

Teacher of Science Information Booklet March 2018



Introduction

Thank you for enquiring about our **Teacher of Science** position. We hope after reading the information in this pack, you will be excited by the prospect of joining our team and will submit your application for this post.

Vandyke is a good place to work, with high expectations and a caring ethos. "Everyone Matters" here at Vandyke and our Annual Survey consistently shows that staff feel well supported and are supportive of one another and that students enjoy coming to school. We often find that competition for posts at Vandyke is strong and the experience colleagues gain here can be a stepping stone to further promotion.

The Role

Please read this booklet alongside the job description and person specification.

The Science Department is an enthusiastic and developing team consisting of 9 teachers and 3 technicians. We have 9 well-resourced labs, digital projectors in every lab, 2 mobile fume cupboards, 2 digital visualisers and sets of laptops for dedicated Science use. There is a large central prep room and chemical store and our own staffroom/workroom.

The ethos of the team is extremely positive, with a strong focus on improving the progress of all students at the school; we are striving to achieve at the highest level. To this end, planning together and sharing resources is very important to us and is allowing all teachers to become more confident in teaching outside their own specialism.

All students have 20% science timetabled lessons studying for "double/trilogy" or "triple" (separate) GCSE science.

At A-level, we offer Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Applied Science, all taught by subject specialists and recruit very well – science is popular! At A2, we have a 100% pass rate in all subjects and we regularly have students leaving us to study a wide variety of science subjects at university, including Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Physics.

The whole school is covered by a wireless network, which enables all teachers to use their school provided laptops in any classroom and allows students to use their own laptops and wifi-enabled devices where this is appropriate within the curriculum. Every student and member of staff has their own e-mail account and full access to the internet and intranet.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, show initiative and be willing to learn any new skills required to support the ever-changing needs of a modern, wide-ranging Science curriculum. You will be joining a successful team that provides a great deal of support including training opportunities

The School



Our students achieve very well, making strong progress in all year groups and achieving good outcomes at GCSE and A Level. In 2016 and in 2017 outcomes were at the national average with students arriving here below the average. EBacc outcomes are especially strong emphasising the school's focus on the humanities and modern foreign languages.

At A level outcomes are excellent. Along with all central Bedfordshire schools we use ALPs to monitor progress. A Level outcomes are ALPS 3 in 2017 and a 3-year ALPs 3 also demonstrating the very strong progress made by students in their time in the Vandyke Sixth Form. BTEC outcomes in year12/13 are ALPs 2.

The ethos of Vandyke is based on strong, positive relationships between staff and students. The atmosphere is a "college" one whereby we seek to allow students autonomy and independence. Students respond very well to this creating a "special" atmosphere around school. Staff enjoy working here and go out of their way to provide great teaching and additional learning opportunities for students. Parents are supportive of the school and feedback from parents is always that the school is welcoming and friendly.

On 10/11 March 2015, we had an Ofsted inspection that judged Vandyke overall to be a "good" school. The report states "students are very proud of their academy. They behave well and display highly constructive attitudes to their learning."

Vandyke is a Challenge Partners School. The February 2018 Quality Audit Review judged the school to be "good" and identified English in particular as an area of excellence. Our commitment to high standards and to regularly reviewing, evaluating and improving our practices is recognised in the many awards we hold. We are proud to hold Sportsmark and Artsmark Gold awards, in recognition of our commitment to Sport/PE and our outstanding programme of extra-curricular sport and performing arts activities. We also hold the International School Award, which recognises the depth and breadth of our commitment to the international dimension of our curriculum. We have just joined PiXL (Partners in Excellence) which marks a further exciting development. PiXL provides professional development opportunities for staff.



Facilities at Vandyke are excellent and include refurbished and developed areas such as a Theatre, Drama Studio, Dance Studio, Sports Hall, Sports Activity area, Music suite, Café, and Library/Study facilities.

As a successful and popular school, Vandyke was requested by Central Beds local authority to expand to accommodate additional students. This expansion programme has added a further 10 new classrooms and PE changing rooms increasing capacity to 1200 students. With new housing growth planned nearby, a further programme to provide a new Sixth Form centre and 12 new Science Labs is also planned and will bring the number on roll to 1500.



The Recruitment Process



To apply, please complete the application form in full in accordance with the accompanying guidance notes. CV applications will not be accepted as the information provided on a CV may not be consistent with the information we require.

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 19 April 2018**. Candidates will be shortlisted against the criteria set out in the person specification for this post.

Vandyke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All shortlisted candidates will be required to bring proof of identity to the interview. The successful candidate will be required to complete an application for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS). Please refer to the separate information contained in this pack about the process and acceptable forms of identification.

All applicants are also required to confirm their eligibility to live and work in the UK. Please ensure one of the documents you produce to support your DBS application is also listed on the enclosed list "Asylum and Immigration Act 1996" to satisfy this requirement.

