



Candidate Information for : SUBJECT LEADER OF FRENCH

Charters School

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CHARTERS SCHOOL

UNITY | RESPECT | EXCELLENCE

Thank you for your interest in Charters School and the Subject Leader—French vacancy. We hope this document provides you with information to help you decide if this is the right opportunity for you.

Charters is an outstanding school (Ofsted 2009) and our students achieve excellent academic outcomes at Key Stages 4 and 5. We are particularly proud that the vast majority of our students achieve strong value added progress scores that provide them with choice and opportunity as they move forward.

Particular highlights from our results in 2016 were that 58% of our Year 13 students gained A*-B grades and we expect our L3VA score to, again, place us in the top 10% of Post-16 providers nationally. The picture at Key Stage 4 is equally strong with 78% of our students gaining an A*-C grade in the Basics (English and Mathematics). Once again, we expect our value added score to be strong and place us amongst the top performing schools nationally.

Charters became an academy in 2012 but we still maintain close links with the local authority who have recently provided funding to build replacement Mathematics accommodation for our expanded intake. They have also provided funds for a new leisure centre with a 25m swimming pool due for completion in 2019.

Perhaps the most exciting development, though, has been the introduction of the PiXL Edge. This is an award scheme for students, based on activities in and out of school, that develops and recognises attributes in leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. PiXL Edge, backed by the CBI and leading industry partners provides a great scheme that is growing nationally with nearly 1000 secondary schools currently signed up but, best of all, the idea for PiXL Edge originated at Charters and has been developed by our senior staff.

The school has a good reputation in the local area and is regularly over-subscribed. This is because parents appreciate our inclusive comprehensive ethos allied to a hard-working and committed staff who are 'willing to go the extra mile' with students. As a consequence the day to day relationships in the school between staff, students and parents are warm and positive.

All these elements are best summed up in the school's motto: **Unity, Respect, Excellence.**

Best wishes

Richard Pilgrim and Martyn Parker
Co-Headteachers





CHARTERS SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

Charters School, a single academy, is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school of 1700 students with over 400 students in the Sixth Form. The school provides a complete range of opportunities for students to achieve academically and for successful personal development within a caring and supportive environment.

Educational success is valued at the appropriate level for all individuals and is based on a determination to provide the best possible teaching, learning environment, curriculum and resources. Appropriate attention is given to the individual needs of all students from those with learning difficulties to those with Oxbridge potential - eight successful entrants in 2017. It is recognised that the quality of teaching is critical to all aspects of the school's work. A group of strong, experienced Curriculum and Subject Leaders lead Faculty and Departmental teams of well qualified colleagues.

Particular highlights from our results in 2017 were that 59% of our Year 13 students gained A*-B grades at A level and we expect our L3VA score to, again, place us in the top 10% of Post-16 providers nationally. The picture at Key Stage 4 is equally strong with 78% of our students gaining an A*-C grade in the Basics (English and Mathematics). Our KS4 value added score has consistently placed us amongst the top performing similar schools nationally over the last few years.





THE CURRICULUM - YEARS 7 - 11

The curriculum is delivered through eleven Curriculum Areas: English; Mathematics; Science; Modern Foreign Languages; Humanities; Computing; Social Sciences; Creative Arts; Technology; Business and Physical Education. We also deliver a comprehensive Religious Studies, Citizenship and PSHE programme.

Extensive liaison takes place with our local Primary schools and considerable care is given to placing students in the mixed-ability Tutor Groups which initially form some teaching groups in the common curriculum of the first three years.

Students in need of special assistance with basic learning skills receive in-class support and/or are withdrawn from some groups for individual help. Some setting is introduced in Year 7 and increases in Year 8 and 9.

GCSE courses are primarily taught in Years 10 and 11 although some begin to be introduced for the core subjects in Year 9. There are various curriculum routes that students are able to follow according to their ability and interests. Traditional option subjects are available including French, Spanish, Design and Technology, History, Geography, ICT and Computing, Art and Design, Photography, Drama and Music. Students can 'mix and match' these with more vocational subjects such as BTECs in Business, Sports Studies, Performing Arts and GCSEs in Child Development or Leisure and Tourism. Charters is committed to a broad and balanced curriculum offer.





