



South Nottingham  
Catholic Academy Trust



**Application Pack**  
**Leader of Learning in Geography**  
**The Becket School**

# Welcome

Dear Applicant,

On behalf of the Local Governing Body, I would like to thank you for your interest in the position of Leader of Learning in Geography here at The Becket School.

Following 6 years of very strong leadership, our Headteacher, James McGeachie, has been promoted to the position of CEO of the new Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust and further information about the new Trust has been included as part of the application pack. During the last 6 years, we have seen improved student outcomes, two positive Ofsted reports, two outstanding DCI / Section 48 reports and a number of letters from the Secretary of State commending the school for its Ebacc and A-Level results.

The most important aspect of our school is that we are a Catholic School. As such, we look to support our young people in the development of their faith, within a supportive environment, where gospel values of love, understanding, compassion, forgiveness and care are seen in everything we do. We provide a variety of opportunities for all students to develop their understanding and knowledge of Jesus, his life, teachings and love for us.

At The Becket School, we have a strong record of achieving the very best outcomes for our young people. We focus on the whole person, seeking to develop in young people skills and attitudes, which, in tandem with their academic qualifications, will equip them for the next stages in their lives.

As a high performing school, (Times top 20 state school nationally for 'A' level; DfE recognised top 100 schools nationally for EBacc; Sunday Times top 10 state schools in the East Midlands) we work hard to ensure that all of our students are able to achieve their very best.

If you join us, you will lead an outstanding team of fantastic staff, who work tirelessly to support our young people. You will also work with inspirational young people and supportive families. You will have access to a very effective induction programme and first class CPD opportunities through our Teaching School, in which you will play a leading role. You will be joining The Becket at an exciting time and will lead us to even greater successes.

Thank you for expressing an interest in this position and I wish you every success in your application.

Yours sincerely

Les Sullivan  
Chair, Local Governing Body

## **Additional note—Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust:**

Our school/academy will become part of the Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust on 1st September 2018, a family of 21 academies within the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham. The new arrangement is part of the Diocesan Plan for Catholic Schools the primary aim of which is to protect and secure high quality Catholic education in the Diocese of Nottingham for the long-term. Full details of the plan and the staffing structures can be found at <http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/education>. Your employer will be Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. Should you have any questions then please address these to the Headteacher of this school/academy initially.

# Letter to Applicant

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our recent advertisement for the post of Leader of Learning in Geography based at The Becket School. I have pleasure in enclosing details of the post.

## Application

If you wish to apply, please either email your application to me at [hr@sncat.co.uk](mailto:hr@sncat.co.uk) (copies of all the details are available online on our website under the 'Vacancies' section) or post your completed application form to me at the address below, together with a covering letter, clearly demonstrating your suitability for the role.

All CVs must be accompanied by a fully completed application form. **Where possible, please also provide email addresses for your referees.**

**Please ensure that you list all the subjects taken at GCSE/ A Level on your application form together with the grades obtained. You should also show the class of your degree where relevant. You may provide this information as a separate Word document if you prefer.**

## Closing Date

Please ensure your application arrives before the closing date of **Friday 20 April 2018 (9am)**. Please ensure that the post for which you are applying for has been stated clearly on the application form. We are now monitoring our recruitment advertising and would be grateful if you could fill in this question on page two of the application form, stating where you first learned of this vacancy.

## Interview

Interviews for the post will take place shortly after the closing date. Please assume that if you have not heard from me within two weeks of this date, that unfortunately on this occasion your application has not been successful.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



**Di Maxwell (Mrs)**  
HR Leader

# Job Description

<b>Job Title:</b>	Leader of Learning in Geography
<b>Job Purpose:</b>	To foster the teaching of the relevant subject(s) by providing positive leadership, managing the use of resources and promoting excellent professional practice; to contribute positively to whole school
<b>Accountable to:</b>	Designated Senior Leader
<b>Salary:</b>	MPR/UPR plus TLR 2c (£6,216 pa)
<b>Accountable for:</b>	Ensuring the highest quality of teaching and learning in the Curriculum Area; promoting and accounting for the highest standards. All Departmental staff, as indicated in the Key Tasks specified below. Managing the Curriculum Area budget and resources. Establishing and maintaining a strategic direction for the department in accordance with the priorities of the School Development Plan; devising, implementing and evaluating a Departmental Development Plan; advising the school's leadership team accordingly.
<b>Liaising with:</b>	Senior Leadership Team, other Leaders of Learning, Student Support Services and relevant staff with cross-school responsibilities, relevant support staff, LA staff, parents.

