**Bennett Memorial Diocesan School**

**Teacher of Computer Science and IT from September 2018**

**Computer Science and IT Curriculum Area**

The post is an opportunity for a strong teacher of computer science and IT to gain a role in a department and a school where there is real opportunity for professional progression. The team is completely committed to developing every member’s knowledge of computer science and teaching skills to the highest level, and there are very strong, and increasing, numbers of students taking computer science to A Level. Outcomes at GCSE are outstanding, and getting even stronger. This is achieved through a commitment to the systematic development of students’ coding skill and wider computer science knowledge from admission in year 7.

Students at Bennett learn to write code in Python, which is a flexible choice of language for teaching and learning. Other programming languages are available to students, including Java, C# and Visual Basic. Our curriculum also includes one level 3 IT qualification at present, which examines students’ knowledge and understanding of IT themes such as databases, spreadsheet and the use of social media.

Our vision and methods of teaching have changed and developed over the last couple of years as the department has fully transitioned to the teaching of computer science. We are very keen for students not simply to learn key skills by processing tasks, but instead through the systematic development of their knowledge. Our students are encouraged to take intellectual risks at answering questions they have never seen before – this is possible through the confidence they have gained in their learning of a broad range of questions.

Each student is encouraged to become an effective computer scientist mastering new concepts and acquiring sound problem solving skills. We ensure each student develops their thinking skills and the ability to read and write accurate code. As a department we place considerable emphasis on personal responsibility and the acquisition of good study skills leading to independent learning. To this end we offer support in the form of excellent resources, lunchtime clinics and a professional and committed department. Each student is carefully monitored and is encouraged to strive to reach his or her full potential. Each student is regarded as an individual and every effort is made to address their needs and support them to the best of our ability.

The department benefits from fully networked suit of specialist rooms, with interactive whiteboards in every classroom. The computer science and IT team consists of four specialist teachers and is currently led by Mr Alan Ottley.

Alongside high aspiration for all, Bennett’s results are achieved through outstanding teaching. The school has high expectations of its teaching staff, they work hard and are committed and focussed; teaching is very strong across the school.

For a newly qualified teacher, Bennett offers a well-disciplined, purposeful environment with actively co-operative students, and there is an effective scheme of mentor and staff tutor support.

Bennett is strongly committed to developing teachers professionally, and believes that all staff should have an active and positive role to play in the development of policy and practice. This generates great enthusiasm and a strong sense of teamwork.

As a designated Teaching School we invest strongly in teacher professional development, for example by providing training so that staff can achieve the Outstanding Teacher accreditation, as well as leadership training at all levels. Bennett is a Church of England school, and it is expected that all staff support the school’s distinctive ethos in their professional role.