

March 2021

Dear Applicant

Teacher of Games Design New Media

A warm welcome to Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA). Thank you for taking the time to read the information on our vacant position. I hope that you find the information you are looking for and that you gain a sense of the atmosphere, vision, ethos and aims of BOA.

BOA is a high-performing 14-19 academy specialising in creative, digital and performing arts. The landmark building, located at the hub of the digital and creative industries in the West Midlands, opened September 2011. It has superb facilities for academic, vocational and extra-curricular activities. BOA is 100% selective, based on aptitude, and as a result, it is unique in its admissions criteria.

Whilst students have talent in their chosen pathway subjects, there is a full range of academic ability. Alongside their vocational courses, students in Year 10 and 11 study an additional eight GCSEs including English, Maths and Science. In Year 12 and 13 students can opt to study one or two additional A-Levels.

Although BOA is primarily known for its work the creative and performing arts the academy has a strong history of academic success. Results at BOA are outstanding with student achievement well above the national average in all three core subjects. BOA's Key Stage 5 results are equivalent to A*AA. In 2018 BOA was in the top 10% of schools nationally.

Our Post-16 Digital Arts students study towards a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production, with Games Design and New Media students pursuing units and projects relevant to their specialism. At Key Stage 4, Digital Arts students study a Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production, where some learners will choose to specialise in Games Design and New Media in their second year for one of their modules.

The Games Design and New Media specialism has a proven track record of success, consistently securing the very highest outcomes for our students year on year. The average Vocational Pathway Grade across Digital Arts pathways has been Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction for a number of years, despite the fact that we transitioned to the more challenging RQF externally assessed specification in 2017.

Digital Arts staff benefit from working in a highly skilled, aspirational, supportive and collaborative team. The department is well resourced, and we embrace both the Windows and Apple platforms. Our Games Design Studios are constructed around the Adobe Creative Suite, Autodesk, and the Unreal game engine; and our Digital Editing Studio runs Adobe Creative Suite on iMACs, as does our TV/Motion Capture studio. The Games Design and New Media team also collaborate closely with staff and students on other pathways, for example in curating shows and exhibitions, in developing 3D assets and animations to embellish live stage productions, in designing VFX environments for BOATV broadcasts, hosting radio shows on B2 Radio, designing promotional websites and marketing materials for a range of BOA events, and in developing interactive applications and mobile games for the annual Christmas show at the Old Rep Theatre. The Digital Arts department has a track record of working with industry and external organisations to provide rich learning experiences for our students. For example, the team has worked closely with the likes of

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Codemasters, Black Skull interactive, and the BBC on collaborative and placement projects in recent years. We have a budding e-sports and shoutcasting programme, and an international connection with St Martins in Malta, who provide opportunities for our students to participate in remote digital projects.

Together with the founding partners, Maverick TV and The BRIT School, BOA has a large number of creative and industry partners. They offer high levels of support, investment, expertise and opportunities for both students and the academy. BOA's Board of Directors consists of an impressive array of both educationalists, entrepreneurs and businesses. These range from TV and media companies such as The BBC, Maverick TV, the British Record Industry and PRG; a global lighting company, to Birmingham City University and the Ormiston Trust (a grant making trust, chiefly assisting and supporting children and young people).

BOA is a popular and hugely oversubscribed academy that continues to attract high numbers of applications for places in Year 10 and Year 12.

In the nine years since opening, BOA has rapidly gained a reputation as a centre of excellence. It has an impressive number of creative industry partners who support the differing pathways by helping to design, develop and deliver the programmes of study. BOA is proud of its impressive industry links. These links continue to give BOA students unrivalled access to the industry. Some of the most notable partnerships are with Live Nation, PRG lighting and BOSE. These companies not only support BOA by donating equipment and bursaries but also enable students to gain invaluable experiences and opportunities. BOA has received the British Council International School Award and was nominated for the TES International Award. It has also been awarded the coveted Creative Skillset accreditation.

BOA will open two new schools: "BOA Digital" in 2021 and "BOA Stage & Screen" in 2022.

We have strong links with Birmingham City University; they are one of our sponsors. We are delighted the new Conservatoire is our closest neighbour. This offers our students outstanding opportunities for both tuition and performance.

BOA has high expectations for itself, its staff and students. There is a clear focus on standards and student behaviour is outstanding. BOA aims to be at the forefront of accreditation and curriculum innovation. Staff have been as far afield as Seattle to look at innovation within accreditation.

If you want to teach in an outstanding and distinctive institution at the cutting edge of education development, we would really like to hear from you.

Thank you for taking the time to apply to BOA. I appreciate filling in forms and letters of application is very time consuming. All applications will be given the merit they deserve.

Many thanks and good luck with your application.

Yours faithfully



Alistair Chattaway
Principal