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Dear prospective colleague

Thank you for showing an interest in the post on offer at Saddleworth School. What follows is a snapshot that I hope will give you a genuine insight into our School. I really hope that having read the information and researched the school you feel that your values resonate with ours and you choose to apply. We are seeking to create an exciting learning environment where children and colleagues feel **inspired** and **empowered**.

I joined the Saddleworth team in September, 2011. My first impression was of a well ordered school where children are respectful; a setting in which powerful teaching and learning can flourish. In March 2015, OfSTED judged the school to be “Good” identifying many very strong features. We are looking for colleagues who are focussed on building strong and genuine relationships with children that enable them to learn, develop and prosper.

Saddleworth is a comprehensive and the only local authority maintained 11-16 school in Oldham. The school is significantly oversubscribed and is forecast to remain so for years to come. It serves a semi-rural area; pupils join us from picturesque villages such as Delph, Diggle and Uppermill as well as areas closer to Oldham such as Lees and Springhead. Whilst the school buildings are not as good as we would like, we are striving to make the most of what we have and we will move to a new build at Diggle in 2018 as part of the Government Priority Schools Building Programme.

Due to our success, the school has been extended significantly over the years and we are now able to accommodate 1370 children, organised into five year groups with up to 280 pupils in each. Although we have restricted space on site, many colleagues work with children away from the school be it via the extremely popular Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, excellent PE and sport opportunities or our nationally acclaimed work in foreign languages and internationalism. The new school is being designed to accommodate 1500 pupils and will remain an 11 – 16 school with 300 in each year group.

Exam results are traditionally some of the best locally and in 2016, we are forecasting a Progress 8 figure of 0.09, 77% of pupils gained 3Levels+ progress in English with 70% doing the same in maths. 67% gained 5GCSEs including English and Maths. Everyone at Saddleworth is focussed on improving on these figures whilst also ensuring that children feel valued and cared for. We are committed to ensuring that we continue to improve teaching and learning at the school and this will include ensuring all teachers are systematically observed at least three times each year and offered effective feedback focussed on developing and improving practice.

The key strength of the school is the staff. There are currently 80 teachers at the school and 60 support staff, be they in the excellent admin team, teaching assistants or site staff. There are some outstanding teachers at the school and there is a good blend of youth and experience. I am regularly struck by the dedication of colleagues who give generously of their time both in and out of school.

Included in this pack is a more detailed profile of the school as well as an application form. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

# Matthew Milburn

# Headteacher