

**Robert Smyth Academy**

Market Harborough

**Lead Teacher for Government and Politics**

**with Humanities**

**Applicant Information Pack**



Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in Robert Smyth Academy.  I am very proud to lead the Academy and to have been part of the rapid improvements in recent years.

Our 2017 GCSE results build on the successes of previous years with results in English having vastly improved and mathematics remaining at its high standard.  We are delighted that the efforts of students, parents and teachers alike has led us to these results, and that OFSTED recognised that we were a ’Good’ school in September 2017.

We are also very proud of our VI Form where over 400 students enjoy a dedicated VI Form area including a study area with computer stations and wireless capability.

The formal work area is complemented by excellent refreshment facilities and another study area in the William Bragg Hall.

Results in the VI Form remain very strong, and we are very pleased that VI Formers immerse themselves in the life of the school in such varied activities such as CAIRS (charity fundraising), mentoring younger students in Year 7 and leading their own Student Council and assemblies.

As an Academy we have a strong focus on traditional values, and in recent years we have raised standards of behaviour and expectations by introducing a new uniform for Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four students, and restricting mobile phone usage during the school day.  We think if we “Dress Smart” that we are more likely to “Think Smart”.

We want to combine academic success in the traditional subjects with a commitment to all aspects of life and learning.  This leads us to a strong commitment to the performing arts and sport, where you will see a plethora of extra-curricular clubs and events. Our teams and orchestras are regularly involved in county and national competitions with significant success.

We also have a rich heritage and practice of enriching learning, be it in or outside the classroom; with Business Enterprise Days, Most Able Stem conferences and a residential for our Year 7 students, being just a few examples of these. Duke of Edinburgh is very well established in the school with nearly 100 students participating in the scheme currently and our older students will shortly be travelling to Borneo on their Outlooks Expedition.  This demonstrates the commitment of our staff to offering a rich array of learning opportunities in the most diverse of contexts.

We are a Good and Improving Academy and this is an exciting time to be joining us.  We are working within Tudor Grange Academies Trust which is bringing rapid investment into the Academy, both in terms of infrastructure as well as acumen and inspiration in teaching and learning.

I wish you every success in your application and hope to meet you very soon.

Yours sincerely

Richard Taylor

Acting Principal

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**Lead Teacher for Government and Politics with Humanities**

### Closing Date: Monday 26th February 2018 (noon)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Start date:** | 23/08/2018 | **Contract type:** | Full Time |
| **Salary:** | MPS  TLR3 (£1,200) | **Contract term:** | Permanent |
| **Suitable for NQTs:** | Yes |  |  |

Our staff are our most valued asset. The Academy has access to a wealth of support provided by outstanding practitioners, giving opportunities for staff to flourish and develop.

**The Role**

An outstanding Lead Teacher of Government and Politics, with the ability to teach Humanities, is required for September 2018 to join a committed and hard-working faculty. Applications are welcome from both experienced teachers and NQTs. The faculty has close links to other schools in the Tudor Grange family. A wide range of teaching and learning strategies are used in the delivery of Government and Politics including a focus on developing students’ independence and spontaneity.

Additionally, you will benefit from:

* Joining a faculty judged as ‘good’ in the school’s recent OfSTED inspection (September 2017).
* Working in a faculty in which 65% of students achieved A\*-C grades across A Level in Government and Politics and 75% A\*-C grades across GCSE in Humanities.
* Teaching in a forward thinking faculty with excellent resources and facilities for teachers who are passionate about their subject.

**The Academy**

The Robert Smyth Academy developed from Market Harborough’s oldest school and was founded in 1607. It is now a vibrant, fast growing 11 – 19 Academy with nearly a thousand students, including ‘new’ Year 7 students in 2016 and well over 400 students in the sixth form. The area around Market Harborough, which is an attractive and a growing market town, is increasing in its diversity and offering significant potential for the Academy to grow.

In 2016 and 2017 the Academy’s Key Stage 4 and 5 results were very pleasing and underpin the progress that has been made. The OfSTED inspection in September 2017 deemed the Academy *as ‘good’*. This, with other progress being made is the foundation of the Academy’s journey to being *‘outstanding’*. The Academy also enjoys a very positive reputation in its community and particularly for its considerable extra-curricular offer in many areas, most notably in art, music and sport.

If you join us, you will benefit from:

* Teaching pupils who are well motivated as the school enjoys strong parental support
* Working in a Trust with structured professional development opportunities
* A real chance to develop in a forward thinking, highly successful academy
* Developing yourself in our ‘can do’ culture and positive ‘want to’ climate

**Informal visits and conversations about the post are most welcome**.

The recruitment process is robust in seeking to establish the commitment of candidates to support the school’s measures to safeguard children and to identify, deter or reject people who might pose a risk of harm to children or are otherwise unsuited to work with them. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS check. All applications will be considered on their merit and the post will be offered subject to the usual health, criminal record and reference clearance. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting.

