Headteacher:
Dr A J Gillespie

Burnham Grammar School
Hogfair Lane, Burnham
Buckinghamshire SL1 7HG
Tel: 01628 604812
Fax: 01628 663559
Email: info@burnhamgrammar.org.uk
Web: www.burnhamgrammar.org.uk

Embracing Challenge

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Dear Applicant

Teacher of Business Studies and Economics

Thank you for your interest in applying for this role at Burnham Grammar School. I do hope that the information attached encourages and inspires you to make a formal application for the post.

In June 2017 Burnham Grammar School created a multi-academy trust called the Beeches Learning and Development Trust in which it is the lead school and currently comprises Burnham Grammar school and Dorney School, a primary which is sponsored by the trust.

Members of staff, students and parents at Burnham Grammar School believe that this is a truly unique school. Our students are bright and eager to do well. They are hardworking, but also full of personality and a real joy to teach, reflecting the diversity of their backgrounds and cultures. They contribute fully to school life, are proud of the part that they play and continue to surprise me on a daily basis with their acts of kindness and their generosity of spirit. We frequently receive comments from the local community about the contribution that our students make and visitors to our school are always quick to compliment us on our caring and inclusive ethos. We have continued to build upon this community atmosphere, which was noted by Ofsted in March 2017:

"The learning atmosphere is very positive and pupils are confident, self-motivated, keen to learn and not afraid to make mistakes. They exemplify the school's motto of 'Embracing Challenge' "

The staff is a uniquely close-knit, supportive and considerate team and the caring ethos makes this a rewarding place to work. I was pleased that Ofsted recognised that "The headteacher's commitment to involving staff at all levels in the school's development is nurturing a loyal and dedicated staff." Staff opinion and involvement is highly valued and if appointed you will find that you are fully supported in successfully fulfilling your role through personalised and targeted professional development. The involvement of the staff in the running of the school and in the development of key policies, and also our efforts to support a work-life balance, have most recently been reflected in us gaining the prestigious Investors in People Gold Award. We hope that the successful candidate will play an active part in the further development of both learning and teaching and other aspects of school life.

You will see from our last Ofsted inspection of February 2017 that we were judged at the time to be a good school (Ofsted Inspection February 2017). Whilst our community was pleased that Ofsted recognised the improvements that we had made in all areas in the previous five years, they were also unanimously resolute in continuing on the journey of improvement. Since this time the standard of teaching and learning has improved even further with over 50% of observations being judged as outstanding. Through our tailored CPD programmes we support many teachers on the difficult transition from good to consistent and sustainable outstanding practice. This has increased the quality of learning, which is also reflected in our results with a 12% increase in A*/A grades at GCSE between 2013 and 2017. We are now entering an exciting stage in the school's development with a resolute determination to be rightfully recognised as an outstanding school and a national beacon of best practice.

In addition, we are about to embark on a £20million building and refurbishment programme through a combination of Conditions Improvement Fund and Priority Schools Building Programme 2 grants which will transform facilities over the next two years.

Not every candidate will be suited to the ethos of the Burnham Grammar learning community or able to fully contribute to our journey to go beyond outstanding. Candidates for this post will already be outstanding practitioners or possess the qualities and desire to become outstanding. We are able to offer personally tailored CPD and development that is nationally recognised as exceptional and was highlighted in the Investors in People Gold award report, which we retained in November 2017 (IIP Report 2017)

We are, of course, proud of our examination results but students' education at Burnham Grammar goes far beyond the academic. The exceptional and diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities and activities inspires and develops students' characters and resilience and exposes them to a range of unique experiences and challenges. We are passionate about the wider development of each individual student to ensure that they positively contribute to their communities now and in the future. This outstanding practice is reflected in us achieving a number of national awards in the past twelve months, such as the Gold Kitemark for Sport, the International School Award and winning the Educational Visits category of the national Education Business Awards. We welcome members of staff who have interests and expertise that goes beyond the classroom and physical boundaries of the school and encourage them to add to our students' experiences.

Quite simply Burnham Grammar School is an idyllic learning community where the relationships and teamwork between staff and students are exceptional. We provide the support and reassurance for our students to strive to be their very best. Our school aims are summarised by the overarching statement:

"Embracing Challenge"

Our students are constantly challenged and supported to learn from their mistakes to ensure that they fulfil their potential and have the confidence and resilience to aspire to and achieve their dreams.

I do hope that you will decide to make an application to join us and that we will have the opportunity to welcome you to our learning community and meet you in person.

Yours sincerely



Dr A Gillespie
Headteacher