



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



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April 2021

Headteacher's Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our Head of Science post which, I believe, is a great opportunity to join St Mary's at a very exciting time.

This is a re-advert and an amended role. We previously advertised for a Head of Science who would also be Head of Physics. This amended role will be Head of Science only and therefore, potential candidates may be from any specialism in Science.

The Governors wish to appoint an excellent Head of Science to lead our flourishing Science department. The successful candidate will lead a department that prides itself on very high standards of teaching and learning. The successful candidate will lead the overall Science Department and have other TLR holders leading Biology, Chemistry and Physics to support them. **Therefore, potential candidates for the Head of Science role may be from any specialism in Science. The successful candidate will be an outstanding teacher and will build on the existing strengths of our science department, to ensure that achievement, teaching, the curriculum and leadership and management, all remain first-class, at each Key Stage.** The successful candidate will require the necessary skills and experience to develop the practice of staff within the department by providing leadership, motivation and training.

This role should appeal both to candidates seeking their first significant leadership post, or to more experienced candidates already in a leadership role, looking to develop in an outstanding school which is totally committed to Science. We are a school that prides itself on ensuring excellent support and development for leaders at all levels and therefore, unstinting support will be given. There will also be many professional development opportunities both within school, within our Trust and more widely, as part of the school's important role in school to school support. This post has arisen, due to the internal promotion of the current post holder to Assistant Headteacher from September 2021.

St Mary's is a great place to work, first and foremost because of our fantastic students. The majority come from our nine Catholic partner primaries and a sizeable minority from other schools across the city and beyond, including some from overseas. The majority are Catholics but we welcome equally students from many Faith backgrounds. There is an excellent ethnic, socio-economic and academic mix in the school. Whilst the vast majority of students are English, children from 30+ countries are on roll, with 30+ mother tongues spoken, though the vast majority of these EAL students have excellent English. This diversity within the student body is one of the many positive features of St Mary's and it is very rewarding to serve these wonderful students in a happy and inclusive community. The roll has grown from around 1100 five years ago to over 1450 by September 2020, with 5 year groups of around 240. The Sixth Form currently has 250 students, but will grow to around 300 in the next couple of years, as larger and strongly academic year groups move into Sixth Form.

St Mary's joined the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust in June 2020, which will grow to a partnership of 39 North East schools over time. The Trust is founded on clear principles, to educate the whole child, to ensure every child in our care has an excellent education and to work together to improve opportunities for all our children to succeed and be happy. All the schools in the Trust however maintain their individuality, uniqueness and a great deal of autonomy.

St Mary's benefits from having excellent staff, both teaching and support. The staff are the school's greatest asset and, therefore, the task of appointing staff to new roles is always given great importance. Governors are really committed to the school and are very supportive of staff, as are parents. We also enjoy a very strong partnership with our family of primaries, all of whom are fully supportive of St Mary's. Links with parishes are strong, as is our partnership with Trust, Diocesan and Local Authority schools.

St Mary's has been judged Outstanding four times in the last twelve years, in our full Ofsted inspection, in our subject inspection of English and in our Diocesan inspections. I would encourage you to read our inspection reports and the school prospectus, to get a sense of some of the school's many strengths. Since our last full inspection, our School Improvement Partner's Annual Reports to Governors have continued to grade all aspects of the school as Outstanding. The DfE recognised St Mary's work by

naming us as a National Support School in 2011. We are increasingly involved in school to school support and in June 2017, we became a Teaching School.

Our students' progress and attainment are excellent, among the very best in the north-east and UK. The latest figures show St Mary's as one of 5 north-east schools with the highest value added achievement score, when measured across all the EBacc subjects of English, Maths, Sciences, Languages and Humanities. Recent attainment is as follows:-

GCSE

- Significantly above average again in 2019 for our Progress 8 score (0.29)
- 80%+ Grade 4+ in Maths and English, with 65% Level 5+, amongst the highest in the North East
- Over 80% grade 4+ across the other EBacc subjects.
- 32% of all entries were graded at 9-7 and 84% at grades 9-4

A LEVEL

- 31% of entries were graded at A*-A in 2019. This is one of the highest percentages of top grades for any state school regionally or nationally.
- 57% of A Levels were A*-B and 80% A*-C and 98% A*-E.
- 100% Vocational A Level pass rate with 63% at Distinction or better and 100% at Merit or better.

At St Mary's, Science is a well-established and highly respected department with excellent results. Recent highlights over the last two years include:-

2019

- 45% of single science entries in Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieved at least a grade 7
- 87% of single science entries in Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieved at least a grade 5
- More than 50% of all A Level grades across Biology, Chemistry and Physics were A*-B
- 75% of all A Level grades across Biology, Chemistry and Physics were A*-C

2020 CAGs

Key Stage 4

- 56% of the cohort took separate sciences and achieved, on average, 47% Grade 7+, 89% Grade 5+ and 100% Grade 4+
- Combined Science students achieved 40% Grade 5+ and 76% Grade 4+

Key Stage 5

- A Level Biology 41% A*/A and 67% A*-B
- A Level Chemistry 56% A*/A and 78% A*-B
- A Level Physics 37% A*/A and 67% A*-B
- BTEC Science 67% Distinction or better

High standards of academic achievement are just one element of our mission to provide our students with the best possible holistic education. Their all-round development is equally important. As a Catholic school, nurturing children's spiritual development is central to everything we do. This aspect of school life is flourishing. Support staff, teachers and school leaders do not need to be Catholic to work here but they do need to be committed to understanding and actively promoting the school's distinctive Catholic/Christian ethos in their daily work.

We have an excellent climate for learning in school. Students are extremely well behaved in and out of lessons. This is a key ingredient in the school's on-going success and popularity with parents. Again, I would strongly encourage you to read our Main School Prospectus, as it will give you a good flavour of our pastoral distinctiveness and the curriculum organisation of the school.

I hope that once you have had the chance to read the information in this pack and to find out more about the school, you will be keen to apply. Should you be successful, I can assure you that you will be given unstinting support.

If you require any further information about the post, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Fisher, Acting Deputy Headteacher on 0191 215 3260.

To apply, please complete the CES application form and include a supporting letter, addressed to me, outlining the qualifications, experience, skills and attributes which you will bring to the post.

Your letter should be no more than 1,300 words. Please note there is no need to complete the supporting statement section of the application form, as your covering letter should outline your suitability for the post.

Could I ask all applicants to include in the qualifications section of the form, details of their degree class and division, as well as A Level grades, as the CES form, which we cannot alter, does not make this clear.

Your completed application form, letter and reference consent form should be returned, marked for the attention of Louise Douds, Director of Finance & Support Services, **by 9.00am on Friday 7th May 2021** to the above address, or alternatively emailed to louise.douds@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Patterson
Headteacher