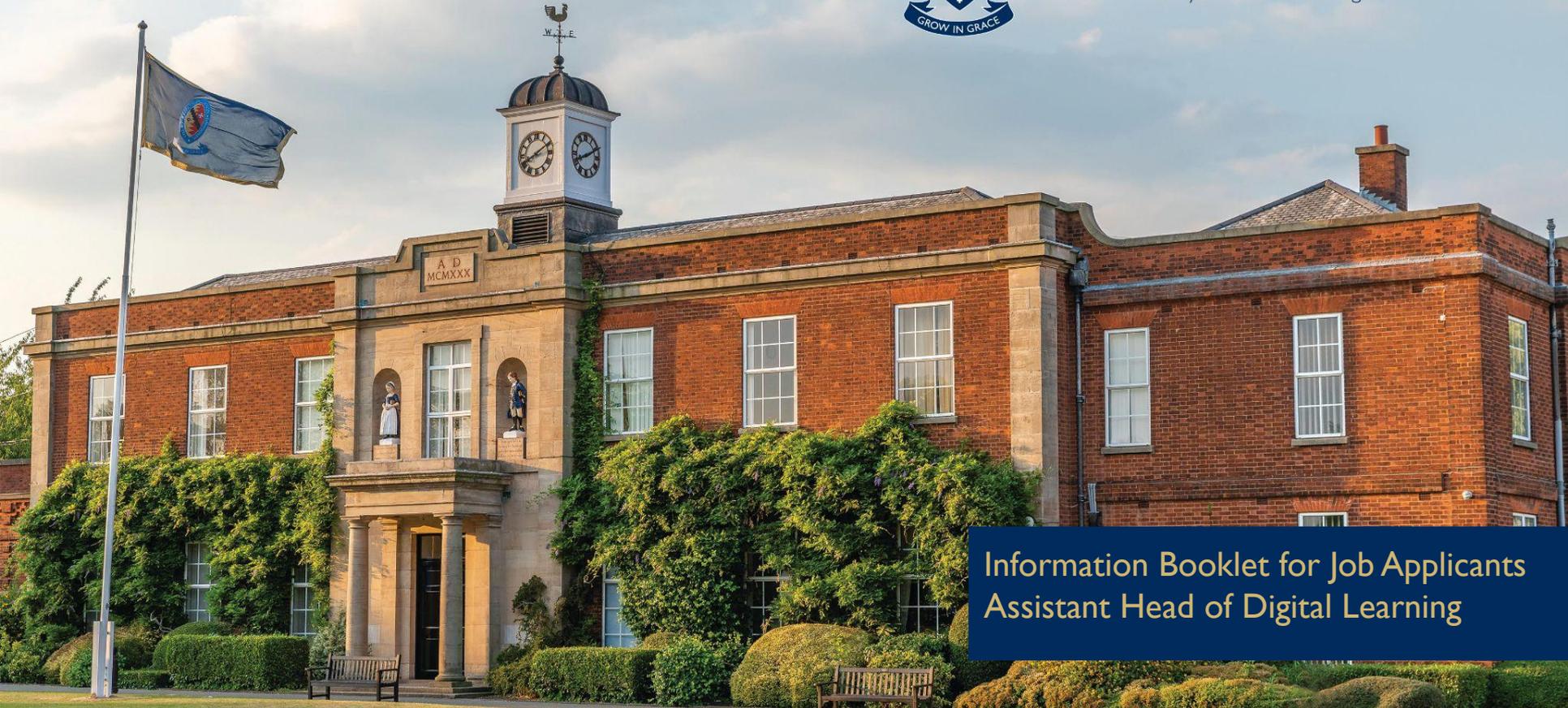




The Blue Coat School

Founded by the Church of England in 1722



Information Booklet for Job Applicants
Assistant Head of Digital Learning



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL'S VISION:
LIMITLESS LEARNING
FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



LIMITLESS LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



The Blue Coat School is an Independent Day Preparatory School offering an outstanding educational experience to over 700 boys and girls, aged 3 to 11 years. Occupying a beautiful site in Edgbaston, in 15 acres of playing fields and gardens, it is a thriving community where children achieve great things, not just academically but in all areas. Our extensive Co-Curricular programme offers opportunities beyond the classroom and nurtures well-rounded children, preparing them for life beyond Blue Coat.

