



# Applicant Information Pack

Woodrush High School  
An Academy for Students Aged 11-18



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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

Woodrush High School is an extremely popular and over-subscribed Academy for 11 to 18-year olds, committed to building supportive, professional relationships between students, staff, parents and carers and the community that we serve. We are proud to be a designated Training School and are recognised as a National Support school.

Woodrush staff are welcoming, committed and maintain the highest expectations of both themselves and our students. We have a firm commitment to professional and career development for all our staff, reflected in our continual professional development and learning opportunities. Teaching and learning practice is creative, ambitious and evidence-informed which promotes a place of learning that challenges and supports all students to be inspired, achieve and be celebrated for their success and aptitude.

Following our recent Ofsted inspection in April 2024, the overall judgement was that Woodrush remains a 'Good' school.

This judgement should be considered within a broader context of our school: a change of headship in 2022; the social and economic aftermath of COVID, union strikes, a national shortage of teaching and associate staff and the funding crisis for school – to name but a few. And despite all these challenges, this inspection has heralded Woodrush for the holistic delivery of an everyday school experience that prioritises support, safety, and an ambitious curriculum for all.

Whilst there are many extremely positive statements in our report, some highlights include:

- Woodrush is 'a harmonious community where difference is celebrated.'
- 'Adults at Woodrush High go the extra mile for [learners]' • '... pupils are polite, respectful and courteous.'
- 'The school has put in place an ambitious curriculum for all pupils.'
- 'Appropriate adaptations are made...with personalised support. As a result, [pupils with special educational needs] achieve well.'
- 'The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.'
- 'Pupils appreciate the leadership positions which exist in the school, and that their voices are heard by leaders.'
- 'Pupils respond well to the school's expectations of them academically.'
- 'Pupils receive regular information about careers and future destinations throughout their time at the school.'
- The wider curricular provision is extensive and strategically planned.
- 'Engagement with staff at all levels drives key decisions...'
- '...staff report that they appreciate developments that leaders have put in place to manage workload and support them in their roles.'
- 'Governors are highly supportive of the school and hold leaders to account effectively.'

Of all our achievements, we are most proud of our students: their enthusiasm, inquiring minds, eagerness to learn and willingness to contribute to the various opportunities that life at Woodrush offers and we are united in our commitment to ensuring that all our students receive an excellent education that develops and nurtures their abilities and talents.

We welcome applicants to arrange a visit to our school to see first-hand our learning environment and we hope this information pack provides useful insight into life, work and learning at Woodrush.

Kind Regards

Mr J Barber  
Headteacher





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## About Our School

Woodrush High School is a mixed, comprehensive school of approximately 1000 students aged 11 to 18, including the Sixth Form of nearly 120 students. There are approximately 70 teaching staff and 60 support staff. The school is situated in a pleasant semi-rural residential area one mile to the south of the Birmingham city boundary.

Our reputation and record of success make us a highly attractive place for families to enroll their child[ren]. We are a heavily oversubscribed school, with the majority of students residing in south Birmingham, Worcestershire, and Solihull. The school, which was opened in 1958, enjoys an excellent reputation locally and was designated a Training School by the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2014.

A high proportion of our students achieve examination results at GCSE and Post-16 above national averages and our cohorts have an excellent record of progression into employment, training and Further Higher Education.

Achievements in other fields are equally valued and there is a strong tradition of extra-curricular activities within the school. We have a wealth of clubs and sports teams and a broad range of educational visits, residential, productions, and performances run across the academic year that enriches the curriculum and life for students at Woodrush.



Our curriculum is dynamic and engaging, leading to a broad range of valued qualifications responsive to local and regional employment and training opportunities. At both KS4 and KS5, students receive a curriculum and pastoral support matched to their strengths, needs, and aspirations. All students follow our 'ASPIRE' programme which aids the personal development of students and prepares them for life after Woodrush. The Special Educational Needs department is particularly strong and offers considerable support to a number of students throughout the school.

Woodrush has high-quality facilities for sports in the school and Community Hub, which is also open to the community; as well as designated facilities for our Training School, Library, and Sixth Form. Our sports facilities include an all-weather floodlit artificial pitch which is also open to the public during evenings and weekends via the sports centre.



We have four Houses at Woodrush High School (Brindley, Cadbury, Eliot and Lanchester). Students join a mixed ability tutor group on entry to the school and remain in that group until the end of Year 11.

Students are encouraged to achieve the highest possible standards of which they are capable, and we have an agreed Code of Conduct and students are expected to, and do, behave well.