SIXTH FORM

Charters has a history of success at Sixth Form level, of which we are justly proud. There are over 400 students in the Sixth Form, housed in a purpose built block, with their own Common Room, classrooms and silent study area, The Durning Room.

In terms of value added, our Sixth Form is in the top 4% nationally across all post-16 providers. Throughout students' two years in the Sixth Form those who are keen to take on an active leadership role can find opportunities in both the House system and as Senior Student leaders and Prefects. There are a host of other activities in which students can play a major part in shaping the life of the Charters community.

Students also benefit from one week of work experience in Year 12. As a school we firmly believe work experience helps to inform career choices and develop the relevant skills, attitudes and behaviour expected in the world of work. Students have been extremely successful in completing their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We also run a World Challenge Expedition every other year. This year our students travelled to Malawi, Africa where they developed important life skills.

Student courses on offer are:

AS and A2 Advanced Level in subjects selected from Art and Design, Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English Language and English Literature, Film Studies, Media Studies, Food Technology, French, Geography, Graphics with Materials Technology, Health & Social Care, History, ICT, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Music, Music Technology, Philosophy and Ethics, Photography, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, Product Design with Resistant Materials, Sociology, Spanish, and Textiles.

BTEC courses are offered in Business, Performing Arts and Sport. Work experience is an integral part of the programme. In addition, students can enrol for NVQ Tennis.





PASTORAL ORGANISATION

Members of the Senior Leadership Team oversee Year Group Teams, led by Heads of Year, which are organised in eight Tutor Groups within a horizontal structure except for Year 7 where there are ten as we are in the first year of our expansion.

The Tutor and tutor group meet at the beginning of each day. Continuity of support is achieved as the Tutor remains with the students in his or her group as they move up the school. Similarly the Head of Year, who leads the tutorial team, continues to have overall responsibility for a Year Group throughout years 7 – 11.





A Holistic Approach to Education

Students are encouraged to adopt high standards of concern for others and to take personal responsibility within the school.

Student Committees exist across the year groups as forums for students' ideas. We meet regularly with the Head Boy and Head Girl team to discuss matters raised through the School Councils.

An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities is organised including many different sporting opportunities, a theatre club, choirs and instrumental groups, electronics, technology and computer clubs, a cookery club and many others which arise from subject, staff and/or student interest. There are approximately seventy extra-curricular activities on offer to the students each week.

School journeys, abroad and in this country, are regularly arranged and the use of our own invaluable Residential Outdoor Educational Centre at Tirabad in Wales, pictured here, is an integral part of the curriculum. All students are encouraged to benefit from these opportunities.



'THE EDGE'

We have always used our motto 'Unity, Respect, Excellence' to emphasise the core values and qualities that we want Charters' students to embody and with this in mind, we have recently launched 'The Edge'.

'The Edge' helps our students to become 'work ready' by capturing, developing and accrediting activities relating to five key areas: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication.

We have always believed that developing rounded individuals who are stand-out candidates for future employment is not just a matter of providing an impressive academic profile. The 'soft' skills, qualities and characteristics, are just as, and many would say more, important.

Whilst our Sports College legacy and opportunities outside the curriculum, visiting Tirabad, for example, give Charters' students a head start, we believe that 'The Edge' incentivises and inspires all our students to undertake self-development activities within and alongside their academic curriculum, as well as outside the school setting. The Edge was conceived at Charters four years ago and is now being offered by over 700 schools nationally as part of the PiXL Network.





ACCOMMODATION

The school site comprises some thirty acres in delightful surroundings. Excellent specialist accommodation exists for all subjects, with suites of rooms for all Faculties, two floodlit astro-turf pitches and a dedicated fitness gym

Considerable building work has taken place since the school opened in 1958, with a main phase of development dating from 1970. A Learning Support Centre caters for the needs of students with physical disabilities, who are fully integrated within the school curriculum.

