



Teacher of Geography Application Pack

Application Forms

Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7NQ

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Teacher of Geography Required for 1st September 2017 MPS/UPS plus London Fringe Allowance

This successful and heavily oversubscribed school is looking to appoint a talented and inspirational Teacher of Geography to join this popular department. The successful candidate will be a consistently good to outstanding classroom practitioner with a real passion for teaching Geography to GCSE and A-Level teaching is available for a suitable candidate. The ability to teach a second subject is desirable. The appointed candidate will be a self-motivated and reflective teacher, and an excellent team player with strong interpersonal skills. We would welcome applications from experienced teachers or NQTs.

This is an opportunity for you to join a happy and successful school which has again been rated as one of the country's highest achieving comprehensive schools by the SSAT.

Number on roll	1235
Sixth Form	240

Furze Platt Senior School has an enviable reputation for its academic success, pastoral support, extra-curricular activities and thriving Sixth Form. Examination results are significantly above the national average. Our Progress 8 score is in the top 25% of schools nationally. Resources, including student laptops and interactive whiteboards, are excellent, while all teachers receive their own laptop. Furze Platt is a friendly and forward looking school where staff are valued and supported to do their best. Staff enjoy working here. Teachers also have free access to an on-site gym and an employee advice service.

All staff benefit from excellent professional development opportunities, including working parties and coaching for experienced teachers and leadership training for aspiring and existing middle and senior leaders. We provide a comprehensive induction for all staff and full programme of support and further development for NQTs. Furze Platt is the founding school for Teach Maidenhead, delivering first-class teacher training in conjunction with The University of Reading and UCL, Institute of Education in London. Furze Platt operates its own pay scale, allowing accelerated pay progression for exceptional teachers.

Prospective teachers are welcome to talk to Mrs Debbie Harding, HR Manager debbie.harding@furzeplatt.net about this post, or to visit the school in advance. To learn more about our school please refer to our website www.furzeplatt.com.

Closing date: Monday 15th May 2017 at 9.00am. Early applications will be welcome.

Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. Please return your completed application form to Mrs Kiran Smith via email kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net. If you have not heard from us within two weeks of the closing date please assume that unfortunately, on this occasion, your application has not been successful.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this post, and I hope you find the information provided useful.

Furze Platt is an extremely rewarding school in which to work and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in our most recent inspection (September 2016).

As our values and vision statement notes, 'Our successful school is a happy, safe and caring learning community where achievement is promoted, potential realised and young people flourish.' We have nearly 170 caring, committed and good humoured teaching and support staff together with a diverse student body of 1250 students, who come to school ready to learn and who are supportive of the school's policies and procedures. This is a school where staff and students work together to achieve high standards and excellent outcomes.

'Pupils achieve highly at this school' - Ofsted 2016

Our student body is taken from the town of Maidenhead, 30 miles west of London, and from other parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Whilst overall the area is affluent, ours is a true comprehensive school, with students from all social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. The school is popular and well regarded in the local community. The achievement of most students is good or better and has been significantly above national averages for 4 years running. Both girls and boys make significantly better progress than children nationally.

'The quality of teaching and learning is strong. Teachers' strong subject knowledge and good behaviour management skills help pupils to learn effectively' - Ofsted 2016

We are also a very inclusive school, and our vertical tutor group system, with six tutor groups in each of eight houses, emphasises the sense of community. We have a specialist unit for students with autistic spectrum disorder, and provide excellent support for those with academic or emotional difficulties.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, and aims to meet the differing needs of students. We operate a two year Key Stage Three to allow students to make accelerated progress and to embark on their GCSE studies in Year 9.

At Key Stage Four our curriculum provides an appropriate mix of academic GCSE subjects including English Language and English Literature, maths, and both combined and separate sciences. Students can also opt for more vocational subjects. Standards are very high and students' progress and attainment are significantly above the national average.

