



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST. MARY • DEVON • EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NFQH



March 2018

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of 2nd in Mathematics at The King's School

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-19 comprehensive school (OFSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1110 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving 6th form which continues to perform very well. In challenging financial times, we have managed to maintain a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16 which allows students to select subjects that they are passionate about and this breadth offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff.

The experiences of our students reflect our "achievement for all" ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We have a large and highly effective Skills for Learning team who, working alongside classroom teachers, ensure that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. We provide extension opportunities for the most-able students and continue to see many of our students progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. New accountability measures which reflect progress demonstrates that students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

The King's School has a sharp focus on academic and personal outcomes and as a result we have strong pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our new uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sports offer which caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an arts and technology evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the school parliament and prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. As a result, we are exploring opportunities to develop a multi academy trust in the East Devon and Exeter area. This will provide staff who work at the school an opportunity to be part of a larger organisation with the associated professional development opportunities and support that will arise as a result. We continue to play an active part in the two teaching alliances and regularly support trainees pursuing various routes into the profession.

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Mathematics is well regarded at the school and especially by our students who enjoy the subject across the age and ability range. We encourage teaching to be lively, innovative, creative, rigorous, and above all fun. Expectations and routines are well-embedded across all year groups; students' behaviour is excellent across the department allowing teachers to focus on getting the best outcomes for all students. We currently follow Edexcel courses at GCSE and A level, together with level 2 AQA further mathematics to our most able GCSE students. Mathematics is taught in four ability groups across two bands at both KS3 and KS4, with the least able students being taught in much smaller groups with significant TA support. Last year 81% of students achieved a grade 4 or better at GCSE, and we were also very pleased with our P8 score of +0.24 (+0.43 for disadvantaged students) which we hope to further improve upon this year. The subject is particularly highly regarded at KS5; around 50% of students have consistently achieved grade A or better in mathematics over the past few years. A level further mathematics is also thriving; last year four students achieved double A* in mathematics and went on to study the subject at university. Furthermore, numbers opting for the further mathematics following recent reforms remain healthy and are set to increase for next year's very able cohort.

The mathematics team is extremely tight-knit and works very well together, constantly striving to improve; sharing good practice in a supportive and creative environment. All teachers benefit from excellent CPD opportunities both in house and externally, and are never afraid to take risks. We are looking for someone who can be creative, dynamic and is able to communicate their passion for the subject to the whole range of students. You will need to be a talented and capable classroom practitioner at all key stages but at KS5 in particular where there will be the opportunity to teach a significant number of hours as well as contribute to the development of new schemes of learning to reflect the needs of new specifications. The successful candidate will also be a team player who can communicate an enthusiasm and depth of subject knowledge using a student-centred approach. The candidate should also be organised, confident in assessment for learning and above all someone who will form positive relationships with both colleagues and students alike. For a suitably experienced candidate there is the opportunity to be appointed as second in department leading KS3 mathematics (**TLR 2a - £2665**).

There will be an opportunity to look around the department on Monday 26th March at 16.00, please email Ros Daly if you would like to attend.

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children at the school and someone that lives in the community I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have a very stable and supportive staff who enjoy their work and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R J Gammon