.



Whitworth Park is a warm, welcoming and hardworking community striving for 'Excellence for Everyone'. We want children to leave school having maximised their academic progress but also with the social and personal skills needed to extract the maximum from what the world has to offer them. The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum and is committed to offering the highest quality learning experience to all of its students. We expect students to achieve the very best they can within a friendly and welcoming environment which inspires them to strive for and reach their full potential, no matter what their abilities or talents.

We have high expectations of ourselves and that is applied to all our students because they are here to learn. We are proud of our school and will ensure we do all we can to recognise and celebrate individual student achievements.

THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The Geography department aims to create an environment which inspires students by embracing innovative teaching and learning strategies.

Presently, the Geography department consists of three full-time specialist teachers.

The Geography department is accommodated in the new building and is split over the ground and first floors. Staff have their own high quality, dedicated teaching space which all benefit from an interactive whiteboard that links directly to each teacher's desktop computer. There is a dedicated office at the heart of the department available for humanities staff to utilise. There is also dedicated ICT provision for the sole use of the humanities subjects. Within the subject students' attitudes to learning are very positive and the department strives to ensure that all their students are motivated and engaged.

JOB TITLE:

SUBJECT LEADER OF GEOGRAPHY

ACCOUNTABLE TO:

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

GRADE:

MPS/UPS + TLR 2c



Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College is an Equal Opportunities employer. We want to develop more diverse workforce and positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to receipt of an enhanced DBS Certificate and Pre-Employment Health Check.

THE ROLE:

This an exciting opportunity to lead an improving Geography department and contribute to the overall success of the whole school. Following structural changes from a faculty system to subject specific departments we are seeking to appoint an outstanding, enthusiastic and ambitious teacher to lead and manage our Geography subject area.

The ideal candidate will:

- be an outstanding classroom teacher
- offer inspirational leadership and a modern approach to teaching
- have a proven track record of achieving excellent outcomes for students
- have the vision, drive and determination to create a Geography department that will inspire young people through their own passion for the subject
- deliver a rigorous academic curriculum that instils the highest standards for staff and students
- stretch the most able students as well as motivate and inspire those who do not arrive at Whitworth Park with a natural love for Geography
- inspire both staff and students
- have the ability, creativity, ambition and drive to take the department forward to the next phase of its development

If you have a clear vision to develop Geography and further improve examination results we would like to hear from you.

THE CURRICULUM:

The Geography department aims to inspire, nurture and foster a passion to succeed; the successful candidate will lead developments which will ensure students achieve outstanding attainment and progress with the subject area.

Geography offers an extensive curriculum delivered across key stages three, four and five. The key stage three curriculum continues to be enhanced to facilitate the National change and offer rigour and challenge for our learners. Across key stage three, students are set according to their ability and the movement of students is encouraged and common-place so that all students can fulfil their potential. However, from September 2017 students will be taught in mixed ability groups

The key stage four curriculum has recently been re-designed placing Geography and History at the heart of the options process ensuring they form the basis of a robust and sustainable EBacc provision. Across key stage four there are presently two classes of Geography in Year 10 and two classes in Year 11.

Many students already continue their studies into key stage five at our Sixth Form College and there is a commitment to ensure these numbers grow further still. Geography is a relatively new addition to the Sixth Form programme: there is currently one small, enthusiastic Y12 A Level Group.

Staff are expected to support and contribute to the school ethos.

Success through Partnership- an inclusive education for all learners in the community of Spennymoor providing “Excellence for Everyone.”

The school creates an environment which is inspirational and aspirational, in which every learner has the opportunity to develop the skills to lead a positive and fulfilling life. We work in collaboration with parents, carers, the community, and all other educational and service providers to nurture all of our young people. Our educational programme provides a climate which inspires learning, creates trust, respect and tolerance and promotes sustainability and collaboration - **“Excellence for Everyone”**.

This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post-holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedure and tasks but sets the main expectations of the school in relation to the post holder’s professional responsibilities and duties.

Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to signing our ICT Staff User Policy and having a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Certificate.

