



28 January 2019

Dear Applicant

Many thanks for your interest in joining the team here at Chichester Free School. We started out in 2013 with 240 pupils in temporary accommodation and on an industrial estate, maybe not what you might call auspicious but trust me we have come a long way since then.

Whilst we taught, and grew on our temporary site, just around the corner a Carmelite Convent built in the 1870s and long abandoned was slowly being transformed into what is today our beautiful home with room for 1260 pupils aged between 4 and 18. No doubt you have looked at our website, and there you will find more of the story of that transformation.

Our original Principal decided the time was right for him to move on in 2017 and therefore as Governors we faced a dilemma, our delayed date to move to our new home was now set as September 2018, and here we were about to start having to look for a new Principal. Fortunately, the fates smiled upon us and one of our founding members, an experienced executive head, returned to the area and was happy to take that mantle on and lead the team as we prepared for and made the move. She has done an outstanding job in overseeing all aspects of that move and in September 2018 we officially opened the doors to just over 1000 pupils.

We set her two key objectives, the first she has delivered on, and the second is well advanced and at the end of this academic year Jenny will, as has always been planned, step down, and we will appoint a new leader to take us to the next level and beyond. We have detailed the sort of person we are looking for elsewhere in this pack but if I may distill that into one sentence it would be that we are now looking to recruit an empowering and inspirational leader with a passion to transform the life of every student by the delivery of an outstanding education.

The members of the current Chichester Free School team all think we are lucky to find ourselves in this part of the world. Chichester has been voted one of the most popular places to live and work in the country. Found at the foot of the South Downs National Park, ours is a small, historic city with its Roman wall still largely intact, an impressive medieval cathedral with unique campanile and an abundance of well-preserved Georgian architecture. We are well served by cultural and leisure facilities with the nationally acclaimed Chichester Festival Theatre within a stone's throw of the city centre and Goodwood motor circuit and race course, not to mention Chichester Marina, Pallant House Gallery and Fishbourne Roman Palace very close by.

Surprisingly, there has been less choice when it comes to education. There was no co-educational secular secondary school in Chichester, so our mission, as Sussex Education Trust, was to rectify this situation and establish an outstanding, world class school based on an all-through model for the Chichester area. We are quite literally in pursuit of excellence and to that end we are inviting applications from individuals who not only recognise excellence but can establish, manage and retain excellence.



Chichester Free School's ethos is based on four cardinal virtues of Greek philosophy: Wisdom, Temperance, Justice and Courage. Our Principal will be tasked with ensuring that these tenets are reflected in everything undertaken at the school, in the classroom and beyond. The Board of Governors is committed to offering a rigorous and broad curriculum, with initial provision ensuring depth before breadth and core subjects delivered separately. The extended day will see that pupils remain in school after lessons in order to take part in co-curricular activities, clubs, sports or preparation for forthcoming lessons. In addition to this, the developing Community and Skills provision will prepare Chichester Free School pupils for the world of work by honing their communication and soft skills as well as encouraging community projects and charity work. Friendly competition, a sense of belonging and a system of vertical tutoring is delivered through a house system. At every juncture our pupils will be nurtured, challenged and inspired to be the best they can be, whatever their individual talents.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your interest. If you are confident that you have the qualities and the skills we are looking for in a Principal, the Sussex Education Trust looks forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Oyns', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Howard Oyns
Chair of Governors