Originally set up as a charity school 'for the purpose of maintaining poor children' in the centre of Birmingham, BCS relocated to Harborne in 1930 and has since become one of the largest IAPS Prep Schools in the country. A generous Bursary scheme continues to offer the opportunity of a Blue Coat education to all.

Founded by the Church of England, Chapel life remains a big part of the weekly school routine and Prep parents and staff join Chaplain for a weekly service. Meanwhile in Pre-Prep, Chaplain leads a weekly assembly for the children. Our diverse school community is representative of the local area and welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. Respect and multicultural understanding are fostered through our BCS Values which promote patience, respect and kindness. The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. It has excellent resources, which are used to provide enjoyable and imaginative learning.

Pupils consistently achieve outstanding results and they are well prepared for senior school entrance examinations. Many progress with the top scholarship offers to the region's most renowned senior schools including the Independent and Grammar Schools of the King Edward VI Foundation, Solihull School, Edgbaston High School for Girls and Bromsgrove School.

The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our community ethos is very strong, and we maintain the highest expectations of the interpersonal relationships between all stakeholders. The successful applicant will be expected to ensure that the excellent standards of the School are maintained.

PRE-PREP



Our Pre-Prep department begins in the Nursery with children aged 3-4 years. Unlike many schools, we begin with a traditional classroom setting. Children are taught in classes of up to 22, by a qualified teacher who is supported by an Early Years Teaching Assistant.

Learning is primarily through play and exploration but our children make fast progress with their letters, sounds and numbers and are often working well ahead of national expectations. Nursery children have the opportunity to visit our Forest School for two half terms and Reception visit weekly. Nursery also use the Pre-Prep Gym and are taught music by a specialist music teacher.

In Reception, children begin to use other areas in the School such as the swimming pool and music room. Moving to KS1 the school day becomes more structured. In addition to daily maths and English, other subjects are taught such as computer science, humanities and creative arts. The majority are taught by the class Teacher, supported by a Teaching Assistant, but specialist teachers will lead PE, games, swimming and music lessons.



PREP



The Prep School covers Years 3 to 6. Each year group is led by a Year Group Leader and there are also subject leaders who support the curriculum development. The Head of Prep and the Deputy Head Prep are responsible for the day-to-day running of Prep.

In Prep, the children are taught by a number of specialists teachers in dedicated rooms such as the Creative Arts Studio, Computing Centre, Music Centre and newly upgraded Science Laboratories. They become familiar with moving around School and are well prepared for senior school.

Children use individual iPads in all lessons, as well as practical and written resources.

A House system is introduced in Year 3 and children join one of six houses. House Leads meet weekly with their House which spans the whole of Prep and includes members of staff. House competitions ensure that the children work as a team to earn house points or compete for their House in sport, general knowledge quizzes and a House Shout.



FACILITIES



- 1 Year 3 and Year 4 Hubs
- 2 Year 5 and Year 6 Hubs
- 3 The Year 6 Centre
- 4 All Saints
- 5 St Martin's
- 6 Chapel
- 7 Viney Building
- 8 Sports Centre
- 9 The Annexe
- 10 Branson Building
- 11 William Higgs Building
- 12 Centenary Building
- 13 Bissell Building
- 14 Saville Music Centre
- 15 School Hall
- 16 Forest School



The Blue Coat School enjoys an expansive 15-acre campus just three miles from the city centre. With a rich diversity of green spaces, classrooms, specialist facilities, playgrounds, sports pitches and after school social spaces, a big campus soon feels like home to pupils.

The Blue Coat School has a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, AstroTurf pitch and cricket nets, Forest School, IT Suite with recording booth and green screen technology, Music Centre, a Creative Arts Studio, Science Laboratories, Auditorium, School Chapel and extensive playing fields, to name just a few!

Our beautiful and well resourced campus enables us to offer over 120 clubs and activities a week, including activities outside of the curriculum such as chess, Spanish and coding. In addition, senior pupils experience subjects such as cooking, debating, gardening and STEM as part of our Friday afternoon Thinking, Exploring and Doing Programme (TED).

MUSIC

There is a very long and established tradition of excellence in Music at The Blue Coat School, with many children learning one or more musical instruments and many achieving Grade 8 before their final year here.

