

12 December 2017

Dear prospective applicant

Thank you for showing an interest in the post of Head of West Park School. The post arises following the current head's decision to retire after 21 years of outstanding service. All previous applicants will be reconsidered. You will find the following enclosures:

- Application form
- Appointment Criteria
- Information for candidates

West Park School is a large secondary school in the village of Spondon on the edge of Derby. It is the most comprehensive of comprehensive schools. We have children of all abilities from many backgrounds and increasing numbers from ethnic minorities. It is a busy, lively, challenging and demanding school. It is also a happy school and the vast majority of the children enjoy their time here. The last Ofsted report judged that the school was 'good'. Teaching is consistently good and outstanding. Behaviour is outstanding and pupils and parents feel that the staff are supportive and caring. Bullying is dealt with well. Our parents are interested in the welfare of their children and turn up at Parents' Evenings in droves.

It is a school that puts pupils and achievement first, driven by values like fairness, decency, common sense and hard work. This is because staff, pupils and parents truly share those values. Staff are one hundred percent behind anything that enables them to do what they do best: teach well in an environment that supports learning. We are all agreed that what goes on in the classroom has to be the very best that we can offer.

After securing high standards of behaviour and improving the appallingly dilapidated buildings, we have successfully concentrated in recent years, on developing practical and manageable procedures that will lead to individual improvement in pupil achievement.

We employ a sleeves rolled, hands on approach to everything we do. It is not a school managed by paper or by committee. There is consultation but we don't spend hours agonising and once the decision is made we manage and monitor through people; teachers, governors, pupils and parents working together. Senior staff spend a lot of time out around the school with pupils and colleagues; this is the way we prefer it and it is now expected. The school benefits from being actively lead and managed.

I hope you find the enclosed documentation helpful to you in deciding whether to apply. The Governors are seeking to appoint an outstanding Head for September 2018. For the right candidate this post will be an extremely rewarding experience as you lead the school into the next exciting phase of its development.

If you would like further information about the post or to arrange a visit or an informal discussion, please contact our Head, Brian Walker MBE on 01332 662337.

Starting salary within the range L30 (£80,310) to L37 (£95,333), according to experience, with opportunity for progression beyond L37 through Performance Management.

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 26th February 2018 and interviews are scheduled for 12th and 13th March 2018. Applicants called for interview should arrange for references to be received in advance of the interview date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

NEVILLE TAYLOR
Chair of Governors