



Teacher of Maths Application Pack

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Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this post, and I hope you find the information provided useful.

Furze Platt is an extremely rewarding school in which to work and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in our most recent inspection (September 2016).

As our values and vision statement notes, 'Our successful school is a happy, safe and caring learning community where achievement is promoted, potential realised and young people flourish.' We have nearly 170 caring, committed and good humoured teaching and support staff together with a diverse student body of 1250 students, who come to school ready to learn and who are supportive of the school's policies and procedures. This is a school where staff and students work together to achieve high standards and excellent outcomes.

'Pupils achieve highly at this school' - Ofsted 2016

Our student body is taken from the town of Maidenhead, 30 miles west of London, and from other parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Whilst overall the area is affluent, ours is a true comprehensive school, with students from all social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. The school is popular and well regarded in the local community. The achievement of most students is good or better and has been significantly above national averages for 4 years running. Both girls and boys make significantly better progress than children nationally.

'The quality of teaching and learning is strong. Teachers' strong subject knowledge and good behaviour management skills help pupils to learn effectively' - Ofsted 2016

We are also a very inclusive school, and our vertical tutor group system, with six tutor groups in each of eight houses, emphasises the sense of community. We have a specialist unit for students with autistic spectrum disorder, and provide excellent support for those with academic or emotional difficulties.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, and aims to meet the differing needs of students. We operate a two year Key Stage Three to allow students to make accelerated progress and to embark on their GCSE studies in Year 9.

At Key Stage Four our curriculum provides an appropriate mix of academic GCSE subjects including English Language and English Literature, maths, and both combined and separate sciences. Students can also opt for more vocational subjects. Standards are very high and students' progress and attainment are significantly above the national average.

The Sixth Form is an undoubted strength of Furze Platt, with the broad curriculum offer and high standard of teaching leading to excellent examination results. A very large number of sixth formers progress to university, including Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. Sixth form students are also expected to undertake community work in or out of school, including paired reading and maths schemes, and act as subject prefects or mentors. They make a significant contribution to the school. The Sixth Form block boasts state of the art teaching rooms, study facilities and a common room.

‘Teaching in the Sixth Form is consistently good... students made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects [and] are excellent role models for younger pupils... the proportion of A* and A grades has also increased’ - Ofsted 2016

We have excellent ICT facilities, with all departments having either a separate ICT suite or large numbers of laptops for student use. Our VLE (‘FP Online’) is first class, and enables staff and students to collaborate simultaneously over the Google ‘cloud.’ All teaching staff have their own school laptop.

We also believe passionately in music, drama, the arts and sport, and have excellent facilities to support these. In particular, over the past five years two state of the art Drama studios, including a small theatre, have been built; a new Dance studio has been constructed; while our Music department has been completely redesigned, and now houses a professional recording studio, practice rooms and classrooms. As would be expected, there are a large number of music and drama productions, both on a large and small scale. We have recently completed a significant sports development programme and Furze Platt Leisure Centre opened on site in 2015.

We have a strong team of teaching staff and are committed to developing our teaching still further, and thus to ensure that even more students reach their full potential. To this end, we invest heavily in teachers’ professional development. In addition to twilight staff development time and teaching and learning-focused INSET days, staff are encouraged to join working parties focusing on aspects of pedagogy and benefit from staff coaching. Where appropriate, staff attend external courses, and we encourage staff to visit other schools to see examples of best practice.

Furze Platt is an exciting school to work in, and this is an exciting time to join us on our journey. I hope that the information in this pack inspires you to apply to work with us. Should you require any further information, then please visit our website (www.furzeplatt.com) or contact me via my P.A. Mrs Jacky Phillips email jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net.

With best wishes

Tanya White
Headteacher

Job Description – Teacher

Purpose: To ensure the greatest possible progress and development of students, through high quality teaching and learning, and appropriate pastoral support. To challenge and support all students to achieve their best by:

- Setting consistently high expectations and standards
- Sharing a love of your subject and of learning
- Enthusiasing, engaging and motivating students
- Inspiring trust and confidence in students and colleagues

Main duties:

- To maintain thorough and up to date subject knowledge and pedagogy
- To plan lessons and sequences of lessons and to support students in meeting their personal and academic potential
- To use a range of effective strategies for teaching and for behaviour management, as detailed in the school's Learning Policy and Behaviour Policy
- To ensure the effective deployment of classroom support where appropriate
- To use and analyse performance data including prior learning data, progress data and external examination data when planning lessons, and in order to establish and set expectations, targets and action plans for individuals and groups of students
- To assess, monitor and record progress of students in teaching and tutorial groups
- To set home learning regularly and in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To mark work regularly, provide appropriate feedback, and ensure this feedback is acted upon, in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To communicate students' progress with parents and carers
- To take part in marketing and liaison activities, such as Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings, Options Evenings and Celebration Events
- To engage actively in your own Performance Management and to take responsibility for your own Professional Development within the context of the school's Performance Management and Professional Development policies
- To be a team player within your department and house, contributing to department meetings, improvement plans and self evaluation processes.
- To contribute and where appropriate to lead on departmental learning plans including Schemes of Learning or Schemes of Work
- To work with, learn from, and support departmental and House colleagues
- To cooperate with colleagues to ensure a sharing and effective use of resources and to inform the process of ordering and allocation of equipment and materials
- To alert relevant staff to problems experienced by students and to work with those staff to implement solutions

