



COURT MOOR SCHOOL

Headteacher Mr P R Jenkins MA BA (Hons)

Spring Woods
Fleet
Hampshire
GU52 7RY

Tel: 01252 615065

Fax: 01252 624490

www.court-moor.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@court-moor.hants.sch.uk

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Dear Candidate

Thank you so much for your interest in the position. As a young teacher I was lucky enough to get my first job at Court Moor School; I realised even then that it was a very special place.

Subsequently, years later I returned to the school as Deputy Head, although by then the Headteacher, staff and students had all changed - the essential spirit of the school was the same.

Court Moor School has an excellent reputation amongst parents and the wider community - local estate agents advertise houses as being in the 'Court Moor catchment area' as a selling point. This reputation has been built over a number of years and Headteachers. We had our last Ofsted visit in July and we would encourage you to read the report as it successfully captures what Court Moor is like as a place to learn and work:

"Teachers are highly skilled and have expert subject knowledge. This is used successfully to deepen pupils' knowledge and support their understanding. Assessment practice is consistent. Pupils respond well to feedback. They know what to do to improve. Assessment helps teachers to understand what pupils know and remember over time. Leaders are reflective and innovative. They have extremely high standards and expectations. They are highly visible across the school. Teachers appreciate the way that leaders trust their professional judgement. They have autonomy to develop their curriculum and their teaching. Staff's workload is well managed. They very much enjoy working in the school."

Whilst having a good Ofsted report is nice, we are committed to creating the best school possible but on our terms, not Ofsted's; that's not what drives us. We do what's right for our students and community whether that aligns with Ofsted's criteria or not.

The school has recently begun defining our education around 'senses'; about the experiences we want students to have and the people we want them to become. Over the coming years we will be working on developing those senses of belonging, success, empowerment, purpose and adventure which will be intrinsic to the Court Moor experience. These senses work for all members of the school and we are keen that staff too feel empowered, purposeful, adventurous, successful and feel a strong sense of belonging to the school community. We work on the basis that we employ skilled, committed professionals and then grant them professional trust to get on with the job as they see fit.

Whilst whole school results are consistently strong, we see our 'results' as being more than just exams, it's about how we develop strong, employable and responsible citizens. We are amongst the highest performing schools in Hampshire and aspire to be consistently in the top five, although not at the expense of becoming an exam factory; a love of learning and student wellbeing is what we believe makes for a great education.

The tagline for my leadership of the school is, '*A great place to be, and a place to be great*' which guides my approach to both the staff and student experience. I am determined to make the school a place which values work-life balance, and breeds respect and responsibility between all members of the school community. We are proudly traditional in some aspects of our curriculum and uniform, but not afraid to be innovative in other areas. We are very teaching and learning focused as a school, this year we are developing our agile teaching programme, alongside character education through our Court Moor Character scheme and we are even experimenting with values-based restorative work as a replacement for traditional detentions: we like doing things differently.

Maths is a successful and popular subject, with many students going on to study it at A level. The team are all based in the main block and consists of 11 full time teachers, with a spread of experience from senior leaders through to ECTs, although it is a relatively young department in the main. The results are consistently strong and the department is regularly visited by other schools as an example of best practice. The department uses a mastery model of teaching and has devised workload-friendly approaches to planning and feedback. The maths team run the maths challenge but also contribute in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities beyond the department and are truly woven into the fabric of the school.

The school celebrates a diverse staff and actively encourages applications from candidates from all backgrounds and groups; we are keen that our staff reflects modern Britain in all its variety. We appoint regardless of age – we judge candidates on what they can offer us, so we are equally as interested in experienced, ambitious younger teachers as teachers later in their lives or careers – age (either end) is no barrier.

We have unashamedly high expectations of our staff, but they rise to it and I am extremely proud of the teachers that we employ. The Ofsted report notes, '*Teachers appreciate the way that leaders trust their professional judgement. They have autonomy to develop their curriculum and their teaching. Staff's workload is well managed. They very much enjoy working in the school.*'

Should you find you are still left with questions, then please feel free to arrange an informal chat about the position by calling Claudia Beattie on 01252 615 065 or by emailing on Claudia.beattie@court-moor.hants.sch.uk Thank you again for your interest in the position and I look forward to receiving your application in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Paul Jenkins
Headteacher