

Dear Applicant

Thank you very much for showing an interest in joining Langley School. Langley is a great place to work – but I would say that, I guess! It is great because we have very fine students who are safe, happy, polite, respectful, respected, conscientious, confident and passionate about their learning. They are supported, challenged and inspired by first-class staff who will always go the extra mile to bring out the very best in all of our young people, regardless of their ability. Add to these a very supportive parent/ carer body as well as highly-committed and highly-regarded Governors and you have quite an effective mix!

Langley has the most truly comprehensive intake of any school I know. The socio-economic background of our students covers the entire spectrum, as does their ability range. Langley is such a rich, vibrant community to live and work in for both students and staff. All are highly respected and valued for their unique contributions to the 'Langley family'. This exciting environment inspires and engages our staff and very few choose to leave!

Our school is very popular and always over-subscribed. For example, 938 families have expressed a preference for one of our 200 Year 7 places for their child in September 2018. Five local Headteachers send their own children to us and it is also interesting to note how many of our staff have sent and continue to send their own children here.

We are not an examinations factory, although we realise, of course, the great importance of examination success and our students achieve very well indeed. However, our greater purpose is to develop fine, rounded people, prepared for the tests of a lifetime, rather than a lifetime of tests. Young people who are ready, willing and able to:

- take on and lead in the uncertain world they will be inhabiting to make it a better place;
- challenge 'what is' with 'what will be' or even 'what *might* be';
- work independently or interdependently;
- put back something into the community that has served them;
- support those less fortunate than themselves;
- keep going when the going gets tough;
- fly, but understand where the landing strips are too!

I believe our school motto, '***Be the best that we can be***', sums up what we are about.

Back to examinations - although they were much more challenging in 2017:

- 71% of our students gained 5 or more A*-C grades [or new grades 4-9] including English and Maths.
- 75% of all examinations taken were graded at A*-C or the new 4+.
- 25% of all grades this year were at A*/ A [or the new grades 7-9 in English and Maths].

- 47% of all grades awarded this year were at A*-B.
- 76% of our students achieved at least 5 A*-C grades.
- 25% of our students achieved 5 or more grade A* or A GCSEs.
- 27 students from the class of 2017 achieved an average grade of A* or A in every subject they studied.
- 34% of our students achieved the English Baccalaureate – significantly above the Solihull and national figures.
- We achieved a very positive Progress8 figure of +0.2.

These statistics and others place us well above the national average measures, as confirmed by the Department for Education. When Ofsted came to Langley in July 2017, we were pleased but not surprised when inspectors described our students' behaviour as *'exemplary'*. They went on to say: *'They are keen to learn, and do so in a calm and purposeful environment.'* Most important for me was when they wrote that our students *'are proud of their school'*. I always say that our young people are our best advertisement and I am amazed every day by their commitment to, and love for their school – it really is my great privilege and pleasure to work here!

We are known for our high quality staff development programme for colleagues at every stage of their career. The range of extra-curricular activities here is immense. One parent wrote recently: *'My son's self-esteem, life goals and achievements at school have been transformed. Please do not underestimate this transformation.'* Another wrote: *'I would like to convey my sincere thanks to our son's teachers. It is evident that their encouragement and support are inspiring him to succeed.'* And a Year 8 student summed up her thoughts on Langley like this: *'For me, Langley is a great place, full of lots of wonderful opportunities.'*

Words on paper can only say so much. I would strongly recommend that you come to visit us and experience for yourself 'the Langley way', as it is often described. I can assure you of a warm welcome and honest answers to your questions. If Langley is not for you, then thank you for taking a look at us and I wish you well.

If you feel you have the drive, ambition, passion and excellence to enhance what we are doing here, whilst at the same time developing your career amongst inspirational, supportive colleagues, then we would very much like to meet you! I know just how much time and effort goes into preparing a job application and I can promise you that we will read yours very thoroughly.

My very best wishes to you.

Yours sincerely

Phil Talbot
Headteacher