



November 2017

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the post of Teaching Assistant at The Macclesfield Academy. The Academy is a successful and expanding 11-16 school serving a diverse community in South Macclesfield. We opened in 2011 following the closure of Macclesfield High School. Whereas our predecessor school was in an OFSTED category and the National Challenge, in 2014 the Academy was judged to be Good in all aspects and, on the basis of the 2015 results, received an SSAT Education Outcomes Award for exceptional exam results. Our student numbers have risen so that we were oversubscribed in September 2016 and again in 2017.

Our vision is to create an outstanding small school: a welcoming community where every child is loved and cared for and where all our students succeed because of the way we personalise the curriculum to provide an enriched experience for each individual. Our vision and values are set out in more detail in the "about us" section of our website at www.macclesfieldacademy.org.

To turn this vision into reality we have created an innovative Academy experience which we summarise as follows:

The Academy Day

- Our day consists of three 100 minute lessons: 0900-1040; 1100-1240 and 1320-1500.

The Academy Week

- Each Thursday, we suspend the formal timetable at 1240 and extend the day to 1610; all students take part in our enrichment programme based on three strands of activity: culture and recreation, community and curriculum challenge.

The Academy Year

- We begin our Academy year at the start of the last full week in June. All year groups move up a year and, for the first week in July, our new Year 7 students join us for an induction week.

The Academy Experience

- Students joining the Academy who are well below the national standard in reading or writing join a transition group. They spend half their time with a single teacher who teaches them English, Humanities and French.
- At the end of Year 8, students are guided onto our pathways programme. Most begin their GCSE programme; typically taking GCSE in MFL and one other GCSE. Some follow an alternative pathway with a view to being better prepared to start GCSEs in Year 10.
- All our option GCSE courses are one year programmes taught, in the main, to mixed age classes, for 5 hours a week. Typically students take one GCSE in Year 9; complete their MFL GCSE and add another option in Year 10 and take two additional options in Year 11.

In 2014 OFSTED concluded that: ***an innovative curriculum underpins the good progress students make.***

We are looking to appoint someone who is fully committed to the aims of the Academy and our vision for the future. We need Teaching Assistants with the proven ability to care for and inspire our students. We want to prepare our students with SEND for adult life by maximising the achievement of each and promoting their independence within the Academy and beyond. The person we appoint will ideally have successful previous experience of working with students with SEND in a secondary school setting. Most important though are the personal qualities of integrity, positivity, drive and commitment to each and every one of our students. If you have these qualities we can probably teach you the rest!

Our SENCO is Laura Halsall, Deputy Headteacher, who would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the role by email at laura.halsall@macclesfieldacademy.org.

Application is by the Academy standard application form which includes a supporting statement demonstrating how you meet the requirements for the post. **The deadline for applications is 9.00 on Thursday 7th December 2017.** *Applications for this post must be made using the appropriate forms* and sent by *email only* to: TMAreruitment@macclesfieldacademy.org. Curricula vitae or open testimonials will not be considered.

The selection process will include the qualifications and ID checks required for us to undertake a full disclosure DBS check. During the interview process, candidates will be assessed as to their understanding of and commitment to the principles of safeguarding children in school. We actively encourage all colleagues who meet the essential requirements for the post to apply and would particularly welcome applications from colleagues with disabilities and those from black and minority ethnic groups as such colleagues are currently under represented in the Academy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at richard.hedge@macclesfieldacademy.org if there is any aspect of the post or the selection process you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Hedge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RICHARD HEDGE
Headteacher