

## **Additional Job Information – Director of Pastoral Care**

Downside School is known for its strength in pastoral care and was referred to as “Best for Well-being” (UK) in *The Week Magazine*, Winter 2015/16 which also cited the following “the eight aspects of a Benedictine education ... are a blueprint for pastoral care”.

For January 2018, we are looking to appoint an inspirational Director of Pastoral Care, who is passionate about delivering a high quality service to the School and its pupils. Consideration will be given to a candidate who is available to start in April 2018.

The successful candidate will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team and play an active part in leading the future development of the School. They will also act as Chairperson for the Pastoral Group who meet regularly and the Welfare Committee, which comprises of the House Masters and Mistresses, the Co-ordinating Chaplain and the Head of Nursing Care.

It is essential that the appointed person is an effective team member, who can help to promote pastoral care within the School and is willing to actively seek opportunities to develop both their own practice and that of the School. We expect all teachers to engage fully in extra-curricular activities and the boarding life of the school. In return, you can expect a generous salary and benefits package. Accommodation will also be provided as there is a requirement for the post holder to live in school accommodation.

## **Downside School – Vision and Aims**

Downside School’s vision – as a leading Catholic School- is to be a bright light in the world of education, illuminating the lives of young people and inspiring service in the world through experience of Benedictine culture. It enables pupils and staff to develop their own identity through experience of a community with Christ as its centre.

### **Our aims:**

1. To guide pupils and staff to encounter Christ through experience of a Benedictine community of faith.
2. To be uncompromising in the pursuit of academic excellence.
3. To foster a culture of unselfish love, integrity, humility and leadership through service.
4. To develop the character and confidence of young people through sport and extra-curricular opportunities.
5. To develop the school community’s facilities and resources through strategic stewardship.

This is an important opportunity for the successful candidate to oversee the pastoral care of a Benedictine school that is always seeking to deepen its fidelity to the call of Christ and to build dedicated, supportive and united teams of House staff. We value our close links with the families who entrust their children to our care, often over the generations, and we remember that parents are the principal educators of their children. We encourage pupils to develop a sense of personal vocation, and this is best learnt from the witness of the members of a pastoral team who themselves have a profound sense of this as a calling to serve.

As a Catholic school we understand that our purpose is to work for the good of the whole person and of all people.

## **Working at Downside**

Working at Downside is a truly rewarding experience. In keeping with our Benedictine ethos, Downside is a welcoming, caring community where each person is considered to be a valued member. Pupils are highly motivated, keen to learn and respectful of staff and their peers.

As part of our induction programme, we invite all new staff to join us in the Summer Term for an induction day. We are keen to support our staff, and CPD opportunities for individuals are identified and prioritised through the performance management process.

Downside is a member of the Canford Group, which includes most of the main independent schools in the South West, and this is an ideal way to establish links with other schools. We are also closely linked with the other Benedictine schools in England and Ireland.

### **Pastoral responsibilities of teaching staff:**

Full time teachers are expected to be a tutor within the school. In this role, they provide support and guidance for a tutor group (typically 10 pupils), including 1 period of Benedictine Living and 2/3 periods of tutor time depending on the year group. Both Benedictine Living and tutor time have specific programmes, and are treated the same as an academic lesson.

Each tutor is assigned to one of the boarding houses and will be on duty one evening per week (7.20-9.00pm).

### **Co-curricular responsibilities:**

A full time teacher contributes 7 periods (Saturday afternoon counts as 3) to the co-curricular programme. This may include activities and/or sport, and teachers may be asked to support a specialist coach in games lessons and be responsible for the team when they play matches.

### **Applications and job details**

To apply, please complete an application form which can be downloaded and submitted through an applicant tracking system on our 'Working With Us' page:

<http://www.downside.co.uk/working-with-us/>

Please contact the recruitment email address [recruitment@downside.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@downside.co.uk) if you require further information after reading the application pack.

**Closing date for applications:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, by 10am  
**Interviews** will be held by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017