

Melksham Oak Community School

raising aspirations, learning for life, success for all



September 2017



Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in the position of Teacher of Science. Our vacancy website contains information about the post, the Academy Trust and an application form.

Melksham Oak Community School is the only secondary school in Melksham. Melksham is a working town with a strong employment and manufacturing base. It is close to Bath and the M4 corridor and the town has benefited from some recent investment.

We moved into our £32 million new school building in July 2010; the new school has state of the art facilities and a wonderful teaching and learning environment. We are committed to being a great school.

However, following an OFSTED visit in April 2017, we have been judged Required to Improve. Although it was tough to receive this report, which I hope you will read, every member of our school community is committed to use this as an opportunity to drive up standards and deliver the best possible outcome for our pupils.

We were pleased that the report recognised real strengths in the school. Our pupils treat one another and adults with respect and are proud of their school. Our pupils are safe at school, bullying is rare, and the report states that we help them *'develop into well-rounded adults who can play a positive role in their communities'*. We were praised for how we support pupils who are vulnerable, have disabilities or Special Educational Needs.

We do feel that the language in the report is harsh at times. To put the report into context, from 2012 to 2015 the progress of our pupils was in the top 25% of schools in the country. In 2016 our headline figures have been affected by a small group of pupils that did not attend school; our progress was at national average and we were 5% less for %A*-Cs in both English and Maths. This represents the 10 pupils who did not attend Melksham Oak during Year 11.

We believe that there was far too great a focus on the hugely negative impact of this small number of pupils rather than highlighting the efforts and attainment of the vast majority of our young people. We will continue to work tirelessly to achieve our intention of being a great school for our community by placing our young people at the centre of everything we do.

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Top 20% nationally 2013



In terms of this role, it is a vital appointment for our school and I am determined to appoint the best teachers possible. However we are also looking for a sense of humour and perspective. If you wish to apply, please complete the enclosed application form and write a letter of application of no more than two sides of A4. The letter should include details of:

- How your experience has prepared you for the demands of this role
- One example of where you have succeeded and one example of where you have failed.

Please do not enclose a CV.

I am absolutely passionate about our school, as are our Governors and Senior Leadership Team. We are looking to appoint teachers with a similar commitment and passion to join our school. I can promise you a supportive and friendly place to work, with ample opportunities to smile and laugh. I need the successful candidates to be positive, supportive and challenging.

Please read the related material carefully and, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at school. You are more than welcome to arrange a visit if you wish.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Clark
Headteacher