Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with AUI and QISA

Tachbrook Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9PE
Tel: 020 8751 9888
Email: info@aspirationsacademies.org
www.aspirationsacademies.org

Magna Academy Poole
an Aspirations Academy

Head of Physics

Highly competitive salary (TLR 2b £4,749 – salary negotiable based on experience)
with opportunity to also become a Lead Practitioner and/or Specialist Leader of Education
(paid on Leadership scale)

Applicant Information Pack






Ofsted Outstanding 2014 2015

National Teaching School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership

National Support School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership

'To be able to dream about the future, while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams' Dr Russel J Quaglia

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Welcome to Magna Academy

Thank you for considering Magna Academy Poole for your next appointment. We seek an excellent Head of Physics, who will lead Physics within the Science department into its next stage of development **(September 2018 start). For experienced candidates, there is also the opportunity to become a Lead Practitioner/Specialist Leader of Education alongside this role. This new position has arisen due to the rapid expansion of the Academy and Science department and designation as a NCTL National Teaching School and National Support School.**

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious practitioner, who wants to lead the rapidly growing Physics curriculum area (including KS5) and make a real impact on further driving up attainment and progress in Physics. You will also have the opportunity to support other Physics teachers in other schools as part of our Teaching School and Support School work.

Our Academy is a vibrant and exciting place to work and was graded as outstanding in all areas by OFSTED in June 2015. In 2016, Magna achieved a Progress 8 score of 0.52, **placing us well within the top 5% highest performing schools nationally. In 2017, we achieved a Progress 8 score of 0.4, in the top 15% nationally.** We have a desire to be in the top 1%.

'This is an outstanding school. Teachers have high expectations of their students, who respond by producing excellent work.' **(OFSTED, June 2015)**

'Students make exceptional progress.' **(OFSTED, June 2015)**

'The behaviour of students is outstanding. They are exceptionally keen to learn, and show real enthusiasm in lessons.' **(OFSTED, June 2015)**

Magna Academy is different. Our teaching approaches have been **influenced by charter schools in US inner cities and innovations from cognitive science.** There are no unwieldy, impossible marking policies, no graded lesson observations and our students' behaviour is impeccable, supported by same-day centralised detentions. We also teach **a rigorous academic curriculum consisting of the best that has been thought and said.**

Central to the philosophy of our Trust is the innovative Aspirations Framework, which outlines the belief that for all students to have high Aspirations**, three Guiding Principles must be present: Self-Worth, Engagement, and Purpose.**

If you are able to visit, you will see a scholarly culture with impeccable behaviour, highly engaged students and silent corridors. At the same time, we are very outward-facing and humble. We know we haven't yet got everything right, and are driven to continuously improve and aspire to become one of the best schools in the country.

The Aspirations Academies Trust – Company Registration Number: 07867577
Chief Executive: Steve Kenning

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Please read our Vision document, that is on the TES job webpage, to fully understand our ethos and mission.

The Science Department

The Science department is a dynamic team currently consisting of 8 teachers and 2 technicians. They are housed in a state of the art Science area with a mix of new laboratories, applied learning spaces and the capacity to adapt to different learning strategies. All rooms are equipped with SMART boards and essential practical equipment.

Students follow a five year GCSE plan from Year 7-11, with a key focus on practical skills and key knowledge in Year 7 and 8. At GCSE, students follow either the Triple Science or Double Science pathway. We currently offer a post-16 suite of A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics along with Level 3 BTEC in Applied Science.

The role is important to the continuing progress of the Academy. Further experiences and skill development will be provided to support your career development and promotion opportunities. Excellent further professional development is offered by the Academy.

Curriculum planning and design

The science department teach to a 5-year knowledge rich GCSE programme across the three sciences. The whole academy follows a 6 unit model across the academic year, each one lasting 6 weeks. Within science, students are taught a mix of fundamental 'threshold concepts' in Year 7 and 8. All lessons are pitched to a high level, which is then scaffolded, to support students of all starting points in reaching this.

There is a collaborative planning model set up across the department with a team member currently planning for a specific year group. This year, the focus has been on developing resources, around the knowledge rich curriculum structure. As part of this, high quality 'Knowledge Organisers' have been developed for all year groups, across the units studied so far. 'Do Now' questions are planned for the start of each lesson based on these, with 10 question quizzes at the end of each week given. These form a low stakes knowledge check, which is interleaved to test recall of knowledge from across the whole unit. Currently booklets are being developed for each lesson, allowing teachers the freedom to then focus on the high level application of key ideas and modelling in lessons with support, as well as the embedding of key concepts through practical tasks.

