

Dear prospective Subject Teacher of Geography at The Wren School!

Thank you for expressing interest in the Subject Teacher of Geography post at The Wren School, which is a new six form entry secondary free school that opened to year 7 students in temporary accommodation in September 2015. The school formally joined the multi-academy trust, Excalibur, in February 2019. Located in West Reading, the school is well situated, with easy access to the M4 and good rail links to London and nationally.

We are delighted that, in June 2018, in our first Ofsted inspection, we achieved a 'Good' rating. The report describes us as "a school that enables pupils to succeed". We are certainly demonstrating that we are 'a local school for the local community; we are a popular choice for local families. There are currently 778 students on role in years 7-11 and we are planning for our first year 12 cohort to begin in September 2020. When full, we will have 1176 students in Years 7 – 13, with 168 students in each year group.

The senior leadership team (SLT) is made up of myself, four assistant headteachers and our school business manager and headteacher's PA/personnel leader. In addition, two middle leaders have been seconded to the team this year. From September 2019, we have increased our staff to more than 100, approximately 70 of whom are teachers and, therefore, we are confident in our ability to support NQTs and those who are at a relatively early stage in their careers. We are fully committed to the importance of staff wellbeing including continuing professional learning as is evidenced, for example by our staff engagement in action research, looking at strategies used elsewhere and trialling them to find out what works for our students.

In September 2018 we moved into our purpose-built accommodation, which has received universal acclaim from everyone who has visited. In addition to the main teaching block, there is a sports centre with hall, fitness suite and dance studio.

As a department, our schemes of learning are split between a two and a half year KS3, and a two year KS4. In years 7, 8 and part of year 9 students study a variety of different geographical topics. All year 7 students begin in joint humanities classes, focusing on geography, history, citizenship and philosophy and ethics. This approach allows us to develop close relationships with our new students, as well as providing the opportunity to demonstrate the interconnection of each humanities subject. From Easter of y7 onwards, students divide into studying each subject differently, enabling a greater focus on subject specific skills. Topics link to the Wren skills and thematic curriculum, allowing for an interdisciplinary approach between departments. From Easter of year 9, once students have made their options choices, we begin to teach the Edexcel GCSE framework, building on skills students have begun to pick up in KS3. As a department we are looking forward to continuing to develop our Geography curriculum, as well as introducing the Post 16 options of Geography A Level and BTEC Travel and Tourism. It is an exciting time to join the department with new opportunities emerging for both students and staff.

As a growing school, The Wren School offers a unique and exciting opportunity to contribute to building a successful department.

Successful candidates for this post will be characterised by high expectations, a passion for engaging learners and an ambition for The Wren School to be the best it can be. The work is undeniably challenging and necessitates applicants who are both determined and resilient but it is also the most rewarding and exciting project that most teachers will ever have the opportunity to participate in. To date, the school has been blessed by the high quality and enthusiasm of all appointees, who want to ensure that each of our students benefits from an exceptional all-round education.

We expect everyone who works at The Wren School to support and embrace our school vision and ethos, which is that:

*'Each child, regardless of background, will receive a world-class education and
be nurtured, challenged and inspired to aim high.'*

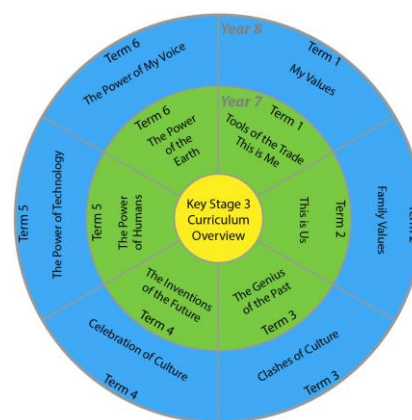
The Wren School develops this statement under the following five headings:

1. Each child an individual

Children only get one chance at education – and it should be an outstanding one, tailored to their needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive ethos where each student is enabled to thrive and achieve. The Wren School wants to be recognised for its personalisation of learning, ensuring that students feel safe and confident. This process commences before our students take up a place at The Wren School as part of a comprehensive transition programme. The role of the form leader is paramount and is supported by the structure of the school week which includes a weekly SMSC lesson and a daily reflection time.

2. Innovative curriculum and teaching

We provide a broad and relevant thematic, skills-based curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) that promotes each individual's passage to becoming an active and engaged citizen. We want The Wren students to be challenged by our engaging and exciting curriculum and to make exceptional progress. Consequently, our students will be equipped to make career choices that enable them to realise their ambitions and achieve economic wellbeing. Year 9 is seen as a transition to GCSE year, where students commence their GCSE studies in the core subjects and sample a Key Stage 4 taster module of each of the optional subjects.



We aim to employ innovative and effective teaching strategies that derive from best practice. There is a strong emphasis on enquiry-based learning that develops skills within a real context, teaching students how to think, not what to think. This action research is embedded across the school and is designed to ensure that we attract and retain the best teachers and support staff.

3. Working together with parents and carers

Listening to, and engaging with, our students' voices forms the backbone of our school development plans. We want to work with parents and carers to support our children during their teenage years so that together we ensure they fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character.

The Wren School offers wrap-around care through an extended school day that all staff are expected to contribute to, so that learning can continue beyond the classroom. There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and trips to choose from.

4. State of the art buildings and resources

From the outset, The Wren Team envisaged an exceptional secondary school, with a modern, attractive environment that encourages and facilitates learning. From September 2018 we have been housed in a brand new permanent school equipped with high quality resources that enhance learning. Our new accommodation includes a Sport-England compliant sports hall with a floodlit 4G artificial pitch and multi-use games area.

5. A school at the heart of the community

The Wren School aims to inspire and challenge students to nurture high expectations and aspirations for themselves and respect for the citizens of our local, national and international communities. We intend The Wren School to make a positive contribution through its involvement with the local community and society as a whole, establishing a modern, multi-cultural, community-based school, in a global context.

Our website (www.wrenschool.org) gives you further information about opportunities to be part of this amazing school at this early stage of our development.

Interested in joining our team?

If you would like to have an informal chat about the role, the School or the community, please give me a call (0118 959 1868) or send me an email (headteacher@wrenschool.org).

If you believe that you have the passion and determination to help shape the future of this exciting new school, please complete the application form (including supporting statement) indicating (in the section entitled Post title) the role you wish to be considered for. Please also return the equal opportunities monitoring form. Internal applicants should complete a letter of application but all other previous paperwork will be brought forward to this application. Completed documents should be either emailed to recruitment@wrenschool.org or sent to me at the address above.

We have an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process and pre-appointment checks. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check (DBS).

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



Jo Broadhead
Headteacher