**HUMANITIES AT ROBERT SMYTH ACADEMY**

The Faculty is dynamic and innovative comprising six qualified teachers who are passionate about Humanities.  Students are taught Geography, History and RE in mixed ability groups in Year 7 and Year 8.

At GCSE students can study GCSE Geography, History and RE.  At Key Stage 5 the Humanities Faculty deliver A Level Government and Politics, Geography, History, Psychology and Sociology. There is a real team ethic within Humanities; we are proud of the work our students produce and the outcomes they achieve.

As a Faculty we place a keen emphasis on trips and visits.  There are currently three residentials offered within the Faculty at Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12. There are also a range of day trips and visits offered to students as well.

The Faculty has seven designated classrooms. All classrooms have projectors and whiteboards, with some classrooms having interactive whiteboards. The Faculty also has access to a cluster of computers within the Faculty area.

**Government and Politics**

Government and Politics is a popular choice at A level where we currently follow the Edexcel Politics specification (9PLO) which focuses on British politics and political ideas in Year 12 and the American system of government and Comparative Approaches in Year 13.

Lessons frequently incorporate high levels of debate and discussion on recent events and therefore a keen interest in current affairs is essential. We have one group in both Years 12 and 13. The Politics department is located in one dedicated classroom within the Faculty area.

**General Information**

The successful candidate will be expected to play a full and active part in developments in the subject area and a readiness to become involved in the extra-curricular life of the school would also be greatly valued.

**HOW TO APPLY**

If you would like to join our outstanding team and apply for this post, please **complete the application form in full**. Please note that incomplete applications may result in possible rejection from the shortlisting process.

**Section 1: Letter of Application**

Please attach a letter of application and use this opportunity to show your suitability for this post as outlined in the job description and person specification and tell us why you want to join us at Tudor Grange.

**Sections 2, 3 and 4: Current/Most Recent Employment and Full Chronological History**

Please ensure that this section is completed fully. If you have gaps in your employment please indicate the reasons for this. This may be explored further in an interview.

**Section 5, 6 and 7: Education, Training and Qualifications**

Please complete this fully and ensure that you have proof available of your qualifications. If you are not in possession of this proof, please be aware that we will require your permission to contact the relevant awarding bodies prior to a firm offer of appointment, should you be successful.

**Section 8: Other Relevant Experience, Interests and Skills**

Please add anything that is not already covered in your letter of application.

**Section 9: References**

Please provide two referees and their details. A telephone number or email address often makes this process easier and would be much appreciated. The references MUST include your current or most recent employer and will ask about your suitability to work with children. Open references or testimonials will not be considered. Please be aware that we may approach previous employers to verify particular experience or qualifications.

**Section 10: Personal Information**

Please ensure that all details are completed including your date of birth. This is to ensure that appropriate identity checks can be made. Ensure your NI number, email address and contact numbers are also included. For Teaching staff please make sure you include your Teacher Reference Number (TRN) number.

**Section 15: Declaration**

Please be aware that by signing the declaration you are declaring that you are not on List 99, disqualified from work with children or subject to sanctions imposed by a regulatory body e.g. the General Teaching Council (GTC) and that you either have no convictions, cautions or bind-overs or that you have attached details of these in a sealed envelope. You are also aware that you will be subject to a DBS Disclosure appropriate to the level of the post should you be successful.

Please be aware that providing false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if you are appointed on the strength of this, with possible referral to the police.

**ABOUT ROBERT SMYTH ACADEMY**

When Robert Smyth founded the original Market Harborough Grammar School in 1607 he would not have known that, over 400 years later, his school would become the Robert Smyth Academy, a thriving and successful school at the heart of the local community. Today, the spirit of Robert Smyth lives on through the ambition, excellence and opportunity which are central to our ethos. We have a reputation for academic success, extensive curricular and extra-curricular provision and the personalised support and care that we offer to our students. We are proud to serve the young people of Market Harborough and look forward to working with you as you join our Academy.

You are joining us at an exciting time of change as we join Tudor Grange Academies Trust and, from September 2018, complete our transition to an 11 - 19 academy. This latter development will enhance continuity of the student experience and ensure maximum progression.

We are looking forward to working with all of our students during their secondary school experience and being able to follow, nurture and support them on their journey to adulthood. We have high expectations and set high standards. We will continue to inspire our students to reach their potential, achieve their goals and make a difference.



The Trust, as of September 2017, is a Trust of seven schools: four secondary, one all through academy and two primary academies. Restlessness characterises all our academies: we are not afraid to challenge complacency and weaknesses identified are seen as opportunities to improve, the energy and drive for the ceaseless journey comes from our key ambition: ‘Every child deserves an outstanding education.’

This movement as a Trust offers a huge opportunity for up to date training, cross curricular working, bespoke professional development pathways and allows all staff to be at the cutting edge of national and international educational movement. All staff are encouraged to better themselves and we collectively celebrate success in a vibrant and healthy working community.

