

Information Pack for Applicants  
Headteacher – Stocksbridge High School



**Minerva**  
Learning Trust

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

**The Trust will undertake stringent and rigorous checks of identity and qualifications to ensure that we maintain the very highest standards of child protection for our students.**



**Minerva**  
Learning Trust

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***May we take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your application. If, however, you have not heard from us by the proposed date for the interview you should assume that on this occasion your application has not been successful. In that event we wish you every success in any future applications you make.***



## Section 1: Post Advertisement

**Post:** Headteacher  
**Location:** Stocksbridge High School  
**Pay scale:** Leadership Pay Range L28-L34 (£91,633- £106,138)  
**Contract:** Full time, Permanent  
**Start date:** September 2024

Minerva Learning Trust is an expanding Sheffield based Multi Academy Trust with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. The Trust is passionate that all students should see their time in education as happy and fulfilling with their potential developed to the utmost. The Trust employs just under 800 staff across our schools and Central Team and we are committed to providing career opportunities and professional development which allows people to make a positive contribution to the delivery of our vision.

Stocksbridge High School is an inclusive school and through a range of curriculum and wrap-around support do all we can to ensure every young person, irrespective of their challenges and barriers has opportunity to grow into a happy and productive adult. Since the pandemic, there has been a national shift in attendance and the well-being of young people, and we are looking for a candidate to build on our current, successful structures and systems to continue to meet these emerging needs.

We are looking to recruit a strategic, dynamic, innovative, passionate and proven leader to lead Stocksbridge High School on the next stage of its journey. This could be an existing and experienced Headteacher or a talented and ambitious Deputy Headteacher who is looking for their next challenge. The successful candidate will have:

- belief in the worth and potential of every student
- the ability to implement and secure change successfully
- excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to lead and inspire colleagues
- a passion and drive for improvement
- experience of growing quality educational provision to meet the needs of the community

In return we can offer you:

- a strong commitment to your ongoing professional development
- mentoring by and support from an experienced CEO and Trust Central Team
- support of fellow Headteachers and staff from across the Trust and the opportunity to work collaboratively with other school leaders throughout the Trust
- the chance to make a real difference to the lives of our inspiring children and young people
- access to other employee benefits offered by our Trust

This will be a challenging but rewarding role, with the opportunity to really make your mark. If you have the vision, experience and resilience to lead our Academy forward, we would love to hear from you. Candidates can find out more about the Trust and our schools via the Trust website [www.minervalearningtrust.co.uk](http://www.minervalearningtrust.co.uk).

Candidates are warmly encouraged to visit the school or contact the CEO for an informal discussion. To arrange a visit or discussion, please email Sara Bailey at [sbailey@central-mlt.co.uk](mailto:sbailey@central-mlt.co.uk).

**The closing date is 9am on Wednesday 21 February 2024 and interviews will take place across two consecutive days, Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 February 2024.**

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Further information can be found in our child protection and safeguarding policy on our statutory information page on our website [Statutory Information - Minerva Learning Trust](#). The successful candidate will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. In line with KCSIE, the trust/school will be carrying out online searches on shortlisted candidates as part of their due diligence.

The application form and information pack are available on the Trust website - [Vacancies - Minerva Learning Trust](#). **Please ensure that you do not fill in a Sheffield City Council application form in respect of this vacancy as your application will not be considered, *only Minerva Learning Trust Application forms will be accepted*.** Please address in your application the elements stated in the job description, person specification particularly the areas linked to the domains of the National Headteachers Standards. Your personal statement should be no more than two sides of A4.

## **Section 2: Letter from the Chief Executive, Bev Matthews and Chair of the Trust Board, John Doyle**

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our vacancy for Headteacher of Stocksbridge High School within Minerva Learning Trust.