The Sixth Form is an undoubted strength of Furze Platt, with the broad curriculum offer and high standard of teaching leading to excellent examination results. A very large number of sixth formers progress to university, including Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. Sixth form students are also expected to undertake community work in or out of school, including paired reading and maths schemes, and act as subject prefects or mentors. They make a significant contribution to the school. The Sixth Form block boasts state of the art teaching rooms, study facilities and a common room.

‘Teaching in the Sixth Form is consistently good... students made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects [and] are excellent role models for younger pupils... the proportion of A* and A grades has also increased’ - Ofsted 2016

We have excellent ICT facilities, with all departments having either a separate ICT suite or large numbers of laptops for student use. Our VLE (‘FP Online’) is first class, and enables staff and students to collaborate simultaneously over the Google ‘cloud.’ All teaching staff have their own school laptop.

We also believe passionately in music, drama, the arts and sport, and have excellent facilities to support these. In particular, over the past five years two state of the art Drama studios, including a small theatre, have been built; a new Dance studio has been constructed; while our Music department has been completely redesigned, and now houses a professional recording studio, practice rooms and classrooms. As would be expected, there are a large number of music and drama productions, both on a large and small scale. We have recently completed a significant sports development programme and Furze Platt Leisure Centre opened on site in 2015.

We have a strong team of teaching staff and are committed to developing our teaching still further, and thus to ensure that even more students reach their full potential. To this end, we invest heavily in teachers’ professional development. In addition to twilight staff development time and teaching and learning-focused INSET days, staff are encouraged to join working parties focusing on aspects of pedagogy and benefit from staff coaching. Where appropriate, staff attend external courses, and we encourage staff to visit other schools to see examples of best practice.

Furze Platt is an exciting school to work in, and this is an exciting time to join us on our journey. I hope that the information in this pack inspires you to apply to work with us. Should you require any further information, then please visit our website (www.furzeplatt.com) or contact me via my P.A. Mrs Jacky Phillips jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net.

With best wishes

Tanya White
Headteacher

Job Description – Teacher

Purpose: To ensure the greatest possible progress and development of students, through high quality teaching and learning, and appropriate pastoral support. To challenge and support all students to achieve their best by:

- Setting consistently high expectations and standards
- Sharing a love of your subject and of learning
- Enthusiasing, engaging and motivating students
- Inspiring trust and confidence in students and colleagues

Main duties:

- To maintain thorough and up to date subject knowledge and pedagogy
- To plan lessons and sequences of lessons and to support students in meeting their personal and academic potential
- To use a range of effective strategies for teaching and for behaviour management, as detailed in the school's Learning Policy and Behaviour Policy
- To ensure the effective deployment of classroom support where appropriate
- To use and analyse performance data including prior learning data, progress data and external examination data when planning lessons, and in order to establish and set expectations, targets and action plans for individuals and groups of students
- To assess, monitor and record progress of students in teaching and tutorial groups
- To set home learning regularly and in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To mark work regularly, provide appropriate feedback, and ensure this feedback is acted upon, in accordance with the school's Homework, Marking and Assessment Policy
- To communicate students' progress with parents and carers
- To take part in marketing and liaison activities, such as Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings, Options Evenings and Celebration Events
- To engage actively in your own Performance Management and to take responsibility for your own Professional Development within the context of the school's Performance Management and Professional Development policies
- To be a team player within your department and house, contributing to department meetings, improvement plans and self evaluation processes.
- To contribute and where appropriate to lead on departmental learning plans including Schemes of Learning or Schemes of Work
- To work with, learn from, and support departmental and House colleagues
- To cooperate with colleagues to ensure a sharing and effective use of resources and to inform the process of ordering and allocation of equipment and materials
- To alert relevant staff to problems experienced by students and to work with those staff to implement solutions

Other duties:

- Where appropriate, to assume pastoral responsibility either for a mixed age Key Stage 3 and 4 tutor group or a Sixth Form tutor group, as part of the school's house system
- As a form tutor, to produce appropriate reports and otherwise liaise with parents as required
- To be aware of and assume the appropriate level of responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to report any concerns in accordance with the school's Child Protection policy
- To comply with the school's Health and Safety Policy
- To undertake any other duties not mentioned above, commensurate with the level of the post

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Teacher of Geography Person Specification

Requirement	Essential?	Desirable?	Shown through? A = application I = interview R = reference
QTS and eligibility to work in UK	✓		A, I, R
Evidence of continuing professional development	✓		A, I
Understanding and support for the values and visions of the school	✓		A, I
Understanding and clear vision of the importance of Geography	✓		A, I
A consistently good or outstanding practitioner capable of generating high student outcomes	✓		A, I
Ability to teach Geography to KS3	✓		
Interest in or experience of teaching Geography to GCSE		✓	A, I, R
Interest in or experience of teaching Geography at A-Level.		✓	A, I
Ability to teach a second subject		✓	
Self-motivated and self-reflective	✓		A, I
Good teamwork skills	✓		A, I
Good interpersonal and communication skills	✓		A, I
Good organisational skills	✓		A, I
Flexibility	✓		A, I
Patience	✓		A, I
Resilience	✓		A, I

The Geography department aims to ensure that students develop a sense of wonder and excitement, and a strong and critical understanding of the human and physical world, alongside a desire for further knowledge and enquiry. There are three Geography GCSE classes in each of Years 9 and 10 (Eduqas) and also in Year 11 (Edexcel). There are a further three at A-Level (Edexcel, focusing on Dynamic Places and Landscapes, Physical Systems and Sustainability, Human Systems and Geopolitics and an Independent Investigation).

The Geography department organises field visits to Box Hill as part of GCSE students' exam skills preparation, while Year 12 Geography students visit Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre in Somerset as part of their Independent Investigation report. Students are also involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular projects, including the Sustainability in Action group

Accommodation, Resources and Facilities

Teaching takes place in four dedicated teaching rooms, all with interactive whiteboards and visualisers. The Geography Department is well resourced with numerous text books, DVDs and digital resources as well as a set of laptops for the department use only.

Staffing

Head of Department
Three specialist Geography teachers

Curriculum

KS3	A broad and balanced curriculum is followed in Years 7 and 8 that gives the students a solid foundation of geographical knowledge understanding and skills in the subject. Earthquakes and volcanoes, migration, wild weather, tourism, collapsing cliffs, climate change and developing countries are some of the wide range of topics we learn about across Years 7 and 8. Our key objective is to inspire and engage students through creative and innovative lessons, and are fully prepared to start GCSE study with a strong set of skills and foundation of knowledge and understanding.
KS4	At GCSE we follow the Eduqas specification A (except in Year 11, where we follow the legacy Edexcel specification), which takes an enquiry-based approach to extend students' understanding of a range of geographical concepts, places and processes. Units 1 and 2 contain core themes that create a balance between contemporary and traditional, human and physical geography. Alongside the core, this course offers optional themes which include 'Coastal Hazards and their Management', which explores vulnerable coastlines and the hazards associated with coasts, and 'Social Development Issues', where issues such as gender, health and education are investigated. Fieldwork is important as it is a vital part of GCSE students' exam skills preparation.
KS5	We follow the two-year linear Edexcel A-Level course. As an issues-based subject, Geography sets out to promote enquiry and consideration of important and difficult issues. The course is broadly divided into physical and human Geography. It encourages the idea of issues analysis as a genuinely synoptic, cohesive form of assessment. Fieldwork and personal investigation are important as they account for 20% of the course.

Extra-Curricular Provision

In addition to local field studies, the Department runs fieldwork trips to Box Hill for GCSE and to Somerset for A-Level. Every other year the Geography Department runs a short expedition to Iceland.