



Teacher of English Application Pack

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Teacher of English
Start Date: September 2018
MPS/UPS plus London Fringe Allowance
Closing Date: Wednesday 18th April
Early applications welcome

Are you passionate about teaching English? Would you like to join a team of dedicated and reflective practitioners whose aim is to help students of all abilities develop the skills and qualities which will allow them to excel in the future?

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. 1270 boys and girls of all abilities thrive at our school. We are a highly ambitious, high-achieving and fully inclusive school providing an outstanding education for all. We want our students to enjoy the time they spend with us by providing an education which is broad, stimulating and rewarding. We are also proud of the range of extra-curricular opportunities we provide for students outside of the classroom.

We are currently recruiting a Teacher of English to join our successful and expanding school.

We can offer you:-

- the harmonious and friendly atmosphere which exists on our campus
- the opportunity to join a happy and successful school which has been rated as one of the country's highest achieving comprehensive schools by the SSAT, with excellent exam results and whose Progress 8 score is in the top 24% of schools nationally.
- fantastic support from your line manager and a Senior Leadership Team who genuinely want to see you succeed and develop here at Furze Platt. NQTs are allocated a mentor, a reduced timetable and the opportunity to attend training sessions run by specialists from a group of Maidenhead schools
- career opportunities allowing you to grow professionally within Furze Platt including working parties and coaching for experienced teachers and leadership training for aspiring and existing middle and senior leaders.
- the chance to teach English in our Sixth Form which has 250 students
- excellent on-site facilities
- access to a newly installed gym
- your own laptop, student laptops and interactive whiteboards
- access to an employee advice service which provides information, helpful resources and other services.
- freshly brewed coffee during break-time
- invitations to whole school social events and gatherings to celebrate success

The successful candidate will:

- have excellent subject knowledge and a passion for teaching and leading on a subject which consistently achieves outstanding exam results both at GCSE and A Level
- be able to deliver engaging lessons which inspire and encourage all students to value the importance of English in everyday life.

- Be a newly qualified or experienced teacher
- be joining us at an exciting time as we embark on an on-site expansion project

Interested applicants are welcome to talk to Mrs Debbie Harding, HR Manager debbie.harding@furzeplatt.net about this post, or to visit the school. To learn more about our school please refer to our website www.furzeplatt.com.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this post, and I hope you find the information provided useful.

Furze Platt is an extremely rewarding school in which to work and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in our most recent inspection (September 2016).

As our values and vision statement notes, 'Our successful school is a happy, safe and caring learning community where achievement is promoted, potential realised and young people flourish.' We have nearly 170 caring, committed and good humoured teaching and support staff together with a diverse student body of 1250 students, who come to school ready to learn and who are supportive of the school's policies and procedures. This is a school where staff and students work together to achieve high standards and excellent outcomes.

'Pupils achieve highly at this school' - Ofsted 2016

Our student body is taken from the town of Maidenhead, 30 miles west of London, and from other parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Whilst overall the area is affluent, ours is a true comprehensive school, with students from all social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. The school is popular and well regarded in the local community. The achievement of most students is good or better and has been significantly above national averages for 4 years running. Both girls and boys make significantly better progress than children nationally.

'The quality of teaching and learning is strong. Teachers' strong subject knowledge and good behaviour management skills help pupils to learn effectively' - Ofsted 2016

We are also a very inclusive school, and our vertical tutor group system, with six tutor groups in each of eight houses, emphasises the sense of community. We have a specialist unit for students with autistic spectrum disorder, and provide excellent support for those with academic or emotional difficulties.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, and aims to meet the differing needs of students. We operate a two year Key Stage Three to allow students to make accelerated progress and to embark on their GCSE studies in Year 9.

At Key Stage Four our curriculum provides an appropriate mix of academic GCSE subjects including English Language and English Literature, maths, and both combined and separate sciences. Students can also opt for more vocational subjects. Standards are very high and students' progress and attainment are significantly above the national average.