Minerva Learning Trust was established in October 2014 with the vision of providing outstanding education for students who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield. During 2017-2018 the Trust brought together four secondary schools to create a new partnership which will support the teaching and learning of around 5000 students. Most recently, we have been joined by Chapelton Academy which will enhance the post-16 provision within the north of the city and by Woodthorpe Community Primary School who are the first primary school to join our Trust. We resolutely believe that we are stronger together and that each school within the MAT has individual strengths and we celebrate the diverse and unique qualities of each particular school.

As a Trust our mission, vision and values are central to our work and are the driving force behind all that we do. Our vision of Working Together, Learning Together and Outstanding Together is underpinned by our core values of Inclusion, Independence, Respect and Success. Through our values we foster an ethos of collegiality, we ensure inclusion is at the heart of all we do and we work hard to ensure that every child succeeds, no matter what their background or circumstance.

We recognise that the commitment and care shown by all our staff is fundamental to the success of our young people. As such, we work hard to ensure that staff are supported, encouraged, developed, respected and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment. Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

The role of Headteacher of Stocksbridge High School presents an exciting opportunity for an experienced and like-minded senior leader to join our Trust and contribute to further improving the quality of education at Stocksbridge High School. The role would suit someone who has experience of driving positive change, a proven track record in school improvement has excellent communication skills with the ability to motivate and inspire others. An absolute belief in the potential of every child is a must.

If you choose to apply you will be choosing to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals who passionately believe in the power of education to change the life chances of young people. You will also be supported by an experienced CEO, Central Trust Team and fellow Headteachers who support each other to deliver the best quality of education for our amazing young people.

If you believe you have the experience, skills and ambition to support our aims and contribute to the delivery of the very best for our students then we look forward to receiving your application.

Bev Matthews  
**Chief Executive Officer**

John Doyle  
**Chair of the Trust Board**

## Section 3: About our Trust

### Who We Are

Minerva Learning Trust is an educational charity that has the single objective 'to advance education for public benefit'. As such:

- The Trust is legally accountable for the education of every child, the professional performance of every employee and the health and safety of the working environment
- The workforce is a single "faculty of education" who work together even though their places of work are located on different school sites
- The Board of Trustees, who are appointed by the members are the governing body of the Trust. Every other governance group is a sub-committee, including Local Governing Bodies
- The CEO is the Accountable Officer

The Trust was established in October 2014. Our vision is to provide outstanding education for students who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield.

The Trust is an expanding Sheffield based Multi Academy Trust with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. During 2017/2018 the Trust brought together four secondary schools to create a new partnership which supports the teaching and learning of around 5,500 students.

In September 2020, Chapeltown Academy converted to academy status with Minerva, this has enhanced the post-16 provision within the Trust in the north of the city. In addition, September 2021, Woodthorpe Community Primary became the first primary school to join our Trust as we begin an exciting expansion into the primary phase.

We resolutely believe that we are stronger together and that each school within the MAT has individual strengths and we celebrate the diverse and unique qualities of each particular school. The Trust is passionate that all students should see their time at school as happy and fulfilling with their potential developed to the utmost.

Minerva Learning Trust is led by Bev Matthews, Chief Executive Officer and John Doyle, Chair of the Trust Board. Bev is an experienced Headteacher and School Improvement leader.

The Trust employs just under 800 staff across our schools and central services and we are committed to providing career opportunities and professional development which allows people to make a positive contribution to the delivery of our vision.

### What We Do

Our aim is to deliver an outstanding education for all students, staff and stakeholders.

We do this through an ethos of collegiality, placing students at the centre of all that we do. We are an inclusive Trust; our students show a high level of care for each other and respect each other's diversity. We do not allow disadvantage to be a barrier to learning and we support all our students to be the very best.

## Why We Exist

As a Trust our mission, vision and values are central to our work and are the driving force behind all that we do. Our vision of Working Together, Learning Together and Outstanding Together is underpinned by our core values of Inclusion, Independence, Respect and Success. Through our values we foster an ethos of collegiality, we ensure inclusion is at the heart of all we do, and we work hard to ensure that every child succeeds, no matter what their background or circumstance.