We aim to provide young people with an orderly, structured and supportive environment in which they can grow to maturity. Parents and Carers are very supportive of the staff and school at large and the school has maintained an excellent reputation for creating high standards of achievement and behaviour. Woodrush prides itself on fostering a strong sense of community life and developing good habits of hard work and self-discipline.



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## Why work at Woodrush High School?

We place learning and progress at the heart of everything that we do and regularly celebrate at all levels the excellent achievements of our students. We have a 'can do' attitude where we feel that nothing is impossible to achieve to improve our students' chances in life.

Our success is based on the quality of the staff we have, in whatever role they play in school. We aim to continually improve and strive to excel in everything that we do. At Woodrush, we work towards creating caring and positive relationships with staff and with our students. We are a community, where students and staff are happy to work together.

### Our Staff Enjoy:

- Being part of a successful school and Training School
- Our interactive and inspiring weekly CPDL training sessions
- A fully supportive New Staff induction process
- The school's supportive network of colleagues
- Excellent opportunities for personal development
- On-site gym
- On-site café and public library

### What does being part of a Training School mean for staff at Woodrush?

Within our Alliance, (of both Primary and Secondary schools) and situated in a brand-new training building, we lead teacher training through various routes -Schools Direct and PGCE with Universities of Birmingham, Worcester, and Warwick. Training is based at Woodrush High School and/or our partner schools. Alongside initial teacher training, we offer a wealth of CPDL for teachers at all stages and levels of experience, which aims to support teachers to become outstanding practitioners who are highly effective and exceed the professional standards required.

In addition, our professional, friendly and experienced team are able to skilfully lead the Olevi programme (The Outstanding Teacher programme (OTP) and the Improving Teacher Programme (ITP)) as well as further professional qualifications, such as the NPQML and NPQSL, with outstanding training and enhanced by strong partnership links within our growing Alliance. We place a strong emphasis on using educational research and evidence-informed pedagogy to steer our training, ensuring it is creative, dynamic, effective, and leads to exceptionally positive feedback.

We pride ourselves on spotting talent within our Woodrush team (and the Alliance) and nurturing staff potential, to ensure that every single person aims to achieve their best and is supported to do so at any point in their career. We have a team of Specialist Leaders of Education in school and offer School to School support, which involves our SLEs, Senior team and Teaching staff who can effectively support staff within our school or our Alliance/ partner schools.

Therefore, the experience of the staff at the Woodrush High School is enriched by the many opportunities offered by the Training School (and the staff within the Alliance and partner schools.) Joining Woodrush enables you to have the opportunity to access the high-quality training programmes from within the Training School CPD programme, and offers you the chance to take part in our in-house events, train or support teachers or lead CPD for other teachers from Woodrush, or wider afield. As our Training school continues to grow, so do the opportunities which our staff are offered and can benefit from.

## Early Career Teaching (ECT) support



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We pride ourselves on our support for ECTs in their early stages of professional practice. We have a long tradition of successful CPDL for new teachers, as part of our excellent Initial Teacher Training and whole staff CPDL. We use SIPs Education to accredit your ECT statutory programme, who are a well-respected Appropriate Body, providing statutory induction for over 150 schools and academies.

Alongside our Ofsted outstanding grade for Leadership in 2018, we are a member of the University of Birmingham (UoB) Alliance Group and so we have a strong influence on the CAPITA UoB Early Careers Framework which ensures we can make the ECF the best it can be for Woodrush ECTs and their Mentors.

### **So what kind of support should you expect at Woodrush?**

Alongside a weekly whole school CPD programme, you will receive the following support in your ECT years 1 and 2:

- An extra hour on your time table to support your personal training needs, such as observation of other staff, support with planning, moderation / assessment with a more experienced member of staff.
- Access to and support with the statutory national ECF training on the strands of behaviour, intervention and curriculum.
- An annual ECF Conference to kickstart Year 1 and Year 2.
- An ECF specialist mentor within the department you teach, who will support your continuing professional development in your subject area.
- ECT training once a week which aligns Woodrush standards and systems with the national ECF objectives and outcomes and is personalised to meet your individual needs.
- Our ECF Lead, Sam Hammond, who supports your progress throughout the years, through focused and personalised support, observations, liaising with other staff to support your needs, and ensures that the process and paperwork of your ECF year is completed.
- Bespoke CPD training where needed to meet your specialist needs e.g. Exam board training or opportunities to attend High Impact delivery courses.
- An SLT link who provides additional quality assurance and support for the ECF Lead, ECTs and Mentors.

In addition,

- Staff are proud to work at Woodrush- which is high achieving and successful.
- Woodrush teachers are supportive, kind, dedicated and positive

These are just some reasons why Woodrush is undoubtedly a fantastic place to start your career.

