

Dear prospective Subject Teacher of English at The Wren School!

Thank you for expressing interest in the Subject Teacher of English post at The Wren School, which is a new six form entry secondary Free School that opened to year 7 students in temporary accommodation in September 2015. Located in West Reading, the school is well situated, with easy access to the M4 and good rail links to London and nationally.

The Wren School is proving to be a popular choice for local families. There are currently 407 students on role (168 in Year 7, 155 in Year 8 and 84 in Year 9) and we have 168 new Year 7 students starting in September 2018, with a large waiting list! When full, we will have 1176 students in Years 7 – 13, with 168 students in each year group. We are on target to occupy our brand new building in September 2018. From September 2017, the senior leadership team (SLT) comprised of six people, i.e. myself, a deputy headteacher (teaching & learning and CPD), two assistant headteachers (pastoral and raising standards leaders) as well as our School Business Manager and headteacher's PA.

For September 2018, we are planning to increase the number of teachers by twelve more people and, as our oldest students start Year 10, we are confident in our ability to support NQTs and those who are at a relatively early stage in their careers. We are fully committed to the importance of staff wellbeing including continuing professional learning as is evidenced, for example by our staff engagement in action research, looking at strategies used elsewhere and trialling them to find out what works for our students.

Next academic year the English department will be based in new specialist facilities on the second floor of our new accommodation with scenic views overlooking Reading. With exclusive access to a brand new library, areas specially designed to inspire creativity (such as our own historic sunken garden, complete with outdoor learning pods) and an auditorium style space, our English department will be a place of inspiration, creativity and expression.

During years 7 and 8, we follow an exciting thematic curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigour of GCSE AQA English Language and English Literature. At key stage 3, students are assigned specific timetabled lessons to foster their love for reading, where teachers are free to experiment with introducing students to inspiring literary texts. In year 7, students will consolidate their writing and analytical skills from their primary education before embarking on their study of a range of texts from 19th and 20th century literature. They will develop a passion for reading through a range of challenging set texts including: 'Wonder,' 'A Monster Calls' and 'The Giver' as well as studying a variety of Shakespeare texts. Throughout year 8, students study a range of fictional and non-fiction texts, including recent Carnegie shortlist nominee 'Salt to the Sea,' 'Once' and 'Millions.' Students will develop their analytical writing as well as developing persuasive



writing skills through the analysis of thought-provoking articles to prepare for English Language paper 2 and develop personal points of view. In year 9, students start their GCSE studies, developing the necessary skills and creativity, using poetry and extracts from a range of texts to tackle challenging literary texts in years 10 and 11.

Successful candidates for this post will be characterised by high expectations, a passion for engaging learners and an ambition for The Wren School to be the best it can be. The work is undeniably challenging and necessitates applicants who are both determined and resilient but it is also the most rewarding and exciting project that most teachers will ever have the opportunity to participate in. To date, the school has been blessed by the high quality and enthusiasm of all appointees, who want to ensure that each of our students benefits from an exceptional all-round education.

We expect everyone who works at The Wren School to support and embrace our school vision and ethos, which is that:

'Each child, regardless of background, will receive a world-class education and be nurtured, challenged and inspired to aim high.'

The Wren School develops this statement under the following five headings:

1. Each child an individual

Children only get one chance at education – and it should be an outstanding one, tailored to their needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive ethos where each student is enabled to thrive and achieve. The Wren School wants to be recognised for its personalisation of learning, ensuring that students feel safe and confident. This process commences before our students take up a place at The Wren School as part of a comprehensive transition programme. The role of the form tutor is paramount and is supported by the structure of the school week which includes a weekly SMSC lesson and a daily reflection time.

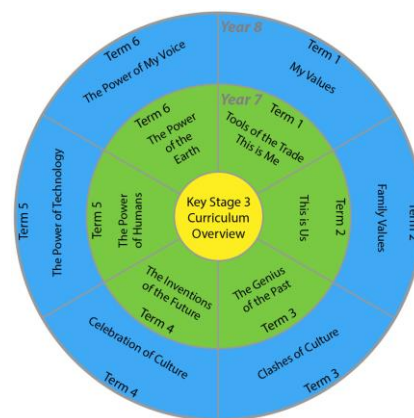
2. Innovative curriculum and teaching

We provide a broad and relevant thematic, skills-based curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) that promotes each individual's passage to becoming an active and engaged citizen. We want The Wren students to be challenged by our engaging and exciting curriculum and to make exceptional progress. Consequently, our students will be equipped to make career choices that enable them to realise their ambitions and achieve economic wellbeing. Year 9 is seen as a transition to GCSE year, where students commence their GCSE studies in the core subjects and sample a Key Stage 4 taster module of each of the optional subjects.

We aim to employ innovative and effective teaching strategies that derive from best practice. There is a strong emphasis on enquiry-based learning that develops skills within a real context, teaching students how to think, not what to think. This action research is embedded across the school and is designed to ensure that we attract and retain the best teachers and support staff.

3. Working together with parents and carers

Listening to, and engaging with, our students' voices forms the backbone of our school development plans. We want to work with parents and carers to support our children during their



teenage years so that together we ensure they fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character.

The Wren School offers wrap-around care through an extended school day that all staff are expected to contribute to, so that learning can continue beyond the classroom. There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and trips to choose from.

4. State of the art buildings and resources

The Wren Team envisages an exceptional secondary school, with a modern, attractive environment that encourages and facilitates learning. From September 2018 we will be housed in a brand new permanent school that we are equipping with high quality resources - in particular ICT - that enhance learning. Our new accommodation includes a Sport-England compliant sports hall with an all weather pitch and multi-use games area.

5. A school at the heart of the community

The Wren School will inspire and challenge students to nurture high expectations and aspirations for themselves and respect for the citizens of our local, national and international communities. We intend The Wren School to make a positive contribution through its involvement with the local community and society as a whole, establishing a modern, multi-cultural, community-based school, in a global context.

Our website (www.wrenschoool.org) gives you further information about opportunities to be part of this amazing school at this early stage of our development.

Interested in joining our team?

If you would like to have an informal chat about the role, the School or the community, please give me a call (0118 959 1868) or send me an email (headteacher@wrenschoool.org).

If you believe that you have the passion and determination to help shape the future of this exciting new school, please complete the application form (including supporting statement) indicating (in the section entitled Post title) which role you wish to be considered for. Please also return the equal opportunities monitoring form. Internal applicants should complete a letter of application but all other previous paperwork will be brought forward to this application. Completed documents should be either emailed to lsmith@wrenschoool.org or sent to me at the address above (marked clearly 'Recruitment').

We have an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process and pre-appointment checks. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check (DBS).

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



Jo Broadhead
Headteacher