



Candidate Brief

Teaching Assistant x 2
Fixed Term, Term time only



BLENHEIM HIGH SCHOOL
LONGMEAD ROAD, EPSOM, SURREY, KT19 9BH
www.blenheim.surrey.sch.uk

Background Information

Such was the improvement in Blenheim's GCSE results in 2018 that the Department for Education have confirmed that Blenheim is Surrey's most improved school in 2018. In addition, the DfE have confirmed that Blenheim's GCSE results in 2018 place the school in the top 30% nationally (DfE, 16.10.18).

Blenheim is a dynamic, exciting and supportive environment in which to work. The school opened in September 1997 with one year group and has grown to its current size of approximately 1310 students on roll including 200 in the Sixth Form. Blenheim is a mixed comprehensive and our reputation in the community is excellent and as a result the school is very popular. The intake comprises of students from all surrounding areas and ability levels are favourable.

The school is under new leadership as of April 2017 and we have put in place a number of comprehensive measures designed to improve the consistency of teaching, the quality of assessments and the impact of feedback, so that all students make good or better progress.

The ethos of Blenheim now revolves around a growth mindset where all members of the school community are actively encouraged to develop the characteristics of hard work, resilience, innovation and improvement. 2017 – 18 saw much change including the implementation of a new permanent Wider Leadership Team, an extended day, a comprehensive Easter Revision programme with appropriate staff remuneration and improved whole school consistency.

Several major changes have come into effect from September 2018. These include:

- The recruitment of a number of high quality middle managers and teachers.
- A six period school day.
- A fortnight October half term & seven week Summer holiday.
- A three year Key Stage 4.
- A Chelsea Girls' Sixth Form Football Academy.
- An alternative pathway for our less academic Key Stage 4 learners providing access to high quality local vocational provision.

In a short amount of time we have addressed many issues and, according to our visitors, now feel like a 'good school'. Of course, we want to continue to be better and as Headteacher I have made a long term commitment to Blenheim.

Blenheim converted to Academy Status in March 2012 and we have developed many community and primary school links. We are a well – resourced school and are fortunate to have outstanding facilities including our own grounds, grass football and rugby pitches and an artificial pitch. We are not part of a Multi Academy Trust, although we continue to investigate this. However, with a significant capital reserve, from which we have complete autonomy to invest, we are genuinely in charge of our own destiny. Together with a very supportive governing body this has meant we have been able to 'move quickly' and invest significantly in several areas, not least in the appointment of high quality teachers and site infrastructure. Our buildings are modern and have just received an internal £150,000 face lift. Visitors now comment on the calm, purposeful learning environment that pervades.

We have an iPad for learning scheme under which all students have access to an iPad with the overwhelming majority having their own personal device and, naturally, teaching staff need to be willing to engage with new technologies.

Job Profile



The aim

To support the Special Needs Co-ordinator and the Subject Teacher in ensuring access to the curriculum for a group of students with special educational needs.

Accountable to:

- SENCO/Deputy SENCO/Senior Teaching Assistant/Teachers.

Supporting roles

- The school secretariat, teaching staff, members of the department and other Blenheim colleagues.

Key Responsibilities:

- To contribute to the planning of a range of activities for an individual and /or a group of students.
- To liaise with class teachers in order to assist in preparation and differentiation of teaching materials, equipment and learning resources, which facilitates the students' access to the curriculum.
- To contribute to the progress and attainment of students by helping to prepare the learning environment.
- To implement procedures for the monitoring, assessment and recording of the students' progress.

- To contribute where appropriate to any multi-disciplinary discussion for the students' needs/progress; to contribute to informal reviews and annual reviews.
- To participate in relevant staff development activities.
- To participate in the supervision of students during break and lunchtime, as directed where deemed appropriate.
- To contribute the school's use of iPads and technology to facilitate student learning.
- To ensure that all students make maximum progress.
- To ensure students of all ages are supported and challenged as necessary and achieve optimum levels of engagement with school life.
- To support and challenge other members of the department as necessary thus ensuring that the student experience and progress is maximised.
- To role model excellent practices, actively encouraging other members of the department to do the same, going 'above and beyond'.
- To communicate appropriate information to teaching and support staff.
- To contribute to a confidential record of issues affecting the educational progress of students.
- To be highly visible and a welcoming point of contact for students.

Safeguarding

- To be familiar with school policies, in particular safeguarding procedures, and promote the welfare of children.

Person Specification

- A genuine interest and enjoyment in working with students, educators, schools and learning.
- Commitment to providing a supporting environment for students, particularly vulnerable students and/or those with special educational needs.
- Prepared to support students with mobility difficulties.
- Prepared to attend to student's personal requirements and physical care if required.
- To have experience of working with children with Specific Learning Difficulties. E.g. Dyslexia, Dyspraxia.
- To have a working knowledge of at least one Specific Learning Difficulty.
- A willingness to embrace a growth mind set.
- A motivated individual who can inspire.
- The ability to 'absorb' the challenges of the day and still maintain high standards of professionalism.
- A team player putting students first and working with colleagues efficiently and effectively; recognising the 'greater good'.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills both orally and in writing.
- A genuine interest and enjoyment in working with students, educators, schools and learning.
- Ability to demonstrate flexibility and tenacity.
- Confident, assertive and able to thrive in a challenging environment.
- Ability to motivate pupils through a variety of methods, including competition, rewards, sanctions and the setting of SMART goals.
- Ability to interpret and track student progress through the use of data.
- Ability to successfully encourage students to achieve their academic and recreational potential.
- Commitment to provide a supporting and challenging environment for students, particularly pupil premium students including those with Special Educational Needs.

- Commitment to individual continuous professional development, wanting to 'get better' by building on strengths but also recognising development areas and actively seeking to improve them.

General

- Demonstrate a keen interest in all aspects of school life.
- To show solidarity by supporting school policy, and the senior leadership team, publicly.
- To challenge school policy, and the senior leadership team, privately.



The Application Process

Please download and complete the Application Form and include a Statement of Application outlining your achievements to date and what you bring to the role, please ensure this is no more than two sides of A4. Completed applications may be emailed to Emma Matthews, Human Resources, matthewse@blenheim.surrey.sch.uk

Alternatively you may post or hand deliver your application marking for the attention of **Emma Matthews, Human Resources, Blenheim High School, Longmead Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 9BH**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 16th November 2018**. We reserve the right to appoint before the closing date, therefore early applications are encouraged.

To find out more about the school or to arrange a tour of the school please contact Mrs Mel Hart, PA to the Headteacher, headteacher@blenheim.surrey.sch.uk

Our school is committed to equal opportunities and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointment to this post will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure. I enclose our policies for your information.

I should remind you that you are liable to prosecution if you are included in the Disclosure and Barring Service's/Disclosure Scotland's Children's Barred List and engage, or seek or offer to engage, in work which either involves contact with children or provides opportunities for contact with children.