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DETAILS FOR TEACHER OF ART and DESIGN – FOLEY'S SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL

The school is small (around 230 in the secondary school and 400 in the primary section). It was founded in 1970 in Famagusta and moved to Limassol (also known as Lemesos) in 1974. Until this academic year the primary and secondary schools occupied the same site in town (Homer Street). This building is (in estate agent's language) compact, with available space being used to maximum effect (!) and there has been a continuous improvement and expansion of facilities over the years. This is on-going, with a major project to build a new school on a new site now partially completed. The Primary section of the new school was completed last year and Years 0 – 6 are now at the new site. This has given us more room at the old site for the secondary school, considerably improving the work environment for both pupils and teachers. The buildings are well-maintained and many visitors comment that the school has a "nice feel to it".

We are very well-equipped for the subjects we offer including sciences and computing. Data projectors and interactive whiteboards are available in all rooms.

The on-site sports facilities at Homer Street are limited since we are in town where land is at a premium. However, at the moment we supplement our facilities with others locally available and pupils have a full range of sporting activities available to them. We are hoping that the sports facilities at the new site will be available next academic year. These include a sports hall, swimming pool and an athletics track surrounding an astro turf football pitch.

All teachers (except for Greek and Spanish language) are UK-trained and hold UK teaching qualifications recognised by DfES (either PGCE or QTS).

Pupils come from a very wide range of backgrounds and we have over 45 different nationalities. On average 55-60% are native English speakers but at secondary level the vast majority have a very good level of English, even if it is their second language.

The school policy is to keep class size to a maximum of 25 throughout the Primary school and the first three years of secondary. Classes in Form 4 (Year 10) and above, tend to be smaller because of options. Some years have a single form entry, others have a double class entry.

We have a school uniform and high standards of discipline and courtesy are expected from the pupils at all times.

The attraction of the post is a pleasant lifestyle in a well disciplined environment with well-motivated boys and girls, pleasant colleagues and, I hope, a pleasant headmaster!

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is British. Although we do not rigidly follow the National Curriculum, we use text books which do so. We find that the few pupils who transfer to schools in the UK are "up to speed" and almost invariably slightly ahead of their peers in all of the subjects we study.

The fourth and fifth forms (Years 10 and 11) study for Edexcel or Cambridge International Examinations IGCSEs in most subjects. We also offer GCSEs in PE, Music, Drama and Art. The sixth form prepare for AS and A2 examinations also with Edexcel or CIE.

Our results in external examinations have been very good over the years. One has to be careful quoting statistics based on the small number of pupils we enter each year since one or two weak candidates make a big impact on percentages! However, last year we had 100% pass rate at A level, with 93% achieving grades A-C and 58% grade A*/A. At IGCSE/GCSE, the pass rate was 99%, with 62% achieving A* and 85% achieving grade A/A*. Bear in mind that many of our pupils have been with us from an early age and were not selected for academic ability. Obviously, when taking on pupils into the secondary school we are more selective. We cater better for academically able pupils but do everything we can to support academically weaker pupils. However, we cannot really claim to offer a comprehensive-style education, in that there are no vocational courses.

THE ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department at Foley's (which consists of one teacher!) has developed an outstanding reputation in Cyprus and plays a significant role in the life of the school. It offers pupils a chance to develop a historical and practical understanding of the subject and apply creative, problem solving skills to a range of academic and community activities.

The department offers pupils the chance to develop their skills and knowledge across a wide range of media and disciplines; drawing and painting, sculpture, textiles, animation, photography, graphics, critical and contextual studies.

Pupils follow the unendorsed courses at GCSE and GCE and teaching is personalised to their learning needs and creative directions. Annual, public art exhibitions of GCSE, and A level work are central to celebrating the pupils' efforts and achievements.

The department integrates the use of technology and industry standard software in all teaching, especially as pupils develop their specialisms. Each year, a number of our pupils go on to pursue foundation courses and degrees at the best Art and Design Schools in the U.K and Europe.

The department encourages a culture of industry, ambition and success and promotes inclusive and community project-based assignments. There is an emphasis on team work and live briefs when teaching in the timetable and in extra-curricular activities. Art pupils across the school play a vital role in the set painting, props, costume and make-up for annual school productions and also assist with the school magazine.

THE POST

As the only teacher of secondary Art, the successful applicant will be responsible for the teaching of Art to Form 1 – Upper Sixth (Years 7 – 13). This will include the teaching of GCSE and A level Art and Design.

He/she should have a genuine passion for both art and education and must be prepared to take responsibility for moving this very successful department forward. This will require high levels of motivation, flexibility and problem-solving skills, as well as the ability to budget and manage the department and related projects.

He/she should be able to demonstrate a wide and multi-disciplined approach to the subject and have demonstrated a high level of skill in teaching and in supporting critical thinking and analysis in relation to art.

Morning school runs from 8.10 am – 2.05 pm and incorporates an eight period day (40 period week). The afternoons are reserved for extra-curricular activities and it is very much within the ethos of the school that all teachers (and pupils) should be highly involved in these. At present we offer various sports, music groups, drama (including several concerts and productions each year) and Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as an adventure training programme which includes hiking and camping expeditions. We are always open to new ideas!

In addition we run a wide range of educational visits within Cyprus and abroad. In recent years trips have been to Athens, Geneva, Paris, Barcelona, China and Vietnam.

SALARY SCALES

These are purely internal, but compare very favourably with salaries in the state sector here (and with other private schools).

Your gross annual salary would be €30 000 (plus comprehensive medical insurance and 4% employer contribution to provident fund). Current exchange rate (Jan 2017) €1 = £0.86. Mere figures do not tell the whole story of course. Much depends upon the life-style that the salary offers in practice. The attached information sheet gives some details about the cost of living, which should be related to salary. Cyprus salaries should not be compared with those in Saudi Arabia and some Gulf or African states, where one is compensated for discomfort and/or restrictions on life style.

Your contract would be for 2 years initially.

CYPRUS

It is a pleasant country to live in. It has distinct seasons, rather hot in mid-summer but sunny and comfortable for most of the year. It is a good place for a family, being relatively crime-free (much safer than British towns and cities) and a place where women and children can walk safely. A very high proportion of Cypriots speak excellent English and the British are generally well regarded. It would be difficult to find a Cypriot who does not have at least one relative in Britain.

The school does not provide housing but we help new teachers to find suitable accommodation using local estate agents and other contacts (you do not have to pay for these services!). We do not recommend looking for housing on the internet. Upon arrival in Cyprus you will be given accommodation in a hotel or apartment until you have found a suitable home. In recent years, all of the teachers arriving at the school have found suitable housing within a week.

SOCIAL

Over the past ten years or so, Limassol has become a very cosmopolitan town which offers a wide range of restaurants, cultural activities and entertainment. On the sporting side, there are a considerable range of facilities available. To give you an idea, we have staff involved in all of the following activities: mini-football (social + more serious), mountain-biking, running, windsurfing, scuba diving, water-skiing, indoor bowling, gym, tennis, squash, cricket, golf, rambling, volleyball, hashing, amateur dramatics, dancing etc. etc. In fact, you can find almost everything here if you look for it.

The staff are very sociable (honestly!) and most new members integrate very quickly and soon have a busy social life.

SCHOOL SESSION

Early September to Christmas, early January to end of March, early April to end of June. Christmas and Easter holidays are roughly a fortnight each. We take the national holidays but not the Saints' Days.

C J Bailey
Headmaster