SAINT AIDAN'S
Church of England High School

TEACHER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Aspire ❧ Believe ❧ Succeed

Required from 1st September 2020

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining us at Saint Aidan's. I am proud to be able to lead the school, and believe that it will provide an ideal environment for you to begin or continue your career in the teaching profession.

If you are appointed you will join us at an exciting time for the school. We had a successful Ofsted inspection in 2018 and our reputation in the local area means that we are increasingly oversubscribed. We are committed to continuing to work together to be the best we can for our students and our staff. If appointed you will have the opportunity to develop and grow professionally within a very supportive and capable Computing and Technology Faculty and a thriving, friendly school with an inclusive Christian ethos. Applications are equally welcome from newly qualified teachers and experienced teachers.

Computer Science is a long standing area of strength at Saint Aidan's and Neil Ireland, our Head of Computing, is a CAS Master Teacher. Computer Science is studied by all students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9). GCSE Computer Science and OCR National Creative iMedia are both offered as options at Key Stage 4. There is a strong emphasis on extra-curricular activities: as well as our regular Computing / Robotics Club our students have won the "Blackpool Robo" robotics competition and have had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park.

We have four up to date, well-equipped specialist ICT rooms, including one which will be the main teaching room for the successful candidate. The school as a whole is committed to using technology as a tool for learning and all students use their own tablet computers across a range of lessons.

Please complete the application form and include a supporting letter (no more than two sides of A4 please) which tells us how your skills and experience have prepared you for the challenges of this post, as well as giving us a flavour of your vision for teaching science. Please note that the first part of Question 7 of the Application Form asks for details of a faith referee. A faith commitment is not essential for this post so you should omit this section if you are unable to provide such details.

I look forward to receiving your application. Applications close at 12 noon on Wednesday 22nd January 2020. Interviews will be held in the week commencing 27th January.

Yours sincerely

Andy Smith, Headteacher

Andy Smith, Headteacher

Post: Teacher of Computer Science

Line Manager: Neil Ireland, Director of Faculty

Start Date: 1st September 2020

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020

Interviews: Week commencing Monday, 27th January 2020

Electronic applications are accepted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Please email to **recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

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School Information

Saint Aidan's is a successful and popular 11-16 co-educational Church of England school with 850 students situated in a very pleasant part of the Fylde in Lancashire. We draw our students from a wide area which includes the rural area of Over Wyre, as well as a number of areas on the edge of Blackpool and Fleetwood. The school is within easy reach of the cities of Lancaster and Preston and the town of Blackpool.

Our students achieve very well, and there is a real will in the school to improve even further. In 2019 53% of students achieved at least grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths and we are regularly one of the highest performing school on the Fylde peninsula.

The school's commitment to learning extends to staff as well as students; there is a well-developed structure of support for new members of staff and a culture of "lifelong learning" among our teaching and associate staff. Our in-house CPD programme is important to us and we are continually looking to develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning, with an emphasis on the use of modern technology and collaborative learning. All teaching staff have access to a Microsoft Surface Pro laptop, and all of our classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards or touch displays. Individual tablet devices are used by students in the classroom.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2013 and was found to be a Good school with Outstanding Behaviour and Safety. This was confirmed by a short inspection in July 2018. An inspection by SIAMS in March 2017 found us to be Outstanding in two areas and Good in the other two. Following several years of under-recruitment of students we are now full throughout the school, and had many more first choice applications than places available for September 2019. The majority of our students travel to us by bus and choose Saint Aidan's over schools nearer their homes because of our individual care for students, our calm and purposeful atmosphere, our high academic standards and our Christian ethos.

As a church school we have a strong emphasis on the provision of a stimulating, secure and caring environment within which all members of our community can develop their potential to the full. Relationships within the school community are characterised by mutual respect; this creates a safe environment where young people can grow and develop, and where learning is valued. There is a strong "vertical" pastoral structure, built around forms that contain students from all five year groups. Our collective worship draws staff and students together and encourages them to explore life's big issues. The school's ethos is distinctively Christian but is also inclusive of those of other faiths or none. This gives us a great responsibility as for many of our children Saint Aidan's provides their only experience of worshipping and growing within a Christian community.

We work closely with our local primary schools, sixth forms, FE providers and universities. Further afield the school has many links with partners in Britain and abroad, including strong links with partner schools in South Africa and Germany. Students can participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits in this country and further afield. All staff are encouraged to contribute to this programme.

Our school 'motto' is taken from John 10 v 10 - **"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness".** All we do at Saint Aidan's is aimed at making this a reality for our students and staff.

Ofsted say that Saint Aidan's is a good school where the behaviour of pupils is

❧

What the parents think...

"My daughter loves her new school, she looks forward to going every morning and comes home with a smile on her face every night. Thank you to all concerned, you have done a brilliant job."

(Year 7 parent)

❧

"The school has always been supportive to all our children. I think one of the reasons is the fact that the unique pastoral system allows the pupils at the school to develop friendships with others in different years; it also fosters positive relationships with their form tutor with whom they remain for the whole of their time at the school."