Other duties:

- Where appropriate, to assume pastoral responsibility either for a mixed age Key Stage 3 and 4 tutor group or a Sixth Form tutor group, as part of the school's house system
- As a form tutor, to produce appropriate reports and otherwise liaise with parents as required
- To be aware of and assume the appropriate level of responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to report any concerns in accordance with the school's Child Protection policy
- To comply with the school's Health and Safety Policy
- To undertake any other duties not mentioned above, commensurate with the level of the post

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Teacher of Maths Person Specification

Requirement	Essential?	Desirable?	Shown through? A = application I = interview R = reference
QTS and eligibility to work in UK	✓		A, I, R
Evidence of continuing professional development	✓		A, I
Understanding and support for the values and visions of the school	✓		A, I
Understanding and clear vision of the importance of Maths	✓		A, I
A consistently good or outstanding practitioner capable of generating high student outcomes	✓		A, I
Ability to teach Maths to GCSE	✓		A, I, R
Interest or experience to teach Maths at A-Level.		✓	A, I
Self-motivated and self-reflective	✓		A, I
Good teamwork skills	✓		A, I
Good interpersonal and communication skills	✓		A, I
Good organisational skills	✓		A, I
Flexibility	✓		A, I
Patience	✓		A, I
Resilience	✓		A, I



Mathematics Department

The Mathematics department aims to provide a stimulating, dynamic and academically rigorous experience for all our students. Strong leadership of the department has provided structure for colleagues and encourages initiative, creativity and innovation which leads to very impressive student outcomes. We are committed to fully developing students' confidence in their own abilities and strive to demonstrate that the subject is rich, challenging and enjoyable. We aim to develop an atmosphere of work and interest within our classes and hence nurture the self-motivation of our pupils. Students are encouraged to apply mathematical skills and knowledge to everyday functional situations, as well as showing initiative when solving problems. We encourage more able students to enter national competitions, and value their participation and achievement.

Accommodation, Resources and Facilities

The department is located in a Mathematics teaching block, with large, well equipped classrooms and small teaching and break out spaces. Every room is equipped with a Smartboard and there is access to two class sets of maths laptops in addition to a computer suite.

Staffing

Head of Department
6 additional full-time specialist teachers
1 additional part-time specialist teachers
1 full-time specialist intervention tutor
1 full-time specialist learning support assistant

Curriculum

KS3	Current students study Key Stage 3 Maths in Years 7 and 8. Students are taught in mixed-ability groups in Year 7 and loosely set in Year 8. The New Maths Frameworking text forms a basis for lesson planning and delivery and students are assessed regularly. Teachers employ a range of teaching and learning strategies and encourage problem-solving. Students have 7 hourly lessons per fortnight in Year 7 and 8. Our most able students are invited to a cycle of masterclasses after school and we offer morning maths support during tutor periods to further develop numeracy skills.
KS4	At GCSE, we follow the EDEXCEL specification and have invested in the Pearson 9-1 texts and Active Teach/Learn. Students have 8 hourly lessons per fortnight of Mathematics. Our most able students in Year 10 are invited to masterclasses where they are mentored by A Level Mathematicians. We also offer additional maths support to prepare students in Year 11 for their GCSE both after school and during tutor period. Our intervention tutor works with selected Year 11 students to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams.
KS5	AS and A-Level Mathematics are extremely popular with students, with two classes in Year 12 and two in Year 13 as well as a class of Further Mathematicians in each year group. This year students in Year 13 will complete the OCR (MEI) course and the Edexcel specification is being introduced in Year 12. Pearson texts and Active Teach are used in Year 12 lessons, MEI texts and Integral resources in Year 13. We offer different pathways at Key Stage 5. Our Academic Pathway consists of three linear A-Levels. Our Extended Pathway includes 3 A-Levels plus the opportunity to take Maths AS-Level (amongst other subjects). We also teach AS and A-Level Further Mathematics and regularly have students progressing to top universities to study Mathematics.

Extra-Curricular Provision

The department offers a range of enrichment activities and the successful applicant will be able to contribute to these as well as develop new opportunities for students. Currently we offer examination revision classes, national mathematical challenges, and preparation sessions for STEP examinations.