We recognise that the commitment and care shown by all our staff is fundamental to the success of our young people. As such, we work hard to ensure that staff are supported, encouraged, developed, respected, and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment. Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

## Our Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs

# Our Mission, Vision and Values

### OUR MISSION

To provide an outstanding education for students, staff and stakeholders within the Trust.

### OUR VISION

Our mission is underpinned by our vision that we are 'Stronger Together' by:

#### 'Working Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders work in partnership to maximise attainment and achievement and create successful and confident citizens.

#### 'Learning Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders learn collaboratively with each other to develop a highly skilled workforce which impacts positively on students' life chances.

#### 'Outstanding Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders work tirelessly, effectively, and efficiently to develop an outstanding quality of education in all our schools.

### OUR VALUES

Our values underpin all of the work that we do and all of the decisions that we make.

#### Inclusion

We place the needs of our students at the heart of everything we do and we all support and encourage each other

#### Independence

We promote and support strong leadership within our students, staff and stakeholders and we are all accountable for each other

#### Respect

We recognise and appreciate the diverse qualities of our students, schools and stakeholders and we all care for each other.

#### Success

We celebrate and communicate our successes, share good practice and we all promote a culture of continuously learning from each other

### OUR BELIEFS

- We believe that we will have a significant impact on young people in Sheffield by providing outstanding provision.
- We believe that we can empower existing and aspiring leaders to drive school improvement.
- We believe that through a quality education we can support students to be successful in life after school and to positively contribute to society.
- We believe that a child's background and circumstances should not pre-determine their future.
- We believe that we can enrich the learning experience for all our students by providing aspirational opportunity beyond the classroom.

## Section 4: About Stocksbridge High School

### ...THIS IS JUST THE START...

#### Our Mission

All Students will be challenged to build ambitious future plans. Working together we will develop their character, skills and capacity to make their ambitions a reality.

#### Our Vision

Our vision is based upon the principles of "Believe, Achieve, and Succeed".

- **Believe** - Students will have belief in their own potential. They make positive choices, can acknowledge and celebrate their successes and tackle obstacles to progress with hard work and determination.
- **Achieve** - Students are challenged in every learning experience, every day to produce the highest quality work, through which they achieve their personal and academic goals.
- **Succeed** - Successful students have high expectations of themselves and strive to meet these expectations every day.

#### Our Values

Our values underpin all that we do as a school and are brought to life in all areas of our organisation.

- **Be positive** - We will be positive in all that we do.
- **Be caring** - We care for and support each other.
- **Be courageous** - We make choices to enable us to succeed, even when those choices are difficult.
- **Be reflective** - We consider the impact of our actions on ourselves and others.

#### Our Beliefs

- We will celebrate the achievements of all members of our school community recognising that achievements are personal to each individual.
- We will create an environment in which all members of our school value and enjoy learning.
- We will work to remove barriers to learning for all our students.
- We will do all that we can to ensure all members of our school community are safe and happy.
- We will ensure that all learning experiences are of the highest possible quality.

## ABOUT US

Stocksbridge High School joined the Trust in December 2017. Our aim is to create and sustain educational excellence for all young people, whilst still developing the whole person, building in them the skills they need to be confident, happy and successful.

Based in a superb new building we are proud to offer a stimulating environment for learning. As a growing school we have a unique opportunity to get to know every child individually, enabling us to develop and support them throughout their time at our school. We are driven as a school to constantly challenge ourselves and to accept the challenge of our parents to improve all that we do.

We want all students to make progress from their individual starting points and achieve outcomes that enable them to move on to the next phase of their education at the highest possible entry point.

To ensure this happens we:

- Are relentlessly positive with all students every day, believing they can and will succeed.
- Work tirelessly to remove barriers to learning for all students so that all students can be successful.
- Deliver high quality first teaching and learning experiences all day every day.
- Provide opportunities for all students to develop the skills required to be successful beyond their formal education.
- Ensure that students are safe at school.
- Work with students, parents, carers and the community to support our values of respect and tolerance.
- Celebrate the achievements of all students, recognising that achievements are personal to every child.
- Create an environment in which all staff and students' value and enjoy learning.
- Care for and support each other.

