Our Reference: RHIGG/CLA/056

January 2018

Dear Potential Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this post, which is fundamental to the continued success and development of Blue Coat, and also the development of our Multi-Academy Trust. This is a leadership post in its own right, which will also provide the appropriate leadership development to enable the successful candidate to move onto Senior Leadership within a couple of years.

In 2015, Blue Coat established the Cranmer Education Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust which now includes Blue Coat, two primaries (East Crompton St. George’s and Mayfield) and Manchester Nexus (SCITT). Blue Coat has also been a National Teaching School since 2013, and the Northern Alliance, which contains 7 primary and 12 secondary schools, operates out of Blue Coat. The Cranmer Education Trust is also in the process of expanding to add another secondary school and additional primaries to its family of schools.

The successful applicant will take full responsibility for pupil outcomes, curriculum development and staff development of the Religious Studies Department at Blue Coat. The post holder will also advise and support with curriculum and staff development of Religious Studies across our Multi-Academy Trust. We expect to accredit the successful applicant as a Specialist Leader of Education for Religious Studies, and as a result, there will also be the opportunity to lead and support the development of Religious Studies pedagogy across the Northern Alliance.

The principal role of this post will be the leadership of the Religious Studies Department at Blue Coat. Religious Studies is a core department. The department of 7 teachers are all RS/Philosophy specialists. It is a highly successful department, and always one of our strongest performing subjects at GCSE and GCE.

All pupils take Religious Studies at GCSE, where we follow the new AQA Religious Studies A specification (8602). At A-Level we follow the new Eduqas Specification, and we are always oversubscribed. The Kirkland Rowell questionnaire shows that the department is consistently the students’ and parents’ highest regarded subject. The quality of provision was commended in the school Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools in November 2016 (see school website).

The department occupies the ground floor of a recently refurbished building at the heart of the school. There are 5 large classrooms, all equipped with smartboards, and excellent departmental office facilities. The department is well-resourced with textbooks, online materials and artefacts. For the past 3 years, the department has been at the forefront of developing teaching and learning in our school, and we are looking for an inspirational, creative and dedicated teacher to lead the department to the next stage of its development in the context of new specifications, assessment and grading.

The ancillary role of this position is the wider development of Religious Studies across our Multi Academy Trust. The Cranmer Education Trust is a Church of England Trust. Our values and the way we work as a Trust are grounded in the Gospels. We want our children to be everything they can be and everything that they are meant to be. Religious Studies equips our young people with the necessary empathy, understanding, curiosity and tolerance, so that they can develop into the citizens of the future – people we are proud to call our own, and who go on to make the world a better place for themselves and for us all.

This role will build on the outstanding curriculum, teaching and learning, development of staff already in place at Blue Coat, and begin to spread this outstanding practice across the Trust and Northern Alliance. This is a fabulous opportunity for a skilled and ambitious practitioner to be at the heart of achievement and improvement in an outstanding school, whilst also developing curriculum, teaching and learning and staff development across a number of schools.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R. Higgins

Headteacher

The Blue Coat School