# Job Description

<b>Duties, Responsibilities and Key Tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To raise standards of student attainment and achievement within the whole curriculum area and to monitor and support student progress.</li><li>• To develop and enhance the teaching practice of others.</li><li>• To ensure the provision of an appropriately broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum for students studying in the department, in accordance with the aims of the school and the curricular policies determined by the Governing Body and Head Teacher of the school</li><li>• To be accountable for student progress and development within the curriculum area.</li><li>• To be accountable for leading, managing and developing the subject/curriculum area.</li><li>• Effectively to manage and deploy teaching/support staff, financial and physical resources within the curriculum area.</li></ul>
<b>Operational/ Strategic Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To lead the development of appropriate syllabuses, resources, schemes of work, marking policies, assessment and teaching and learning strategies in the department.</li><li>• The day-to-day management, control and operation of course provision with the department, including effective deployment of staff and physical resources.</li><li>• Actively to monitor and follow up student progress</li><li>• To implement School Policies and Procedures, e.g. Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, COSHH, Accommodation Strategy, etc.</li><li>• To produce, implement and evaluate a Departmental Development Plan and to contribute as appropriate to the production and evaluation of the School Development Plan.</li><li>• To make a significant contribution to the aims of the school as stated in School policies.</li><li>• To work with colleagues to formulate aims, objectives and strategic plans for the department which have coherence and relevance to the needs of students and to the aims,</li><li>• objectives and strategic plans of the School.</li><li>• To lead and manage the business planning function of the department, and to ensure that the planning activities of the department reflect the needs of students within the subject area, SDP/DDP and the aims and objectives of the School.</li><li>• To link with the holders of other posts within the Curriculum Area to ensure that the work in the curriculum area fully reflects the School's distinctive ethos and mission.</li><li>• In conjunction with the Leader of Learning I.C.T. to foster and oversee the application of I.C.T. as appropriate and in accordance with overall school plans.</li><li>• To ensure that Health and Safety policies and practices, including Risk Assessments, throughout the Department are in-line with national requirements and are updated where necessary.</li><li>• To be a member of the school's curriculum leadership group and to promote the department's representation on study groups</li></ul>

# Job Description

<b>Curriculum Provision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To liaise with the designated Senior Leader to ensure the delivery of an appropriate, comprehensive, high quality and cost-effective curriculum programme which complements the School Development Plan/School Evaluation.</li><li>• To be accountable for the development and delivery of related subjects.</li><li>• To be responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of schemes of work, in accordance with school policies and procedures.</li><li>• To develop, implement and evaluate practice in assessment, recording and reporting in accordance with school policy.</li><li>• To lead a suitable programme of educational visits relating to the Geography curriculum</li></ul>
------------------------------	---

<b>Curriculum Development:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To lead curriculum development for the whole department.</li><li>• To keep up to date with national developments in the subject area and teaching practice and methodology.</li><li>• To be responsible for and to monitor the quality of Learning and Teaching in the curriculum area and to guide staff on appropriate methodology and deployment of resources.</li><li>• To ensure an enriching curricular experience for all pupils in the curriculum area.</li><li>• To liaise with the Leader of Learning Support in the provision of appropriate learning programmes for pupils with special educational needs.</li><li>• To contribute to the continuous development of Learning and Teaching across the school and to lead the implementation of appropriate school, local and national initiatives.</li><li>• Actively to monitor and respond to curriculum development and initiatives at national, regional and local levels.</li><li>• To liaise with the designated Senior Leader and the Examinations Officer to maintain accreditation with the relevant examination and validating bodies.</li><li>• To be responsible for the development of Key Skills in the curriculum area.</li><li>• To ensure that the development of related subjects is in line with national developments.</li></ul>
--------------------------------	---

# Departmental Information

## The Geography Department

The Becket School Geography Department is a thriving and successful department. In addition to the Leader of Learning, there are two full-time members of staff and an Assistant Head. The department is friendly and supportive, and well respected within the school.



## **The Curriculum – Key Stage 3**

In Year 7 students are taught in mixed-ability tutor groups. There is some broad setting in Years 8 and 9. In Year 7 we focus on geographical skills such as map reading followed by patterns within the British Isles, weather and climate, rainforests and urbanisation. In year 8 we move to a world stage looking at plate tectonics and hazards, rivers and coasts and population issues.

## **The Curriculum – Key Stage 4**

Years 9, 10 and 11 follow the AQA GCSE specification. There is no controlled assessment but students are expected to complete two days of field studies. These are based around the physical and human themes of the course.

## **The Curriculum – Key Stage 5**

The school has a Sixth Form of approximately 270 students, including a significant number of external applicants at 16+. In Geography we have two groups in both Year 12 (currently 33 students) and Year 13 (currently 22 students).

We follow the Edexcel Geography Specification. In Year 12 students study Coasts and Plate tectonics for the Physical Geography Module, and Globalisation and Rebranding for the Human Geography Module. For A2, students undertake a piece of independent study for their controlled assessment. They also have examinable units on physical and human elements of geography. Fieldwork is a compulsory component throughout the course.