General Expectations

Staff will:

- contribute effectively to the work of the school and to the achievement of the ‘School Improvement Priorities’;
- play a full part in the life of the school community, to support our distinctive aims and ethos, to encourage staff and students to follow this example;
- follow school policy regarding care, support and supervision of students;
- attend training and development activities and courses, ensuring continuing, personal and professional development;
- contribute to a welcoming school culture by promoting mutual respect for all;
- comply with any reasonable request from a leader to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description;
- work as a team member;
- act as a role model to students in speech, dress, behaviour and attitude;
- have common duties in the areas of: Quality Assurance, Communication, Professional Practice, Health & Safety, General Management (where applicable), Financial Management (where applicable), Appraisal, Equality & Diversity, Confidentiality and Induction.

Duties and Responsibilities for all Teaching Staff

All teaching staff will:

- work within the National Conditions for Employment of School Teachers (STPCD);
- uphold and observe the Professional Code for Teachers (GTC) and meet the National Standards for Qualified Teachers;
- promote the school’s stated ethos and support the school’s policies in student leadership and Management;
- support and encourage colleagues at all levels within the school;

- contribute to and implement the annual School Improvement Plan and agreed policies;
- teach as directed throughout the school, subject to appropriate training;
- expect, monitor and improve progress in student learning;
- contribute to the personal and social development of all students;
- participate in the pastoral management and delivery of the schools Personal Social Health Citizenship and Enterprise Education programme (PSHCEE) as requested;
- take part in quality assurance and performance management procedures outlined in an agreed school policy;
- take responsibility for personal development.

Responsibilities for all Subject Teachers

All subject staff will:

- take full responsibility for ensuring a scheme of work is delivered to students in their allocated classes;
- plan lessons using a range of strategies to meet student's individual learning needs understood from attainment and supporting data;
- have a thorough knowledge and understanding of their subject, its teaching and place in the National Curriculum and that of the school;
- use the models set out in School Policies for delivery of lessons;
- set homework according to school and department policies;
- mark, assess record and report on student's achievements, setting appropriate targets;
- keep to deadlines for reporting, marking, submission of coursework and assignments;
- prepare students for examinations when required, taking part in standardising and moderating activities required by departments and examination boards;
- contribute to the development of schemes of work, school and department policies as appropriate;
- attend and contribute to appropriate meetings and professional development activities;
- take an active part in the school's self-evaluation process, including the completion of appropriate documentation, and contribute to this process within the subject area;
- undertake whatever other duties might reasonably be requested by the Head Teacher or Subject Leader.

Responsibilities of all Form Leaders

All Form Leaders:

- are responsible for day-to-day administration in the form group;
- review and discuss student's work and welfare, setting targets as necessary;
- meet with parents including school calendared meetings;
- promote good behaviour and positive attitudes at all times;
- support form, year and school activities as appropriate;
- deliver an appropriate programme of form group activities, including the agreed PSHCE programme;
- contribute to inter-house events.

Responsibilities of Post Threshold Teachers

Teachers who have passed the Threshold should ensure that they continue to meet Threshold Standards and should demonstrate that they make an active contribution to the policies and aspirations of the school.

Specifically;

- they provide a role model for teaching & learning;
- make a distinctive contribution to the raising of student standards;
- contribute effectively to the work of the wider team;

- take advantage of appropriate opportunities for professional development, using outcomes effectively to improve students' learning.

There is a clear expectation that Post-Threshold Teachers will take a lead role in the development of other teaching staff and will welcome Student and Newly Qualified Teachers and visitors, by prior arrangement, into their learning environment.

Specific Responsibilities for this Post

- to develop a positive climate for learning which promotes success for all;
- to actively monitor and support student learning and progress in the subject;
- to produce regular reports on the progress of the subject tracked against prior attainment and targets;
- to identify underachieving students in the subject in liaison with colleagues and ensure an appropriate subject support programme is put in place;
- to co-ordinate and deliver Intervention Strategies to support student attainment and achievement;
- to ensure high quality teaching and learning in the subject;
- to work to the National Standards for Subject Leaders;
- to monitor, review and evaluate all aspects of the subject recording outcomes on the subject self-evaluation form, recording key areas for development on the subject action plan and ensuring progress towards targets;
- to lead curriculum development, teaching and learning in the department and evaluate and review their progress;
- to actively monitor and respond to curriculum development initiatives across the school, and at national, regional and local levels;
- to ensure that there are up to date schemes of work and department manuals with the assistance of the subject team;
- to oversee assessment arrangements and preparations for examinations in the subject area liaising, where necessary, with the Data and Examinations Leader and ensuring the Officer has accurate information;
- to lead and direct the subject team, deploying all staff and resources appropriately, monitoring and reviewing the work of the staff in the subject team and furthering the professional development of all staff;
- to promote teamwork and motivate staff to ensure effective working relations;
- to lead subject meetings and record action points;
- to support staff within the subject team to set annual targets in accordance with school policy and to complete the performance development process;
- to ensure staff within the subject team have appropriate professional development, to organise CPD opportunities where appropriate and to liaise fully with consultants and advisers;
- to liaise with the Leadership Team on timetable and accommodation issues;
- to take responsibility for student behaviour within the subject area;
- To have the overview / Lead the D of E programme.
- to support subject area staff in curriculum and pastoral matters;
- to oversee the fabric and displays in teaching areas and ensure good resource provision;
- to promote activities which stimulate an interest in the subject area;
- to liaise with feeder primary schools and outside agencies, including examination boards, as necessary;
- to promote the subject area through school publications and events;
- to ensure appropriate cover arrangements for absent colleagues.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

