

## Twynham Learning

### Chief Executive Officer - Context

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for an outstanding professional to take over the leadership of this highly regarded, growing Trust and lead it through the next stage of its development.

This opportunity has arisen due to the retirement of the previous Executive Headteacher at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. The interim period has given Trustees and the Heads Advisory Group an opportunity to review the role required to lead our exceptional Trust into the next stage of its development.

The Trust currently consists of Twynham School, The Grange School, Stourfield Junior School, Stourfield Infant School and the very new Twynham Primary School. Christchurch Junior School will be joining the Trust in the Spring of 2018.

This is no ordinary role because Twynham Learning is very special indeed. At a time of unprecedented change in education, the schools within the Trust have remained true to what they believe and have not been swayed by successive governments' changing priorities. Learning remains at the heart of what we do and this is rooted in two key aspects: Responsive Teaching and Disciplining the Mind. These have been at the centre of our approach to teaching for many years and the successful candidate will be excited by the prospect of leading a Trust which has the development of pedagogy, based on genuine research, at its very core. This is a key reason why local schools from within and adjacent to our Borough have chosen to join our Trust. They see the value of the way in which we have been developing pedagogy and are keen to be part of this innovative and exciting work. Interestingly, our largest secondary school has just won national accreditation of the "Framework for Exceptional Education – transforming practice in engaging with evidence and research".

The other dimension which runs through Twynham Learning is the way in which we value people and the nature of the relationships across the Trust. This includes staff and students alike and 'The Twynham Way' is something that permeates all that we do. We believe that our young people are precisely that – people. They are not statistics for league tables and everyone works hard to support and encourage each individual to be the very best that they can be and to give opportunities that they may not have known existed. Excellence runs through Twynham Learning and it is important to understand that this applies as much to the arts as it does to other subjects.

Every academy within the Trust is unique and yet there are common threads that bind these schools together. A commitment to the unlimited potential of young people and a deep-rooted belief that children within the state sector deserve the same quality of teaching and advice that their peers in the independent sector so often receive.

Twynham School is an 11-18 fully comprehensive school with exceptional outcomes for its students and the largest Sixth Form in the area. The Grange School, whilst completing its journey to move out of RI, has been recognised as the BTEC School of the Year for 2017 and provides exceptional vocational provision at KS4 and KS5. Stourfield Junior School, along with the expected addition of Christchurch Junior School, are both oversubscribed and highly regarded schools of choice in the area. Stourfield Infant School has been recognised as an 'oustanding' school since 2007 and the new Twynham Primary School is leading high quality innovative approaches to young peoples' learning. Twynham Primary School has been temporarily housed on the Twynham School site and will be moving to its brand new premises in June 2018.

The Trust is relatively small at present (almost 3000 students) but is in the process of growing. Our vision is that the Trust will grow to be able to provide outstanding provision for those children who start in Year R and then follow through to secondary school at either Twynham School or The Grange School.

The reason why we formed the Multi-Academy Trust and became The Grange School's sponsor was our desire to bring children from across Christchurch together and to give *all* our young people access to the opportunities already enjoyed by those children at Twynham School. There is a genuine moral purpose here and, as you would expect, we are looking for an exceptional candidate who shares that vision. With the growth of the Trust we have formed a Heads Advisory Group which holds overall responsibility for leading the schools within the Trust. This will be an important group and the new Chief Executive Officer will lead this experienced group of Headteachers.

Twynham School is also a Teaching School and the key elements to this are the SCITT, school-to-school support and our involvement in research. As an example, it is Twynham School's involvement in research which enabled our Director of Mathematics to be part of the national Shanghai mathematics programme and to completely review how we teach mathematics across our schools. Our current Director of Teaching School is held in high esteem by the Teaching Schools Council and was recently seconded as the regional teaching council school link. The new Chief Executive Officer will be expected to provide strategic support to both the Director of the Teaching School and Headteacher of Twynham School in their leadership of the Teaching School Alliance.

Core Services is an embryonic team of professionals who rise to the challenge of supporting the work of colleagues within the Trust, currently consisting of the Executive Business Manager, Executive Facilities Manager, Executive IT Manager, Executive Data Manager and Executive Management Accountant. This team works closely with exceptional support services colleagues in each of the schools within the Trust.

The Trust is in an excellent position and the Headteachers in each of the schools provide exceptional leadership of their own schools. However, there is a real opportunity for the Chief Executive Officer

to take advantage of the opportunities created by working within a Trust to improve the outcomes for young people.

The Trustees and Governors are a truly professional group of people who give freely of their time for the benefit of our schools and communities. The Trustees and Governors are incredibly skilled and experienced in their own fields. We are aware of our responsibilities and recognise the importance of getting the balance just right in terms of challenge and support. Our professional commitment outside the education sector ensures that we bring a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience to the Trust.

Lastly, I hope that this rather long contextual information gives you a real flavour of the journey we are undertaking. So much has been achieved and so much is now in place – but there is much still to achieve. I hope that this inspires the right person to apply for this incredible opportunity. For the successful candidate I can promise you will work with a great team of people and have an opportunity to be part of something that will be truly exceptional.

With best wishes

Debbie Place  
Chair of Trustees