

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this key vacancy. Birchwood is a great place to work. We are a large and thriving 11-18 mixed Academy with 1400 students on roll. Throughout their time with us, students gain strong academic qualifications as well as becoming well rounded individuals with a sense of responsibility. We are proud of our all-ability ethos and inclusive philosophy which enables us to balance support of academically gifted students who go on to achieve top grades at A-Level and GCSE, with students who need more help and guidance in a caring and supportive learning environment. All students who leave us go on to further education; record numbers to Russell Group Universities, to apprenticeships or a chosen career and as a result, our students do not appear in the government's 'not in education or employment' statistics.

We have excellent facilities and we are financially secure. The school underwent a £15m expansion between 2005 and 2010, as we grew from 6FE to 8FE. Today, the school presents as a mixture of modern, recently built accommodation and renovated older buildings within a pleasant and well-cared for estate. As an employer, we have over 200 staff and a relatively low turnover. We pay great attention to staff well-being and teacher-workload (see the Birchwood Plus brochure) and personalised CPD, ensuring the school is run efficiently and effectively. Consequently Birchwood is a thriving and happy place to work. Teachers, therefore, tend to stay at Birchwood and develop their career rather than move on.

Taking children of all ability from the local area, our intake reflects the national average so achieving above the national average at GCSE is something we are pleased with. In 2018, 81% of students achieved a standard pass in English (L4+) and 61% achieved a good pass (L5+), matching the performance in Maths and Science. This is a testament to the Head of English and her team. We are fully staffed in English and the successful person will inherit a cohesive team of subject specialists along with KS3, KS4, KS5 co-ordinators and a Head of Film and Media, who run an extremely well-organised and well-resourced faculty.

Beyond GCSEs, the majority of our Year 11 students stay on into our Sixth Form where they study predominantly A-Level subjects with the intention to apply for a place at university. We have a large Sixth Form of 250 students and we offer over 32 different subjects at Advanced Level. In 2018, all our students passed their A-Levels, with 60% achieving A*-B grades (well above the national average of 48%). This meant that 91% our students went to their first choice University. In the English faculty, we successfully offer a range of subjects including English Literature, English Language, Film and Media at A level.

Speaking personally, it is a privilege to lead Birchwood High School and I am fortunate to work with many loyal and dedicated staff along with students who are a credit to themselves. We continue to work hard to improve the standard of education for all our young people so they can make a positive difference to the world. If you would like to find out more, our website is very informative and includes newsletters and parents' feedback: <https://www.birchwoodonline.co.uk/newsletters.php>



Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

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To apply, please complete an application form and include this with a covering letter* outlining any relevant experience to date, your values and how you would make a difference to student outcomes. Applications should be sent to Harriet Muxlow, HR Manager at recruitment@birchwoodhigh.org.uk. The closing date is Monday 15th October 2018 with interviews taking place during the week commencing 15th October.

If you have any further queries or would like to have an informal visit of the school prior to applying please contact the school on 01279 655936.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chris Ingate
Principal

*the application letter should be no more than two sides of A4 Arial Font Size 12