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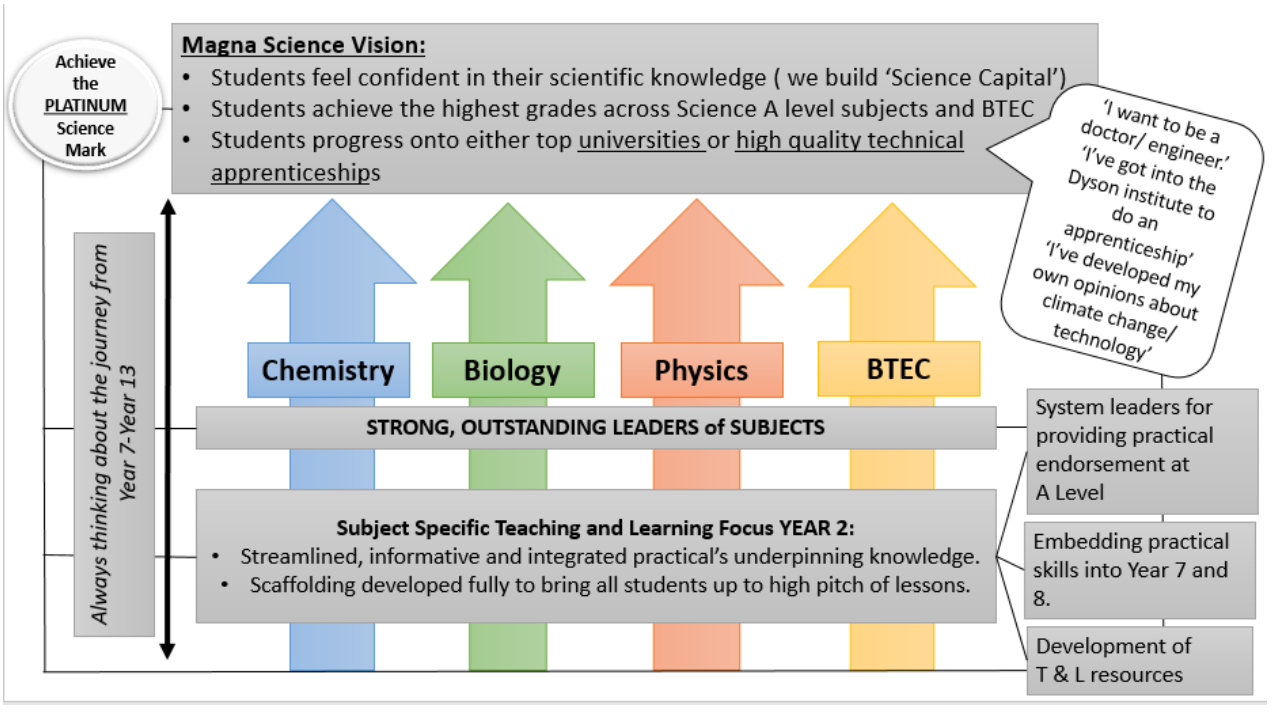
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The new required practical's have been embedded into the curriculum model, so they are spaced out and taught alongside the theory, to ensure students are able to fully understand the practical's link to key concepts, and to consolidate these further.

Further development areas

- Manage the transition of the department to specialists teaching in their disciplines from Year 9 (not just A level), and lessons being taught in disciplines to students.
- Further develop resources where needed, and implementation of practical activities in science, to enhance understanding of key concepts.
- Develop the Separate Science specific resources.
- Fully develop strong leaders across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, BTEC (level 3).
- Aim to achieve Platinum Science Mark as a department in the next 3 years.

Vision for Science Department 2017-18



As the department grows further, this has led to new positions becoming available in the department as Heads of Chemistry, Physics and Biology, from September 2018.

As a Lead Practitioner/SLE you would play a key role in further developing the curriculum and pedagogy in Physics/Science and across the Academy/Teaching School Alliance, and provide support to Physics teams in other schools, as part of our School to School Support work.

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What we offer:

We have very high expectations of our staff, but we value them highly, and treat work load very seriously. Our systems ensure you can really focus on your core purpose – teaching, in a sustainable way, unhindered by bureaucracy or poor behaviour.

- **Great students who behave impeccably – you can make a massive difference to them**
- **Tight, robust, no-excuses behaviour systems**
- **Highly visible and supportive senior leaders, who have your back**
- **Same day centralised detentions, including homework detentions (you do not need to organise, run or chase them at all), helping to underpin impeccable behaviour, so you are free to teach**
- **A feedback policy focused on whole class feedback – you do not need to mark exercise books – we do not have onerous and impossible marking policies**
- **A centralised homework system at KS3 – you do not need to check or mark KS3 homework**
- **No formal graded lesson observations – just ongoing 'no-stakes' feedback, helping you to continuously develop – we believe that trusting our staff with autonomy helps to develop a strong staff culture**
- **Collaborative planning with centralised, shared units of work and resources**
- **CPD starts as soon as you are appointed**
- **Excellent ongoing CPD, career development and promotion opportunities**
- **A professional progression model to enable great teachers to map a career path within the Trust**
- **State of the art facilities, and a very pleasant location in beautiful Dorset**

What we are looking for:

The successful candidate will be:

- **an excellent teacher of Physics who will play an important role in leading Physics into its next stage of development.**
- **someone who does whatever it takes to ensure the life chances of all our students are maximised. They will blend extreme personal humility with intense professional will.**
- **totally aligned to our values and mission. If you are the type of person who fits with our culture, you will love working here.**

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As a rapidly growing academy, that will be at full capacity in 2019, **and as a newly designated NCTL National Teaching School and National Support School,** you would be joining us at a very exciting time and become part of a vibrant learning community that will offer you fantastic opportunities for CPD, career development, future promotions and for you to be able to make your mark.

There is the opportunity to be part of the curriculum planning team 2018/19 for the new all-through age 4-18 Bournemouth Livingstone Academy opening in September 2019.

We actively welcome visits and would be delighted to show you around our Academy in order to fully appreciate our excellent learning environment.

Next steps:

Magna Academy Poole offers an excellent opportunity for an ambitious, talented individual looking to develop their career. We would be delighted to show you around our Academy in order to fully appreciate our excellent learning environment. **We strongly advise a visit as this Academy is unlikely to be like anything you have ever seen. Please contact zchallis@aatmagna.org or 01202 604222 to arrange a visit or an informal, confidential discussion about the role.**

Learn more about Magna Academy at: www.aatmagna.org

Magna Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check before taking up the post.

How to Apply:

To apply, please click on the "quick apply" button to submit an online application.

If you wish to be considered for a Lead Practitioner/Specialist Leader of Education role in addition to the Head of Physics role, please outline this in your application.

Closing date for applications: 9am Friday 16th March 2018

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Yours faithfully,

Richard Tutt
Principal

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