

Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)

Dear Applicant

Welcome to Kingdown School, and thank you for your interest in this post.

Kingdown School

Kingdown School is an exceptional place to work. It is a co-educational, non-denominational academy for students aged 11-18 years, situated in Warminster in Wiltshire. There are currently approximately 1550 students on roll, including 250 in the Sixth Form. The school employs over 120 teaching staff, ably supported by almost 90 business staff. We are a true comprehensive school; as the only state school in the town we serve students of all abilities, aptitudes and backgrounds. The school has a very strong reputation within the community, which has been built on an unswerving focus on the quality of teaching and learning and great pastoral care. These have led, over time, to very positive student outcomes. The school has an incredibly positive ethos, built through the dedication and hard work of the staff. We truly are a 'child-centred' organisation; staff regularly go the extra mile to support students' learning, both inside and outside the classroom.

Kingdown is full of exceptional staff and wonderful students. "Believe, Aspire and Achieve" is the school motto and, alongside the Kingdown crown, creates a great sense of belonging for our students and the community. This is further enhanced through the pastoral system; the school has six houses (named from our time as a specialist Sports College: Lords, Millennium, Silverstone, Twickenham, Wembley and Wimbledon). Each house is split into 12 tutor groups which each contain students from Years 7 to 13. The vertical tutoring system within the school has helped secure that sense of family and belonging for our students. The students are intensely proud of their house – inter-house competition can be fierce!

Building on the very successful Ofsted inspection in March 2017, we want Kingdown School to continue to be exceptional and extraordinary, to serve the local community and beyond, and maintain its reputation as a school that everyone is proud to be associated with. Leadership across the school is exceptionally strong, and is built on a very deliberate policy of succession planning. This is an exciting time in the evolution of Kingdown School. Through opportunities provided by growth in the Acorn Education Trust, there have been a number of changes in the Senior Leadership Team within the school, including my own appointment as substantive Headteacher. We are now looking to further evolve the team through the appointment of a new Deputy Headteacher to take the school forward to the next level, building on the significant successes gained over the past few years. Specific responsibilities of this role are subject to negotiation with the successful candidate; in addition to the leadership of Teaching and Learning, the role is likely to include the leadership of CPD, ITE and NQTs, self-evaluation, Curriculum Leaders, and overseeing a Key Stage.

The Acorn Education Trust

The Acorn Education Trust was established in 2014 to provide a local solution to a national strategy. Our mission is to “*prepare young people for their world in their time*” through excellent leadership, excellent teaching and excellent learning; this is at the heart of all that we do. In every Acorn school you will see:

- active and visible leadership
- care, support and challenge
- opportunities for all
- respect, recognition and resilience
- needs of all are paramount.

Kingdown is the founding school alongside Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School and The Avenue Primary School. Acorn now serves 8 schools (1 secondary and 7 primary) with another secondary and primary to join shortly. The schools are organised into 4 hubs – 3 are primary and each one is led by an Executive Headteacher. The fourth is the secondary hub overseen by the CEO; currently Kingdown sits here in isolation but is soon to be joined by The Clarendon Academy in Trowbridge.

The Trust is led by Sara Edwards (CEO). Finance and HR are centrally organised. Shared services in IT, premises, catering, PE/Sport (primary) and SEND are developing across all schools. One of the Trust’s main operational objectives is to ensure that each school focuses on the quality of teaching and learning; the business element is mainly managed by Trust staff. Reducing back office staff by sharing resources and improving IT and school to school support is keeping each school financially healthy, and directing as much money as possible into teaching and learning. As mentioned in the acrostic above, professional development is also a key priority within the trust.

The Directors maintain overall responsibility for all Trust schools, however they delegate many tasks to each school Academy Council of Governors through the scheme of delegation. The latter are the guardians of:

- the standards in the school
- the safety of the students and staff
- the management of the finances and assets
- the school’s identity and community ethos.

The Kingdown Academy Council are a highly effective body, who work collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure high levels of challenge and support.

Your application

We hope that you are as excited about the potential that this role offers as we are. We are passionate at all levels within the school about Teaching and Learning; as a consequence, standards both in the classroom, and in terms of student outcomes, are consistently very strong. The person we are looking for will have a passion for working with young people, be an outstanding practitioner, and will have developed a track record of excellence in Teaching and Learning. If you feel you have the drive, ambition and attributes to fulfil this role, we would love to hear from you.

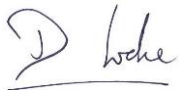
If you would like a telephone conversation with me to discuss details of the role, or if you would like to visit the school in advance of applying, please contact Rebecca Krzyzosiak (PA to Headteacher) for an appointment - by email at rak@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk, or telephone 01985 215551.

Please complete the TES application form and submit via the “apply” button on the TES website and write a letter of application (no more than 2 sides of A4) outlining your philosophy of education and how your career to date has lead you to apply for this role and send by email to elf@acorneducationtrust.com, by 12 noon on the closing date of **Wednesday, 25th April 2018**. Please note that if you have not heard from us by **30th April 2018**, please assume that your application has not been successful.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and, expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate is required for this post prior to commencement.

With many thanks for your interest in Kingdown School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Locke', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dave Locke
Headteacher, Kingdown School