**2017 EXAM RESULTS**

**A Level Results 2017**

A\* - A = 24%

A\* - B = 50%

A\* - E = 98%

**GCSE Results 2017**

Progress 8 = -0.23

Attainment 8 = 46.6

English and Maths Grade 4 or above = 73%

English and Maths Grade 5 or above = 49%

**LEADERSHIP TEAM AND GOVERNORS**

**Principal**

Mr D Cleary

**Acting Principal**

Mr R Taylor

**Senior Leadership Team**

Mr M Payne

Ms L Kirk

Miss K Nicholson

Mrs V McNair

**Associate SLT**

Mr G Luhrs

Mr J Davies

**Chair of Governors**

Mr P Machon

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To prepare our young people for life in a modern society by excelling academically and across the whole range of subjects. To develop young people that are what the CBI calls “rounded and grounded” and who are able to significantly and positively contribute to the community of Market Harborough and beyond.

**OUR FACILITIES**

Robert Smyth Academy was opened in 1607 as a single classroom school in the centre of the town. It then moved up to its current site in 1909. It occupies a site just outside the centre of the market town. The Academy is made up of a variety of buildings including specialist buildings for Sport, Music, and Art & Design.

• Eight Science Laboratories

• Specialist building for Design & Technology and Art

• Specialist building for Music with rehearsal rooms

• Five ICT suites on the Windows platform

• Whole school network of over 200 PCs

• Media Studies suite

• Large Sports Centre with two Sports Halls and Changing Rooms

• Extensive sports fields surrounding the site

• Two cafeteria style dining areas with additional Food Bar in playground

• 6th Form Centre with 4 classrooms and study areas

• 6th Form only Café with study area

• 6th Form Quiet Study Area

* 6th Form Wi-Fi

**ACADEMIC ORGANISATION**

At Robert Smyth we will be moving to a two week timetable in September 2018, with 25 one hour lessons in each week.

The philosophy of Robert Smyth is that each student is entitled to a curriculum that prepares him or her for life’s opportunities, responsibilities and experiences. Statutory requirements of the national curriculum are supplemented by the Academy’s broader curricular provision.

At Key Stage Three, students follow a common curriculum. In Years 9, 10 and 11 students are offered greater choice, enabling a more personalised curriculum that meets the needs of each individual learner; for example those needing extra help can do an additional studies course instead of one of the mainstream option choices.

**Key Stage Three**

All students in their first two years at the Academy study the core curriculum which includes English, mathematics, science, physical education, citizenship and guidance and religious studies. Their curriculum is enriched by studies in humanities, art, three design subjects, performing arts, digital literacy and a modern foreign language.

During Year 8, full consultation takes place between staff, students and parents to support curriculum choices at key stage four.

**Key Stage Four**

The Key Stage Four curriculum is designed to give students every opportunity to achieve their full potential and to maximise the choices available at Post-16.

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 study English language, English literature, mathematics, science, physical education and citizenship and guidance. In Year 9 students engage in discrete religious studies lessons while in Years 10 and 11, the subject is taught as part of the citizenship and guidance programme.

Students are encouraged to comply with the EBacc subject list, so most are expected to study geography or history and a modern foreign language. There is a considerable amount of curriculum choice available for their remaining two options.

**Key Stage Five**

The curriculum in the Sixth Form is designed to prepare students for both university and the world of work. Each Sixth Form student has their own specific goal and ambition and we ensure that each student has a personalised curriculum that meets their individual requirements. Students choose from a diverse range of subjects so that they are able to participate in challenging and enjoyable courses. Extra qualifications such as the Extended Project are also available.

We provide a variety of opportunities within the Academy, and are proud that our students have been able to succeed as peer mentors, sports coaches, volunteer care workers and much, much more.

**PASTORAL ORGANISATION**

Students are looked after in one of four Colleges; Bragg, Hammond, Logan and Moseley. Each college is led by a College Leader, and are supported by a College Administrator.

In addition, we have two College champions whose role is to celebrate any good work with students across their Colleges in any arena of school life or indeed achievements outside of the community. When a student starts at Tudor Grange they are placed in vertical tutor groups; for 2018-19 these will be Years 7-8; 9-11; with Year 12 and Year 13 separate.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

As an Academy we feel strongly that the development of team and interpersonal skills is enhanced by the opportunities and experiences students have outside of the classroom. Hence, we provide a diverse breadth of activities that are part of a weekly timetable for students to opt into. These activities run before, during or after school and are delivered by willing and specialist staff who want to relay their knowledge and passion.

The list below shows just a small selection of the programme on offer:

• Sports Teams including Football, Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Cricket, Basketball, Handball and Trampolining for both boys and girls

• Various Choirs

• Various Orchestras

• Drama

• Dance

****• STEM Club

• Chess Club

• Duke of Edinburgh

* Outlooks Expedition

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