Our school is a popular, thriving 11-16 comprehensive. Our greatest asset lies in our people – a wonderful team of enthusiastic students, committed staff and supportive parents and governors. We value the contributions that each person brings. We are passionate about making school life enjoyable and challenging, providing varied opportunities for learning and securing the highest possible levels of achievement for each and every student. We believe our students deserve every opportunity to flourish, not solely in academic pursuits, but emotionally, socially, spiritually and culturally. We seek to ensure that every student develops vital transferable skills for life and work that will allow them to become active, informed and responsible citizens of the 21st century.

We look forward to your application and thank you for your interest in our school.

Further information about the school including access to the full Ofsted Report can be found on our website: [Stocksbridge High School](#)

# Section 5: Valuing our Staff

## Why Choose to Work for Minerva Learning Trust?

The Trust recognises that the commitment and care shown by all our people are fundamental to the success of our young people and we promise our staff that they will be supported, encouraged, developed, respected and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment.

Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

### Wellbeing Charter

Alongside students, our staff are our most important asset, and we are committed to being an employer of choice across our region. A happy and healthy workforce is vital for the success of our students and we are developing our approaches to staff wellbeing. The charter below gives a flavour of our thinking and direction of travel toward ensuring our Trust is a great place to work.

#### Emotional Pillar

- An employee assistance programme with a confidential helpline that any member of staff can ring for support at any time.
- Swift referrals to Counselling support and services and bespoke paid support for colleagues who are particularly struggling.
- Workload Impact Assessment of new policies to ensure that they are manageable and reasonable.
- Work-life Balance Policy and Charter which ensures staff are able to manage their workload.
- Job opportunities shared across the Trust.
- CPD and networks for teachers and support staff.
- Staff voice including an annual Trust-wide survey.
- Supportive arrangements including induction for new staff.
- Open door policies for SLT.
- Line manager support through regular 1:1 and team meetings.
- Clear expectations for all staff (e.g. Code of Conduct and professional standards).
- Access to onsite Mental Health First Aiders.
- An MLT Wellbeing ROUTES CPD programme.

#### Social Pillar

- Supportive policies (e.g. flexible working, maternity, paternity, shared parental leave, KIT days and leave of absence).
- CPD and networks for teachers and support staff.
- Working partnerships with local and regional union representatives.
- Approaches across the Trust to celebrate staff as individuals and as a team.
- Careful planning of meetings calendars and INSET time to allow staff to meet whilst maintaining a reasonable work-life balance
- Designated social spaces in each school to allow time for rest and reflection.
- A designated Wellbeing Working Group in each school.
- A clear Equality Statement and community that is proactive in supporting diversity and inclusion.
- A commitment to collect, analyse and respond to exit interview findings.
- Dedicated mentoring support for NQTs and a buddy system for all new staff.
- Access to coaching support as part of the Trust's professional development programme.



#### Physical Pillar

- Supportive policies (e.g. work-life balance, flexible working, time off for medical screening and hospital appointments, reasonable adjustments, support for specific issues such as menopause, dementia, cancer, disabilities).
- Occupational Health referrals.
- Wellbeing sessions for staff (when and where appropriate) and access to resources such as gyms.
- Estates management across the Trust to ensure that all staff experience a warm, safe and healthy environment.
- Support for the Cycle to Work Scheme.
- Individual Risk Assessments for staff facing challenges.
- Wellbeing initiatives include cross Trust events.
- A commitment to review workload regularly and make changes where possible.
- Access to free eye tests for routine users of Display Screen Equipment.

