



WEST BUCKLAND
SCHOOL

Head of English



The School

West Buckland is a school founded in 1858 intended to offer an excellent education based on Christian values. It stands in nearly 100 acres of grounds, surrounded by farmland, near the western edge of Exmoor. Its rural location is outstandingly beautiful. The school is now a leading, multi-cultural community for boys and girls across North Devon and beyond.

The school's buildings and facilities have developed steadily throughout its history and, in recent years, over £14m has been invested in outstanding facilities. These include an excellent sports complex, including the *Jonathan Edwards Sports Centre*, and the award-winning *150 Building*, which includes the Art and Design & Technology Departments and a Theatre. *Parker's*, a seventy bed, Sixth Form boarding house and *The Michael Morpurgo Library*, a state of the art building comprising of study facilities, library and resource centre, opened in autumn 2015.

The school is fully co-educational and has grown considerably in recent years. In total there are just under 600 boys and girls aged, 3 to 18 years, with 120 in the Sixth Form. There are also over 100 boarders and, following the substantial investment, there has been an increased demand in this area. The school has its own co-located, Preparatory School and Nursery, with pupils aged 3 to 11.

Academic standards at the school are high and, for many years, West Buckland has been one of the most consistently high-performing schools in the South West at GCSE and A-level. A-level results typically exceed 70% A* to B and our GCSE students this year achieved 52.4% of passes at A* and A. There is considerable emphasis on extracurricular activities at the school, with a proud record in boys' and girls' games, Drama, Music, the Combined Cadet Force, Outdoor Education and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



Job Description

Head of English

The English Department

The English Department comprises of six members of staff: three full-time and three part-time English teachers. Teachers in the department are dedicated to making their students' experience in this subject a positive one and aim to enthuse and inspire all students, whilst nurturing pupils' skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, so that they can achieve their full potential. We aim to fulfil this by providing pupils with a rich and diverse experience of both language and literature, as well as seeking to promote an enjoyable learning environment with varied teaching methods, which cater for pupils of all abilities. We hope to instill a love of literature, as well as producing confident communicators who want to experiment with their creativity.



The English classrooms are situated in the heart of the original main school building and regular lessons also take place in the newly built Michael Morpurgo library and 6th Form learning centre. All English classrooms have interactive whiteboards, projectors, and Wi-Fi access. Our traditional school motto, 'Read and Reap', aptly reflects the importance of reading at the heart of the curriculum; the department has close links with the library, where pupils are given the opportunity to read a wide variety of texts and have regular library lessons. Several of the core units of work are delivered together with the library, as well as a range of extra-curricular opportunities including: book clubs, creative writing workshops, literary competitions, the Appledore Book Festival, a programme of visiting writers and shadowing the children's Carnegie Award with other local schools.

At GCSE level, pupils study the AQA (9 to 1) specification and the vast majority of students will take both the English Language and English Literature GCSE courses. Students, who opt to take the A-level course, follow the Edexcel English literature specification and teachers of the A-level classes are responsible for either the prose, poetry or drama units. Candidates would be expected to teach both Year 12 and Year 13 classes and to contribute to the coursework component. The details of this and the full teaching requirement can be discussed at interview. GCSE and A-Level results for English, and other subjects, can be viewed at <https://www.westbuckland.com/about/exam-results>.

The Appointment

The successful candidate will have a good honours degree together with an appropriate teaching qualification. You will be a vibrant, innovative and creative leader who is able to lead the progressive and experienced English department as Head of Department. The appointment will suit an inspired and passionate teacher who is able to take student learning through to A-level. You will have excellent teaching skills and should be enthusiastic about contributing to the students' wider academic and intellectual development, and committed to the co-curricular life of this busy boarding and day school.

The appointment is from Late August 2018.

If you would like to discuss the position with the Director of Studies, Mr Chris Burrows, please contact him by email: cjb@westbuckland.com or current Head of Department, Mrs Yvonne Helicon on yh@westbuckland.com

The Interview

Interviews will be held on Friday 02 March 2018.

Candidates invited for interview will be shown around the school by the Deputy Headmaster, and shown the English Department by the Head of Department. There will be an opportunity to meet other members of staff and to see the school at work. Candidates will be required to teach a lesson whilst being observed. Details of this will be discussed with the candidates some days beforehand. There will be a series of interviews with the Headmaster and other members of the Senior Leadership Team and the current Head of Department. The details of West Buckland School's own salary scale can be discussed at interview.

Applications

The application should include a completed application form, full curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of two referees, one of whom must be your current or most recent employer. The deadline for receipt of applications is 22 February 2018. Applications should be received before 12.00hrs on the closing date, addressed to:

HR (Recruitment)
West Buckland School
Barnstaple
Devon EX32 0SX
recruitment@westbuckland.com

Applications may be e-mailed and it is not necessary to also send by post. Further information may be found on our website at www.westbuckland.com.

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, s/he must report any concerns to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or to the Headmaster.

West Buckland School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including reference checks with past employers and the Independent Safeguarding Agency.



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www.westbuckland.com