**Hilden Grange School**

**Appointment of Head: Brief**

**Advertised October 2018, for appointment September 2019**



**The School**

Hilden Grange School is a co-educational preparatory day school for children aged 3 to 13. Founded in 1929, the school is now part of the Alpha Plus Group. The school stands amid eight acres of attractive grounds on the northern fringe of Tonbridge, Kent.

The School provides a stimulating, friendly and secure environment in which each child’s potential may be realised academically, creatively, physically and spiritually. Pupils strive for high standards, both inside and outside the classroom, take pride in their achievements and enjoy participating wholeheartedly in the life of the school. It is a vibrant, happy school where each child is valued as an individual. Pupils are stimulated and challenged academically in the classroom, but also stimulated in their music, art and drama. Hilden Grange does not just challenge its pupils: it supports them. They are encouraged to take leadership responsibility from a young age.

Pupils are encouraged and given every opportunity to develop enquiring minds and self-reliance. Our excellent teaching staff teach their specialist subjects in small classes, and are expert at motivating and stimulating their pupils.

The school has great success in the 11+ and the 13+ examinations with pupils gaining places and scholarships at independent schools, including Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and the local Grammar Schools.

The Alpha Plus Group have invested over £6m in the school, and there are plans for further investment. For more information about the school please visit the website: [www.hildengrange.co.uk](http://www.hildengrange.co.uk)

**The Alpha Plus Group**

The Alpha Plus Group seeks to deliver a gold standard in education. It encourages every one of its schools to have its own distinctive ethos. The Group also has common aims and values, wanting to see strong leadership in each of its schools, and providing training and support to the Heads and their Senior Management Team in order for this to happen. Effective partnerships with parents are crucial to the Group’s ethos and culture. We want all our staff to place the welfare of the child at the heart of everything they do.The aim of the Group is to give every child in its care the best possible start in life.

The Alpha Plus Group currently consists of 20 schools and colleges. There are 3 nursery schools, 12 pre-preparatory and preparatory schools, 2 secondary schools and 3 sixth form colleges. APG is the largest private educational company in London (15 schools in the capital) and we also have schools and colleges in Cambridge, Manchester, Coventry and Hilden Grange in Tonbridge. Internationally APG has recently opened a school in New York (Wetherby Pembridge School) and, with our partners in China, we are opening pre-schools in China and Hong Kong.

All Alpha Plus schools benefit from being well resourced.

More information on the Group can be found at [www.alphaplusgroup.co.uk](http://www.alphaplusgroup.co.uk)

**The Role**

The Head has overall responsibility for the leadership, educational standards and commercial success of the school.

The successful candidate will be an outstanding leader who will inspire pupils and staff to be the best they can be.

The successful candidate will continue to develop a strong brand identity in the community.

The successful candidate will build relationships based on trust with feeder schools and the Heads of the schools to which the parents aspire to send their children.

Central to the role is the ability to enjoy being with children, and educating children to enable them to begin to fulfill their potential and give them the best opportunities in life.

**Person Specification**

* Experience of having worked in independent schools.
* Experience of successful student recruitment.
* Experience of strategic thinking and the management of change.
* Experience as a Head or Deputy at another Preparatory School OR experience teaching at secondary school level with relevant management experience and involvement in or awareness of secondary school transfer, induction or prep school admissions.

Personal attributes:

* Ability to articulate her/his vision.
* Outstanding communication skills.
* Strong leadership and management ability.
* A collaborative team player as well as a leader.
* A flexible and open-minded approach.
* The ability to set high standards and expectations, and inspire staff to follow.
* The capacity to listen.
* The enjoyment of nurturing and developing young people.
* An understanding of the commercial side of running a successful school.

**Terms of appointment**

It is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to take up the appointment by September 2019 depending on the terms and conditions of their current contract.

Alpha Plus offers a competitive remuneration package to the successful candidate which reflects the high standing of this role.

We are committed to equality of opportunity for all staff, and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Hilden Grange is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children. All staff are trained in child protection and understand to report concerns by following the safeguarding policies. We ensure all candidates are properly police-checked, and the successful candidate will need to obtain an enhanced disclosure via the DBS.

**How to apply**

Candidates should apply for this role through the Alpha Plus Group careers portal at:

<https://isw.changeworknow.co.uk/alphaplusgroup/vms/e/careers>

The closing date for applicationsis **23rd November 2018.**

Tours of the school will take place **week commencing 3rd December 2018.**

Interviews will be held on **29th November** (first stage) and **12th December** (final stage) at 50 Queen Anne Street, London, W1G 8HJ.