Charters became an academy in 2012 but we still maintain close links with the local authority who have recently provided funding to build new 13 room Mathematics and Science accommodation for our expanded intake. They have also committed funds for a new leisure centre with a 25m swimming pool due for completion in 2020.





MAINE CENTRE

Several years ago, we recognised the importance of timely access to essential support services for students as part of the school's pastoral care programme. Everyone at Charters understands that, from time to time, young people need additional help, over and above what might reasonably be expected to be in place in a school like ours.

So often, the social, medical, emotional or behavioural needs of students hamper, and in some cases, prevent them realising their potential. The purpose of the Maine Centre is to provide a bespoke support programme to individuals which will allow them to access the curriculum and take full advantage of the excellent learning opportunities available to them.





THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

We are proud of the Charters School summary entry in 'The Good Schools Guide':

"An admirable and humane school, with some of the sparkiest, brightest, most articulate and most delightful students it's been our pleasure to meet. Successfully holds its own against its glossy independent neighbours, and is preferred to same by many parents. If we hadn't lived in Crystal Palace, we would have sent our own children here."





MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FACULTY

The MFL Faculty aims to provide stimulating and enjoyable courses from Years 7-9 to enable students to understand, speak, read and then write basic French and Spanish. This initiates enthusiasm and interest for the subject to enable pupils to communicate at a basic, personal level with native speakers by opting for GCSE French and/or Spanish. We also provide A-Level courses for those students who wish to further their studies and/or use their foreign language(s) at college or university or in future employment. In conclusion, our overall aim is to make provision for each student and to provide for the diversity of individual talents and skills, at the same time making maximum use of students' natural gifts and offering them every opportunity to develop these. Our results at GCSE are consistently above the national average. Our A-Level results are also very good.

A total of 5 full-time and 4 part-time staff currently teach within the Faculty, supported by Foreign Language Assistants in both French and Spanish. The main curriculum responsibilities of the Faculty are shared between the Subject Leaders for French and Spanish and KS3 Co-ordinators for French and Spanish.

For French we use *Studio 1* in Y7, *Expo 2* and *Expo 3* for Y8-Y9. For Spanish we use *Listos* for Spanish from Years 7-9. Years 7-9 French receive 3 hours teaching over a 2-week timetable. Students with literacy issues do not study Spanish. A few are disapplied from French. They receive core support classes instead. Except for Years 7 and 8 Spanish, students are set in Years 8-9. At the end of Year 9 students opt to continue with either French or Spanish, or both.

KS4 students are set in option blocks and are taught for 5 hours over 2 weeks. *Edexcel Viva* and *Studio* are used for Years 10-11 Spanish and French. The FLAs are allocated to KS4 and KS5 classes and work closely with the MFL teachers.

Year 11 French and Spanish take Edexcel GCSE
Years 13 take Edexcel A-level French and Spanish

ICT is used extensively in lesson preparation and delivery.

In the Sixth Form we have good group sizes studying Spanish and French. Our A-Level results have been excellent for many years.

We have established visits to both France and Spain. In Year 8 there is a French weekend residential trip in October to the Côte d'Opale. In Year 10 there are homestay visits to France and Spain in June/July. Year 12 are encouraged to participate in work experience in France or Spain.

We are well equipped with a PC and projectors in every MFL teaching room and have a Virtual Language Laboratory.

The Faculty is professional and supportive and the working atmosphere is amicable and purposeful.



APPLICATION INFORMATION

Candidates are requested to complete the Application Form which can be obtained from the Charters School Website: www.chartersschool.org.uk and send it by email, with a letter of application addressed to Richard Pilgrim, Co-Headteacher c/o Alison Coates, PA for Co-Headteachers, recruitment@chartersschool.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in our school.

Richard Pilgrim
Co-Headteacher

Charters School has a responsibility for, and is committed to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and for ensuring that they are protected from harm.

All applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Charters School is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Charters School: a company limited by guarantee, registered in England.

Company Number: 08208767



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