#### Financial Pillar

- Support for courses to prepare for retirement.
- Access to enrolment in a defined benefit Pension Scheme (TPS or LGPS).
- Access to pensions advice and additional voluntary contributions.
- Ensuring that redundancies are a last resort when budgets necessitate changes.
- Transparent and clear pay progression policies and collective bargaining with Trade Union colleagues in respect of national and local agreements.
- Support for the childcare voucher scheme for eligible employees.
- Employer rate and arrangements for deduction from employee's pay through payroll for health care e.g. Westfield Health.



# Workload Charter

Our Workload Charter sets out our commitment and offer to support the workload and work/life balance of our staff.

## Culture Matters

We all have a responsibility to manage our own workload and that of others. Line management meetings exist to discuss concerns and find solutions.

Line Managers are encouraged to ensure fairness across teams of the delegation of tasks and workload.

The need for change is well planned for and effectively communicated to key stakeholders. Training and time is allocated to ensure that the change is successful.

The Trust / School Calendar is planned with workload in mind and the timing of tasks and projects are adjusted during busy periods.

Opportunities are provided and time is given to support school-school collaboration and reduce the replication of effort.

Research-informed teaching methods are embraced. Staff are empowered to deliver learning that meets the needs of our students in line with teaching and learning principles.

Additional provision is strategically planned for revision sessions with an identified need in mind.

Our schools are calm and safe places to work and learn. A strong behaviour policy is in place in all schools which is consistently applied. Staff, parents and students are aware of the policy and expectations.

## TIME Matters

No expectation of staff to respond to emails outside working hours. Except relating to serious safeguarding or other matters.

Staff are encouraged to set an 'Out of Office' and to not access emails outside of their working hours.

Restrictions are set on who can send whole staff Trust and school emails.

Data collections are kept to a maximum of three data drops per year group in any one given academic year. Meeting time is allocated so staff can accurately analyse and discuss.

Student assessments are strategically planned for the academic year to allow time for effective marking and feedback.

Responsive teaching and live feedback are utilised to provide guided instruction and identify common misconceptions so that gaps are quickly closed.

Schools do not roll over the timetable during the second half of the Summer Term, this time is used to work on core priorities and vital staff training.

Duties, including detentions, are shared equally amongst staff.

Meetings start and finish on time with well-structured agenda and, staff should not feel pressured to stay late.

PPA will be distributed throughout the working week to allow time for colleagues to plan and prepare throughout.

## CPD Matters

Department time is prioritised and focuses upon sharing expertise, distributing workload and enhancing knowledge.

Inset and twilights are strategically mapped to the strategic objectives of the school and the professional development needs of staff.

The Performance Development Reviews focus upon how staff feel about their current role, how they would like their role to evolve, their career aspirations and any CPD needs that they have.

All staff are given equal access to the Trust ROUTES CPD programme and coaching and mentoring provision. Staff are supported to undertake this during the school day.

Department development time during the last term of the year to support strategic planning and development for the year ahead.

CPD time for strategies to manage workload and how to manage what we expect from ourselves.



## Communication Matters

Weekly staff bulletins for key messages to decrease the amount of email traffic from different personnel.

Briefings focus on training staff and sharing key/important messages.

Consultative Forums for staff to raise issues/ or concerns; especially where any significant change is planned.

Capture staff voice on workload.

Regular meetings with Union representatives to ensure that all is well across the school.

Meet the needs of family life, ensuring emotional and family wellbeing is supported.

Trust Wellbeing Ambassadors in every school/team who champion all workforce developments.

Wellbeing Committees within each school/ team encourage to monitor and discuss workload issues.



## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The professional development of staff, including opportunities for research, is a key priority of the Trust. As such, we seek to enrich employee capability and maximise the strength and contribution of everyone who works with us. We believe in investing in the learning and development of its employees through a range of opportunities which are aligned to the needs of the organisation and its young people.

Access to our internal ROUTES CPD programme, Minerva Leaders of Education Coaching Programme, leadership training, coaching, mentoring, external CPD programmes, ECT training, ITT development, apprenticeships, networking opportunities and access to external courses are just a taster of the wide range of opportunities on offer to all our staff. Our strong collaborative community networks for Headteachers, senior leaders, subjects leaders and variety of support staff roles support the culture of collaborative generosity and sharing of good practice across our organisation.