(Year 11 parent)

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Faculty of Technology and Computing

The Technology and Computing Faculty is a well-established, capable team including Computing and Food / Nutrition alongside all aspects of Design Technology. There will be six full time teachers within the Faculty once the new appointment has been made. The Faculty Director is a Computing specialist and there is also a Subject Leader for Design Technology.

There is a range of talent within the faculty, with many colleagues holding other, whole-school responsibilities. See below for further details:-

Mr N. Ireland – Director of Faculty; CAS Master Teacher and Community Leader
Mrs J. Rossall – Subject Leader Design and Technology; Teacher of Food Preparation and Nutrition
Mr D. Elwell – Teacher of Art and Graphics; Head of Year
Mrs L. Salmon – Teacher of Design and Technology
Miss S. Gurney– Teacher of Design and Technology
Mr L. Charnock – Technology Technician

Everyone in the faculty works closely together, and the links between Computing and Design Technology are important to the Faculty.

Computing Department

At KS3 students have one hour of Computing a week. Our learners are grouped into ability classes based on Mathematics sets which facilitates a more effective delivery of the curriculum. Schemes of work are well-established but continually refined and modernised to stretch and challenge, whilst improving the delivery of lessons and our students' learning experience.

At KS4 our students can opt for the AQA GCSE in Computer Science and/or the OCR iMedia course; we do not offer Computer Science to students in set 3 Mathematics. Each year we have one group for Computer Science and at least one for iMedia.

All Computing classes are delivered in two well equipped classrooms, with a range of additional equipment to support learning such as micro:bits, Raspberry Pis and Vex robots. We are currently implementing Microsoft Teams as our MLE, transferring all of our in-house resources and quizzes to this platform.

"Our lessons are always challenging, fun, interactive, and rewarding." Emily, Year 10 Computer Science student.

Extra-curricular opportunities

As a faculty we are committed to providing as many extra-curricular activities both in and out of school as we can. In Computing we currently have a Coding Club which is well attended and a Digital Leaders scheme alongside open access at lunchtimes and after school.

We regularly enter teams into the Vex, BlackpoolRobo, CyberFirst Girls and CyberDiscovery national competitions.

Saint Aidan's truly is a fantastic place to work. The school community is second to none allowing staff and students to grow and develop in a safe, supportive and inspiring environment. The school is situated in wonderfully landscaped grounds with stunning views over the Bowland Fells.

I have been in charge of Computing here for over 18 years. As a CAS Master Teacher and Community Leader I have a passion for my subject, and I have spent many years developing and supporting colleagues in their teaching of Computing both as trainees and through my association with Lancaster University.

I am committed to ensuring our students have an excellent learning experience both in and out of the classroom. For me the most important traits I expect our students to develop are independence and problem solving, so our pedagogy reflects this.

Neil Ireland
Director of Technology and Computing Faculty

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PERSON SPECIFICATION FORM POST TITLE: TEACHER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	To be identified by: application form (F), interview (I), reference (R)
QUALIFICATIONS		
Qualified Teacher Status	E	F
Degree in Computer Science or other relevant discipline	E	F
Further study and / or professional development	D	F
EXPERIENCE		
Successful teaching or teaching practice experience in Computer Science	E	F/I/R
Experience in coding with Python	E	F/I/R
Experience in coding with SQL	D	F/I/R
Experience in other languages such as Scratch, HTML, PHP, C++, C#, Visual Basic	D	F/I/R
Experience in using Adobe Flash and Photoshop / Illustrator or equivalent graphics editing software	D	F/I/R
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS		
Ability to teach Computer Science lessons of a consistently high quality, inspiring and getting the best out of young people	E	F/I/R
Ability to teach Computer Science effectively to GCSE level	E	F/I/R
Up to date knowledge of the school Computing curriculum	E	F/I/R
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES		
Commitment to an ethos of high standards and success	E	F/I/R
Ability to work as part of a team	E	F/I/R
Energy, stamina and determination	E	F/I/R
Capacity to inspire young people	E	F/I/R
OTHER		
Commitment to own professional development	E	F/I/R
Commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people	E	F/I/R
Willingness to support the Christian ethos of the school	E	F/I

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Our School Values

We aspire

- ♦ to give each one of our students the best possible education to prepare them for a successful and fulfilling life
- ♦ to build a community based on mutual respect and tolerance
- ♦ to open minds and provide a rich experience inside and beyond the classroom

We believe

- ♦ in a school with the Christian faith and Christian values at its heart
- ♦ in the God-given potential of each of our students
- ♦ in the value of every member of our school community of all faiths and none

We succeed

- ♦ by excellence in teaching and learning
- ♦ by fostering a purposeful and disciplined atmosphere where all can thrive
- ♦ by students, staff, parents and the wider community working together

Ofsted say that relationships between students and with adults are first rate.

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What the students say...

"The lessons are all absolutely brilliant! My favourite has got to be IT because we research all sorts of fun and fascinating things and I am learning so much."

(Year 7 student)

ⅭЗ

"Saint Aidan's is a very welcoming environment where nobody is lost and we are all treated as one. It has provided me with many opportunities to push myself, not just academically but with self confidence too."

(Head Girl)

ⅭЗ

Our school "motto" is taken from John 10 v10 –

"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness".

All we do at Saint Aidan's is aimed at making this true for our students and staff.