From Year 2, children can begin to take part in choirs, including the prestigious Chapel Choir from Year 5, orchestras, chamber groups and bands.

The Blue Coat School is fortunate to have a diverse community of pupils from many different cultures, ethnicities, races and religions and we advocate for that diversity to be reflected and celebrated in the music curriculum.





SPORT



With a keen sportsman as Headmaster, it is no wonder that BCS Sport has gone from strength to strength! An extensive fixtures calendar, as well as intra-school competitions offer all children the chance to play competitive sport. We enter many national competitions and have achieved notable success including setting records at the England Schools Swimming Association Finals. BCS have also successfully hosted the IAPS Regional Swimming Qualifiers for the past two years.

The Blue Coat School is proud to have forged close links with local sports clubs and activity providers to enhance opportunities for our children in sport. These partnerships include Diamond Swim Academy, Aston Villa Football Club, Moseley Rugby Club, Edgbaston Golf Club and Edgbaston Priory Club.



PASTORAL

Here at The Blue Coat School, we pride ourselves on providing the best possible pastoral care for children. Our provision is defined by the quality of our relationships with pupils, staff and parents, our strong partnerships and how staff respond to the needs of each and every child.

Every member of staff has responsibility for the children's wellbeing. Everyone works in the best interests of every child to safeguard their welfare and promote their development, and our children are confident in knowing who they can reach out to if they have any concerns or worries.

There is also a dedicated Pastoral Team whose sole purpose at School is to support children in either a 1:1 or in a small group. The Pastoral Team meet every week to discuss pupils' wellbeing. The School's Special Educational Needs Coordinators, Designated Safeguarding Leads, the School Matrons and the Chaplain also attend this meeting to ensure there is a holistic approach to pastoral care at The Blue Coat School.





ROLE OVERVIEW

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Key Relationships

Executive Management Team, Senior Leadership Team, Academic Leadership Team, Prep Heads of Department and Pre-Prep Subject Leads, Estates and Operations Manager, Network Administrator, external partners including Apple Education.

Role Overview

We are seeking an outstanding and forward-thinking educator to lead digital learning and innovation across our Prep School. The successful candidate will be a key member of the School's Academic Leadership Team, playing a central role in shaping the strategic development of teaching and learning through the purposeful and imaginative use of technology.

Over the past two years the school has successfully introduced a 1:1 iPad programme from Year 3 to Year 6, providing a strong platform for the continued development of digital learning. The next phase of our journey is to embed technology thoughtfully and creatively across the curriculum, ensuring it enhances pedagogy, deepens learning and fosters collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Working closely with the Executive Management Team, senior leaders and the Network Administrator, the postholder will also contribute to the strategic development of the school's digital ecosystem. This will include helping to streamline core operational systems, improving efficiency, communication and access to information across the school community, while ensuring that digital platforms and systems are used effectively to support both academic and organisational priorities.

The successful candidate will play an important role in shaping the future development of the school's digital infrastructure and advising on the adoption of technologies that enhance both teaching and the effective operation of the school.

A central element of the role will be supporting the school's ambition to become a sector-leading Apple Distinguished School, embedding innovative practice and cultivating a culture in which digital technology empowers pupils and staff to learn, create and collaborate with confidence.

Alongside this strategic leadership, the postholder will teach Computing and contribute fully to the academic, pastoral and wider life of the Prep School.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership of Digital Learning

- Lead the development and implementation of the school's Digital Learning Strategy.
- Ensure technology is used purposefully to support excellent pedagogy and pupil outcomes.
- Drive the continued development of the school's 1:1 iPad programme.
- Work with senior leaders to align digital learning with the School Development Plan.
- Lead initiatives that support the school's ambition to become a sector-leading Apple Distinguished School.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of digital learning on teaching practice and pupil progress.
- Keep the school informed about emerging trends and research in digital education.

Leading Digital Pedagogy

- Support colleagues in embedding digital tools effectively within their teaching.
- Work with subject leaders to develop cross-curricular digital learning opportunities.
- Model excellent classroom practice using technology.
- Share effective practice across the school.
- Promote approaches that encourage:
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Critical thinking
 - Communication



JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Staff Development and Coaching

- Design and deliver professional development focused on digital pedagogy.
- Provide coaching and support for colleagues developing their digital teaching practice.
- Lead INSET sessions and workshops.
- Support new staff in understanding the school's digital ecosystem.
- Foster a culture of curiosity, experimentation and innovation.

