Dear Colleague

I would like to thank you for your interest in our Teacher of English position at Thamesmead School. Our department is a dynamic, forward-thinking and greatly collaborative team of skilled teachers. We pride ourselves on the excellent quality of our teaching and learning, strong subject knowledge, and rigorous, thorough and highly effective curriculum planning. The performance of our students in the 2017 GCSEs, in which they achieved 90% Grades 4+ (A\* - C) in English, are testament to the high calibre teaching that takes place within every English lesson, and we look forward to welcoming another member of the team to share in our successes.

Our English curriculum is a diverse and exciting mix of literature from the English heritage, modern American fiction, dramatic plays, world poetry, contemporary non-fiction and studies in spoken language. We deliver a engaging creative writing programme across both Key Stages. Throughout our pupils’ five-year English career, they develop a deep appreciation of both the written and spoken word and learn how to craft their own creative works. Thamesmead pupils are nurtured into more than simply literary readers – they become literary thinkers and doers.

Working with us means working with both experienced and recently qualified teachers. An appealing benefit of our wide range of experiences and backgrounds is that we each play a unique role within the department, complementing and challenging each other to strive to even higher standards of teaching. Indeed, this community ethos is evident in our shared lesson planning, through which we not only save precious time in the working day, we share best practice and knowledge across the entire department, creating an atmosphere in which one can truly thrive as a practitioner.

Concomitant with this collaborative approach is the potential to broaden and hone your leadership skills. Not only would you be responsible for overseeing the curriculum within Key Stage 3, you would also be given opportunities to plan Key Stage 4 schemes-of-work. Here, you would offer topical expertise to the rest of the team. You would help to elevate our already excellent lesson planning and home learning schemes. Additionally, this offers capacity for some experience in leadership beyond Key Stage 3.

You would join the team at an exciting time in our development. Using our performance in 2017 to reflect on our successes and areas for growth, you would be joining us at a time when our direction is clear and unified. Assessed as ‘Outstanding’ in our last three annual departmental reviews, we are constantly endeavouring to sustain and better the impact of our teaching and are eager to welcome another talented individual to help lead the team in our journey.

I hope that after looking at the information regarding our department and the post will encourage you to prepare and submit an application. If you would like to talk to myself further regarding the post, or wish to visit the school in advance of making an application you are very welcome. Please contact Zoe Midwinter on hr@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Amy On

Curriculum Leader in English