The Sixth Form is an undoubted strength of Furze Platt, with the broad curriculum offer and high standard of teaching leading to excellent examination results. A very large number of sixth formers progress to university, including Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. Sixth form students are also expected to undertake community work in or out of school, including paired reading and maths schemes, and act as subject prefects or mentors. They make a significant contribution to the school. The Sixth Form block boasts state of the art teaching rooms, study facilities and a common room.

‘Teaching in the Sixth Form is consistently good... students made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects [and] are excellent role models for younger pupils... the proportion of A* and A grades has also increased’ - Ofsted 2016

We have excellent ICT facilities, with all departments having either a separate ICT suite or large numbers of laptops for student use. Our VLE (‘FP Online’) is first class, and enables staff and students to collaborate simultaneously over the Google ‘cloud.’ All teaching staff have their own school laptop.

We also believe passionately in music, drama, the arts and sport, and have excellent facilities to support these. In particular, over the past five years two state of the art Drama studios, including a small theatre, have been built; a new Dance studio has been constructed; while our Music department has been completely redesigned, and now houses a professional recording studio, practice rooms and classrooms. As would be expected, there are a large number of music and drama productions, both on a large and small scale. We have recently completed a significant sports development programme and Furze Platt Leisure Centre opened on site in 2015.

We have a strong team of teaching staff and are committed to developing our teaching still further, and thus to ensure that even more students reach their full potential. To this end, we invest heavily in teachers’ professional development. In addition to twilight staff development time and teaching and learning-focused INSET days, staff are encouraged to join working parties focusing on aspects of pedagogy and benefit from staff coaching. Where appropriate, staff attend external courses, and we encourage staff to visit other schools to see examples of best practice.

Furze Platt is an exciting school to work in, and this is an exciting time to join us on our journey. I hope that the information in this pack inspires you to apply to work with us. Should you require any further information, then please visit our website (www.furzeplatt.com) or contact me via my P.A. Mrs Jacky Phillips email jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net.

With best wishes

Tanya White
Headteacher

Job Description – Teacher

Purpose: To ensure the greatest possible progress and development of students, through high quality teaching and learning, and appropriate pastoral support. To challenge and support all students to achieve their best by:

- Setting consistently high expectations and standards
- Sharing a love of your subject and of learning
- Enthusiasing, engaging and motivating students
- Inspiring trust and confidence in students and colleagues

Main duties:

- To maintain thorough and up to date subject knowledge and pedagogy
- To plan lessons and sequences of lessons and to support students in meeting their personal and academic potential
- To use a range of effective strategies for teaching and for behaviour management, as detailed in the school's Learning Policy and Behaviour Policy
- To ensure the effective deployment of classroom support where appropriate
- To use and analyse performance data including prior learning data, progress data and external examination data when planning lessons, and in order to establish and set expectations, targets and action plans for individuals and groups of students
- To assess, monitor and record progress of students in teaching and tutorial groups
- To set home learning regularly and in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To mark work regularly, provide appropriate feedback, and ensure this feedback is acted upon, in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To communicate students' progress with parents and carers
- To take part in marketing and liaison activities, such as Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings, Options Evenings and Celebration Events
- To engage actively in your own Performance Management and to take responsibility for your own Professional Development within the context of the school's Performance Management and Professional Development policies
- To be a team player within your department and house, contributing to department meetings, improvement plans and self evaluation processes.
- To contribute and where appropriate to lead on departmental learning plans including Schemes of Learning or Schemes of Work
- To work with, learn from, and support departmental and House colleagues
- To cooperate with colleagues to ensure a sharing and effective use of resources and to inform the process of ordering and allocation of equipment and materials
- To alert relevant staff to problems experienced by students and to work with those staff to implement solutions

Other duties:

- Where appropriate, to assume pastoral responsibility either for a mixed age Key Stage 3 and 4 tutor group or a Sixth Form tutor group, as part of the school's house system
- As a form tutor, to produce appropriate reports and otherwise liaise with parents as required
- To be aware of and assume the appropriate level of responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to report any concerns in accordance with the school's Child Protection policy
- To comply with the school's Health and Safety Policy
- To undertake any other duties not mentioned above, commensurate with the level of the post

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Teacher of English Person Specification

Requirement	Essential?	Desirable?	Shown through? A = application I = interview R = reference
QTS and eligibility to work in UK	✓		A, I, R
Evidence of continuing professional development	✓		A, I
Understanding and support for the values and visions of the school	✓		A, I
Understanding and clear vision of the importance of English	✓		A, I
A consistently good or outstanding practitioner capable of generating high student outcomes	✓		A, I
Ability to teach English to GCSE	✓		A, I, R
Interest or experience to teach English at A-Level.		✓	A, I
Self-motivated and self-reflective	✓		A, I
Good teamwork skills	✓		A, I
Good interpersonal and communication skills	✓		A, I
Good organisational skills	✓		A, I
Flexibility	✓		A, I
Patience	✓		A, I
Resilience	✓		A, I



ENGLISH AND MEDIA DEPARTMENT

The English and Media Department aims to provide a stimulating, dynamic and academically rigorous experience for all our students. To this end, we are dedicated to leading innovation within English and Media teaching and to forging strong links with other departments. Strong leadership of the department provides structure for colleagues and encourages initiative, creativity and innovation.

English and English Literature are studied at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. Also offered at Key Stage 5 is a Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media.

The English and Media Department is proud of the achievement of its students. English GCSE results in 2017 were particularly impressive, with 84% 9-4 grades; Pupil Premium students performed especially well. Our A-Level English Language and Literature class gained an overall ALPS score of 3 (deemed by ALPS to be 'excellent'), and our A Level Literature class achieved an ALPS score of 2 (deemed to be 'outstanding'). At AS-Level results have been equally impressive.

We are committed to fostering a love of our subject through the enthusiasm and expertise of our specialist staff. At the heart of our curriculum is an emphasis on oracy, creativity, independence and critical thinking. We place a high value on each student's personal response. Stimulating creativity and thought beyond the curriculum is an important focus for the English and Media Department. We encourage students to enter national creative and critical competitions, and value the achievement and participation of all our students.

Accommodation, Resources and Facilities

There are eight specialist English and Media teachers and two specialist support staff. The department is housed in a self-contained block with seven classrooms. It is equipped with its own computer suite and interactive whiteboards, and a growing range of ICT resources. The department has invested in several visualisers and student whiteboards to aid with demonstration of good practice and with peer assessment.

Staffing (with effect from September 2018)

Head of English and Media
2i/c English
3i/c English
5 additional specialist teachers
2 specialist teaching assistants

Curriculum

KS3

Students learn in mixed ability groups and follow the National Curriculum. We embed Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills throughout the curriculum in order to enhance learning. We value drama in English and the important role that it has to play in developing higher order skills and allowing students to formulate original interpretations of complex texts. Students are given the opportunity to experience theatre productions, workshops from professional writers and other activities that enrich their experience of English.

KS4

At GCSE, we follow the Eduqas specification for English Literature and Language. Students have 9 hourly lessons per fortnight where the successes of KS3 are built upon. Independence and exploratory thought continue to be developed as students study a range of stimulating non-fiction, prose, poetry and drama texts.

KS5

English Literature (OCR) and Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media (OCR) invariably recruit a large number of students. We follow the courses for each of these subjects ensuring stretch and challenge is embedded throughout. Students currently sit mid-course examinations at the end of Year 12 and their A Level examinations at the end of Year 13. A significant number of students progress to study English or Media-related subjects at university.

Extra-Curricular Provision

The department offers a range of enrichment activities and the successful applicant will be able to contribute to these as well as develop new opportunities for students.

Currently we offer: creative writing competitions for all year groups, classwork clinics and revision clinics. Opportunities for public speaking coaching and debating are in the pipeline.