As a Trust we strongly believe in the power of growing our own leaders and the importance of succession planning and talent management. Many leaders within our organisation have been developed through this route.

This is underpinned by our new approach to Performance Development Reviews, rather than Performance Management, which supports a move away from performance related pay to one which focuses upon the personal and professional developments needs of all individuals to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our young people.

### ***Occupational Health Support and Counselling***

The Trust accesses Occupational Health services via Indus Occupational Health and Counselling services via Collins Donnelly Consultancy and Zurich Municipal. A range of services can be provided. Further information can be made available upon request.

### ***DSE Eye Tests***

Staff who work with Display Screen Equipment (DSE) continuously and intensively for more than one hour per day on most days as a significant part of their normal day to day work can access pre-paid eye examination vouchers, which they can use at Specsavers. Staff should speak to Central HR or the school Business Support Manager to access a voucher.

### ***Pension Schemes***

All employees of the Trust are automatically enrolled into either the Teachers' Pension Scheme or the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS). Further information and terms and conditions can be found on their websites.

### ***Salary Sacrifices Schemes***

Employees of the Trust can access the Government's Cycle to Work Scheme, which offers the opportunity to buy cycles and cycling equipment. Further information can be made available upon request.

## Section 6: Job Description

**Minerva Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We follow safer recruitment procedures.**

<b>POST TITLE</b>	<b>Headteacher</b>
<b>SALARY RANGE</b>	<b>L28-34</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Stocksbridge High School</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO</b>	<b>The Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE FOR</b>	<b>All employees and volunteers at the School</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF JOB</b>	<p><b>Providing exceptional leadership and management including robust and effective line management and development of senior leaders, whilst providing a high quality, inclusive education for all students.</b></p> <p><b>Work in collaboration with the Local Governing Body and the Trust Executive/School Improvement Team to set and implement the vision and strategic direction of the school.</b></p>
<b>RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Graduate with QTS or QTLS</b></li> <li>• <b>Qualified to degree level</b></li> <li>• <b>Evidence of leadership preparation through Continuous Professional Development (e.g. NPQH) or equivalent recognised management qualification</b></li> </ul>

### Specific Duties & Responsibilities

The postholder, must at all times, carry out his/her duties and responsibilities within the spirit of Minerva Learning Trust and School policies and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

### Core Purpose:

The core purpose of this role is to provide professional leadership and management of the School that will promote a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards in all areas of the School's work. To achieve success the Headteacher will:

- To perform the duties of Headteacher in accordance with the conditions of employment as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, the Headteacher Standards (click here for a link to these standards [Headteacher Standards 2020](#)), Trust Ethical Leadership Framework and the policies and procedures of Minerva Learning Trust.
- To provide vision and dynamic and professional leadership for the School to ensure high quality, inclusive and comprehensive education for all its students.

- To inspire, challenge, motivate and empower all members of the School's community to contribute to carry the School's mission, vision and values forward.
- Effectively manage and improve learning and teaching.
- Promote excellence, equality and high expectations of all students through providing and growing an inclusive and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of our community.
- To cultivate a safe environment that secures and promotes the highest achievement of both students and staff.
- To manage the School's resources effectively and creatively.
- To promote the School in the wider community and to work across the Minerva Learning Trust to improve outcomes for all children educated in our schools.

## Key Responsibilities

### School culture

- Work with the Trustees, Local Governors and the Trust Executive Team to ensure the School's ethos and strategic direction is in line with the values and vision of the Trust.
- Create a culture where students experience a positive and enriching School life.
- Work with the Senior Leadership Team to embed a shared culture and vision in the school, ensuring that it is understood and supported by staff, parents, students and wider stakeholders.
- Uphold ambitious educational standards which prepare students from all backgrounds for their next phase of education and life.
- Promote positive and respectful relationships across the School community, and a safe, orderly and inclusive environment.
- Ensure a culture of high staff professionalism.
- Lead by example to foster an open, fair, equitable culture where alternative perspectives can be expressed and considered.

