



13th June 2019

Dear applicant,

An Introduction to Ormskirk School

Thank you for your interest in applying for the role of Teacher of Science at Ormskirk School.

Ormskirk School was formed in September 2001 as a result of the merger of Ormskirk Grammar School and Cross Hall School. The school is consistently oversubscribed with an admission number of 250.

There is significant continual investment in ICT ensuring access to the latest technologies in every classroom. All pupils have access to iPads, with parents' support the vast majority have their own device for use both in school and home. All teaching staff have personal use of a laptop and iPad. Every classroom has a projector and interactive whiteboards are available in each department. Dedicated ICT suites along with specialist hardware and software in technical and creative subject areas enable inspirational learning experiences. E-learning is viewed as an important part of the school's drive for educational excellence.

The school serves the market town of Ormskirk and its neighbour Aughton, together with the surrounding rural parishes. Latterly the school has attracted increasing numbers of students from beyond its delineated priority area, largely from the neighbouring town of Skelmersdale. The school is a truly comprehensive one and we see this as a strength. The proportion of children receiving free school meals, has doubled in the last five years.

The main employers in Ormskirk are the hospital and Edge Hill University. Many parents travel to Manchester, Preston or Liverpool to work, and some are very affluent. In general, parents are supportive of the school. The school has a very active parental consultation group which meets once each term to review areas of the school's work. Attendance at subject consultation evenings is very high, and latterly has been above 90%. The school's own surveys, together with other evidence, indicate that parental views of the school have improved significantly in the last few years.

Student outcomes are secure and the school's examination results are set out on the school's website. From 2011-2017 the average 5 GCSEs at A*-C equivalency, including English and Maths, has been consistently around 68%. In 2018, our Attainment 8 score improved considerably. 75% achieved 4+ in English and Maths, with 10% of entries achieving a grade 8 or 9 and 60% awarded at least a grade 5. The main target for our school improvement plan is improving the progress being made by disadvantaged students. In 2018 the Sixth Form College secured its best ever results, with an average grade of 'B-' and increases at A*/B grades. Our vocational provision is excellent, with BTEC students securing an average grade of 'Distinction-'.



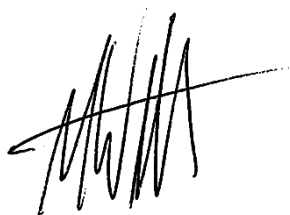
In February 2017 the school was judged by OFSTED to Require Improvement. Since that time it has been on a journey of improvement and the hard work of the entire school community was seen in the summer 2018 results – a clear improvement in Progress 8 scores, attainment at GCSE above the national average and record A-Level results. There is much to celebrate and be proud of at Ormskirk School and Sixth Form College, however there is much more to do in order to provide the excellent education that all our young people deserve.

Staff are valued and supported at Ormskirk School. Staff willingly give of their own time to ensure that the young people in the Ormskirk School family experience a variety of opportunities whilst at the School and 6th Form College. The range and quality of extra-curricular activities that is offered is simply stunning and is a credit to the dedicated staff team. The young people who attend our school are truly delightful. We are proactive and positive as a community and are driven to ensure that Ormskirk School becomes a beacon of excellence in Lancashire and beyond to ensure that our amazing young people fulfil their potential.

We will be committed to excellence in everything we do and, on a daily basis, our goal is “to be the best we can be.” Our overall aim is to ensure that all our students are well educated, resilient, confident, secure, respectful and of smart appearance. My personal mantra is that ‘if it isn’t good enough for our own children, then it isn’t good enough for Ormskirk School and Sixth Form College children either.’ Without exception, our expectations will be the highest, in terms of achievement, attendance, conduct, appearance and manners; we will expect all our students to live up to those expectations.

It is truly an honour and a privilege to be the Headteacher of Ormskirk School and Sixth Form College. This is a great time to join and shape the future of this fantastic school and community. There is much more to be done to move the school to the position where it should be and the journey will be a challenging one. If you feel up to the challenge and are an enthusiastic and inspirational teacher, and if you have the skills and drive to contribute to a positive successful department, then I encourage you to apply and I look forward to meeting you.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Witter', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr M Witter
Headteacher



Science Department Information:

The present school's Science faculty has some 14 teachers and 14 laboratories. The faculty is led by Joint Heads of Faculty who are also Head of Physics and Chemistry, assisted by Head of Biology and Head of Key Stage 3 Science.

At Key Stage 3, the faculty uses its own Scheme of Learning. This scheme is complemented by our own KS3 Scheme of Work which is a set of electronic resources collaboratively prepared by all our faculty members. Students are set by ability in Year 7 and a combination of two top sets followed by mixed ability in Years 8-11.

At Key Stage 4 students study the AQA Trilogy Science Double award or opt for separate Sciences.

The faculty and the school set great store by target setting on the basis of prior attainment. There is a well-developed system of computerised assessment which allows the identification of those pupils who are not meeting expectations as well as the many who are exceeding them. This is a valuable tool for adjusting setting and setting targets at an individual level.

The school follows the AQA specification for A-level Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The Science subjects have been very popular in the recent past, with a significant uptake at A Level annually. We also offer AQA Applied Science Level 3 as an option.

Information on the post:

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and inspirational teacher of science. The ability to teach A-level Chemistry or Physics would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be expected to make a positive contribution to the department. In return we offer a rewarding environment, high profile involvement in the life of the school, on-going professional development and the opportunity of working in a thriving and ever developing department.

How to apply:

If you are interested in this post, please return your completed application form by noon on Wednesday 26th June to recruitment@ormskirk.lancs.sch.uk. Alongside your application form, you are asked to submit a letter, describing in some detail your relevant experience and achievements and their application to this post. Please include any other information you feel would be helpful. Please include all those related to the list of essential experiences, skills etc for the post set out in the Person Specification.

Please do not submit any documents other than the completed form and this letter. Please ensure they reach the school, by email by the designated closing date and time.

Interviews will be held w/c 8th July 2019.

Ormskirk School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The school will take all necessary steps to check the suitability of prospective employees, an enhanced DBS will be sought and background checks will be made. Ormskirk School is an equal opportunities employer.