



A personal note from the Head Master to those who have taken an interest in the Deputy Head (Academic) role at Bedford School.

If you are looking for somewhere which is lively, great fun and hard work; which has a strong sense of community and a firm sense of purpose; which eschews complacency and seeks an ambitious future; and most importantly which puts its boys at the heart of all its being, with all the joys that brings to daily life, then you may just be looking in the right place.

The Deputy Head (Academic) is central to the maintenance of these attributes. It can represent a natural stepping stone to higher things (and indeed, your two predecessors will have moved directly to Headship from here); but in fact, I see the key to any such ambition is to enjoy the moment and do as well as one possibly can. There is no doubt at all that this post will equip its incumbent for Headship, should that person so wish.

We have a beautiful place to work: wonderful grounds, stunning buildings and all in the centre of a town only 35 minutes from St Pancras. It is a good catchment area. The school has been here for over 450 years and has had around 1100 boys from year 3-13 for several decades now. The Deputy Head (Academic) spends the vast majority of his/her time in the Upper School, but being on the Core Management Team at a 7-18 school provides excellent exposure to the demands of prep school life, too. This is a confident, kind, compassionate place to live and work, with high academic standards, national standard sport and a huge breadth of other extra-curricular activity. It is a busy, thriving community.

Staff members are looked after very well. Salaries are good; healthy fee remission is available for children of staff (within a choice of Harpur Trust schools – boys, girls and mixed); we have a good number of staff living on site overseeing the boarding facilities; the catering is outstanding!

I am looking for a Deputy Head (Academic) with ambition – both for him/herself and, more importantly, the school and the boys within it. Personally I love the challenge: the hard work, the boys, and the school generally – it is such a fabulous place to come to each day. I see a major part of my role as the development of staff and their careers and will do all in my power to help you in this way, too.

If this all sounds exciting to you, don't hesitate to put pen to paper (or alternatively tap a keyboard!). I look forward very much to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hodgson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**James Hodgson
HEAD MASTER**