Computing Curriculum Leadership

- Lead the development of the Computing curriculum across Key Stage 2 and assist the Pre-Prep Computing Subject Lead in the development of the Computing curriculum across Key Stage 1.
- Plan and teach engaging Computing lessons.
- Monitor pupil progress and support colleagues in developing digital literacy within their subjects.
- Ensure progression in areas such as:
 - Coding and computational thinking
 - Digital literacy
 - Digital creativity
 - Online safety



JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Digital Citizenship and Online Safety

- Lead the school's online safety education programme.
- Support pupils in becoming responsible and ethical digital citizens.
- Provide guidance and training for staff and parents.
- Work with safeguarding leaders to ensure safe digital practices.

Digital Systems and School Operations

- Work in close partnership with the Executive Management Team, senior leaders and the Network Administrator to ensure the school's digital systems and infrastructure support both outstanding teaching and the efficient operation of the school.
- Play a strategic role in reviewing and developing the school's digital ecosystem to streamline core operational systems, improving efficiency, communication and access to information across the school community.
- Contribute to the strategic development of the school's digital infrastructure, ensuring systems are aligned with the school's educational vision and future growth.
- Support the effective and consistent use of school platforms, data systems and digital tools to ensure they deliver maximum value for staff, pupils and parents.
- Advise the Academic Leadership Team on the selection and implementation of educational technologies, platforms and applications that enhance both teaching and operational efficiency.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Teaching Responsibilities

- Plan and deliver the Computing teaching programme for all pupils across Key Stage 2, having regard for the School's statement of aims, policies and schemes of work.
- Provide clear planning for high-quality lessons and for sequences of lessons that maintain pace, inspire and challenge pupils.
- Use a variety of adaptive teaching styles and provide constructive feedback verbally and in marking to ensure the effective learning of whole classes, groups and individuals, establishing high expectations of behaviour and attainment.
- Model excellent teaching practice in the classroom, through the use of digital technology, maintaining a clear focus on outstanding learning outcomes for all children.
- Integrate Assessment for Learning to inform planning and provide next steps targets for the children.
- Complete the 'BCS Blue' for Computing and ensure that children are supported in meeting their individual targets.
- Contribute to the identification, assessment and support of pupils with learning support or special educational needs, liaising with the SENCOs, and writing and implementing Individual Pupil Profile Sheets where appropriate.
- Provide reports on individual progress to colleagues, the Headmaster and parents as required.
- Create a bright classroom environment in which pupils' work is displayed to promote and enhance learning.
- Contribute to the maintenance and general orderliness of the school environment and its resources.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Head Digital Learning

Wider School Contribution

- Act as Assistant Form Tutor where required.
- Contribute to the pastoral care and wellbeing of pupils.
- Participate fully in school life including:
 - Assemblies
 - Trips
 - Parents' evenings
 - Admissions events
 - Extra-curricular activities





PERSON SPECIFICATION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Essential

- Qualified Teacher Status or equivalent
- Graduate of a recognised British University or international equivalent
- Excellent classroom practitioner
- Strong experience with Apple technology in education
- Strong understanding of how technology can enhance teaching and learning
- Ability to inspire and support colleagues
- Strategic thinker with the ability to lead change
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills
- Ability to complete administrative tasks accurately and to deliver to a deadline
- Thorough knowledge of the curriculum and current national expectations

Desirable

- A middle or senior management qualification
- Apple Learning Coach or Apple Distinguished Educator
- Experience leading digital learning or innovation in a school
- Experience with 1:1 device programmes
- Experience of Showbie
- Experience of coaching or mentoring



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Assistant Head Digital Learning



Personal Attributes

- Infectious enthusiasm and passion for teaching
- A professional manner and appearance
- Friendly, warm personality with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work cooperatively
- Clear communication skills, both oral and written
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a year group team
- Sympathy with the Christian ethos and activities of the school
- Wholehearted commitment to the life of a vibrant school

Safeguarding

The Blue Coat School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Original certificates will be required as proof of qualification. All other attributes will be assessed using the contents of the application form, at interview and with the professional references.

All members of staff are required to promote and safeguard the welfare of children they are responsible for, or come into contact with, and to adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the School's child protection procedures and staff guidance at all times.



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