## **Academic Achievement**

The Geography department achieves consistently excellent results at both GCSE and A-level. In 2017 the GCSE A\*-C rate was 80.2% with a high percentage of students reaching aspirational target grades. At AS in 2017 the pass rate, A\*-E, was 96.6%. At A level in 2017, the pass rate A\*-E was 100% of whom 90% achieved A\*-C grades.



# Departmental Information

## Department Ethos

The Geography Department is forward looking, innovative and committed. All staff have a clear vision of how to achieve success and guide their pupils to achieve their potential. We place a strong emphasis on skills throughout all key stages.

Schemes of work are extremely detailed and based around activities which engage, challenge and support the learner using a range of teaching and learning styles.



We endeavour to create an ethos, within a Catholic setting, where our pupils feel safe supported, yet challenged to do their best. We also have an excellent data tracking system to improve target setting and encourage student progress.

## Resources

The department has 3 dedicated classrooms all with interactive whiteboards. We are very well resourced with text books, worksheets, equipment, computers, and teaching resources, especially audio-visual resources.



# Information for Applicants

The Becket School, is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Academy (currently part of South Nottingham Catholic Academy Trust) serving parts of the City of Nottingham, the part of Nottinghamshire south of the Trent, and the conurbations of Beeston, Stapleford and Chilwell. The Becket has 5 attached feeder schools, whose students currently represent about two thirds of the annual intake; the remaining third is made up of students from more than 20 other primary schools. In September 2009 the school relocated to new purpose built premises.



We are a very high achieving school, with very strong GCSE results at A\*-C and the highest Ebacc score in the county. At A-Level, we have had the highest average points score per student in the county for the last 5 years and each year appear in The Times newspaper's list of the top 200 schools in the country. Each year high numbers of students go on to study at Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and at Medicine and Law Schools.

We have very high expectations in terms of attendance, behaviour and uniform and as a result, our students are extremely well behaved, polite and keen to succeed. We are very proud of them all.

In May 2014 The Trust's bid for teaching school status was approved, leading to the formation of 'The Nottingham Catholic Teaching School Alliance'.

The Becket School is jointly leading this exciting project with Blessed Robert Widmerpool, one of our linked primary schools. The teaching school has already led to significant opportunities for our staff to develop their classroom practice and leadership skills.

## **Organisation and Structure:**

### **Academic:**

The Year 7 intake is grouped into 6 mixed ability forms. All Year 7 classroom teaching, except for Maths, English and Languages is conducted with these form groups, which continue as social units throughout the 5 years of compulsory secondary schooling. Some setting occurs in Year 8, and this becomes virtually total in Year 9. Ability setting is done on a subject department basis, mostly across half-year sub

groups. The aim is to enable the individual student to find an optimum placement in each area of the curriculum, and to maximise opportunity for progress.

All Year 10 students have one week of work experience; thereafter, further work experience, work shadowing and community service opportunities are both encouraged and structured. Our curriculum is enriched by numerous educational visits, themed days and a curriculum week in the summer term.

The school is heavily over-subscribed with numbers on roll standing at approximately 1100. The school has a strong Sixth Form with student numbers of 260 and a very high staying on rate at 16+. Over 20 different subjects are on offer at 'A' level along with General Studies and General Religious Education. The school has well prepared links with industrial management, the professions and Higher Education Institutions.

### **Pastoral:**

Concern for the individual needs of students is a feature of the school which is organised to ensure that adequate care can be given to each. The Form Tutor is the central figure in the structure of pastoral care and further support is provided by the Progress Leader and the Leader of Learning. The school has a Chaplaincy Team, led by our inspirational Chaplain, which works closely within the pastoral system and supports students' contributions to Liturgical events. A 'House' system based on 'vertical' linking of form groups operates for a range of activities from fund raising for charities to sport.

**Facilities:** Our new state of the art facilities include a Sports Hall, Activity Hall, 3 all weather pitches, 6 tennis courts, sports pitches, AV Studio, Drama Studio and ICT Suites.

### **Activities:**

The school has a highly successful foreign exchange and foreign trip programme. For residential experience the school makes full use of the Diocesan Youth Centre at The Briars, Crich, Derbyshire.

The Becket is a Catholic school. Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our young people. This means: inspiring and motivating young people to achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and in a full range of extra-curricular activities helping young people to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ, developing in young people a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith practising Gospel values, such as forgiveness and helping those in need, within our school community and in society as a whole.

# Mission Statement

## The Becket School Mission Statement

The Becket is a Catholic school. Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our young people. This means:

- inspiring and motivating young people to achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and in a full range of extra-curricular activities
- helping young people to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ
- developing in young people a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- practising Gospel values, such as forgiveness and helping those in need, within our school community and in society as a whole.