		Essential	Desirable
Application	A well-structured letter of application indicating interests and strengths in the subject	*	
	Fully supported in references	*	
Qualifications and Professional Development	Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)	*	
	Ability to teach GCSE and A-Level	*	
	A degree in a relevant subject	*	
	Commitment to further study including any in-service training during the last three years	*	
	Ability to use ICT as a learning tool	*	
	Post Graduate qualification		*
Experience	A proven track record of raising standards, good examination results and delivery against targets	*	
	Ability to demonstrate high standards of classroom practice	*	
	Catering for the needs of all students including Gifted and Talented, SEND and Pupil Premium	*	
	Use of data to inform planning, teaching, measuring progress and to aid target setting and improving performance	*	
	Recent experience of leading and managing a team of people	*	
	Experience of introducing a new initiative or of managing change	*	
	Contribution to whole-school Improvement Planning		*
	Experience of working with external providers to enhance curriculum delivery		*
	Experience in more than one secondary school		*
	Experience of teaching at KS5		*
	Effective leadership of teams and management of people		*
	Experience of successful management and curriculum development		*
	Experience of staff development	*	
	Experience of leading in staff development		*
	Experience of leading D of E programme		*
Qualities and Values	A clear educational philosophy that underpins pedagogy to support high quality teaching and learning	*	
	A passion for the subject	*	
	A drive to make learning fun, engaging and exciting	*	
	The ability to inspire others, share good practice and reflect on local/national education pressures	*	
	Good communication skills with the ability to relate effectively to all ages and abilities	*	
	An ability to educate the whole child and contribute effectively to pastoral systems	*	
	A desire to extend learning beyond the classroom	*	
	A commitment to raising the aspirations of the whole school community	*	
Personal Attributes	Ability to work under pressure and retain a sense of humour	*	
	Ability to work as team member to achieve common goals	*	
	Initiative, energy and perseverance	*	
	Enthusiasm and self-confidence	*	
	Personal presence and impact	*	
	Ambition to go on to senior leadership		*

Assessment against the criteria outlined above will be through the Application Form, Letter of Application, Work Related Assessment, Interview Process and References.

In addition to candidates' ability to perform the duties of the post, the interview will also explore issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including:

- motivation to work with children and young people;
- ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people;
- emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours;
- attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline;

Any relevant issues from references will be taken up at interview.

Please return a completed application form including the names, addresses and relevant contact details of two referees together with your letter of application.

The letter of application should be no more than two sides of A4 and should set out the particular strengths that you would bring to the post, how you feel you meet the criteria outlined in the job description and person specification as well as a response to the following questions:

- What does an outstanding Geography department look like and how would you contribute to this?
- How do you measure student success?
- What you would contribute to extra-curricular activities within the department and the school as a whole?

Please ensure you also complete and return the required DCCR form. Completed applications must be received by the school by **2nd May 2017** addressed to:

Mr D Stone
Interim Headteacher
Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College
Whitworth lane
Spennymoor
County Durham
DL16 7LN

or by e-mail to the Headteacher's PA, Mrs J Woodward at: j.woodward@whitworthpark.org.uk

Interviews are scheduled to take place on **10th May 2017**.

If you have not heard from us within 4 weeks please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

Whitworth park School and Sixth Form College:

- is committed to the protection and safety of its students. Appointment will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, satisfactory medical report and satisfactory references
- is an Equal opportunity employer
- operates a strict no-smoking policy

Unfortunately we are unable to acknowledge receipt of your application.