### School leadership and strategy development

- Work with the Senior Leadership Team, Trust Executive Team and Local Governing Body to develop the school's strategic plan, leading to sustained improvement at pace in outcomes for all students and staff.
- Accurately evaluate school provision and use self-evaluation to shape focused development plans that lead to improved outcomes and, where standards are not met, ensure that effective, targeted support is implemented swiftly.
- Produce and implement improvement plans and policies that benefit the development of the School and the Trust.
- Be accountable to the CEO and provide operational management of all staff as per the line management structure.
- Take a lead role in quality assurance processes, including Ofsted ensuring findings are acted upon in a timely manner.
- Establish, oversee and evaluate systems, processes and policies that enable the Academy to operate effectively and efficiently.
- Make use of effective and proportional processes of evaluation to identify and analyse complex or persistent problems and barriers which limit school effectiveness and identify priority areas for improvement.
- Develop appropriate evidence-informed strategies for improvement as part of well-targeted plans which are realistic, timely, appropriately sequenced and suited to the School's context.
- Ensure careful and effective implementation of improvement strategies, which lead to sustained improvement over time.

- Provide mentoring, coaching, guidance, challenge and support to the senior and middle leadership teams, supporting leaders in their own development.
- Contribute towards the development of appropriate links and partnerships with education establishments and businesses to support the growth of the School and growth of the curriculum.
- Develop and sustain effective relationships with the Local Governing Body, and the Chair of Governors in particular, to ensure effective governance of the School.
- Attend meetings in accordance with the Trust's policies / procedures and lead such meetings as required.
- Ensure that the school is compliant with statutory and non-statutory requirements aligned to the DfE, Ofsted and local authority.

### **Teaching and Learning**

- Establish and sustain high-quality, expert teaching across all subjects, built on an evidence-informed understanding of effective teaching and how students learn.
- Ensure teaching is underpinned by high levels of subject expertise and approaches which respect the distinct nature of subject disciplines or specialist domains.
- Ensure effective use is made of formative assessment.
- Lead and manage teaching and learning throughout the School, including ensuring that a teacher is assigned in the School timetable to every class or group of students.
- Liaise with other leaders within the Trust to secure creative, responsive and effective approaches to teaching and learning.
- Teach, as required.

### **Curriculum and assessment**

- Work with the Senior Leadership Team and Central School Improvement Team to develop and implement an innovative, comprehensive and appropriate curriculum to meet statutory requirements and have regard to the needs, experience, interests and aptitudes of our students, providing the opportunity for a rich and compelling education for all.
- Ensure a broad, structured and coherent curriculum entitlement which sets out the knowledge, skills and values that will be taught.
- Establish effective curricular leadership, developing leaders and teachers with high levels of relevant expertise with access to professional networks and communities.
- Ensure that all students are appropriately supported with any additional needs.
- Ensure valid, reliable and proportionate approaches are used when assessing students' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.
- Ensure the curriculum prepares students for the next stage of their education and training through a well planned and delivered careers programme which meets the statutory requirements.

### **Health, safety and behaviour**

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of students and staff by taking ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the health, safety and welfare of students providing a secure and inclusive climate where all students feel safe, valued and secure
- Ensure rigorous approaches to identifying, managing and mitigating risk.
- Ensure the protection and safety of students and staff through effective approaches to safeguarding, as part of the duty of care.
- Ensure good order and discipline amongst students and staff.
- Establish and sustain high expectations of behaviour for all students, built upon relationships, rules and routines, which are understood clearly by all staff and students.

- Promote an environment characterised by outstanding behaviour for learning where students take pride in their, have respect for others – both within the school and out – and respond positively to the high standards expected of them.
- Implement consistent, fair and respectful approaches to managing behaviour.
- Ensure that adults within the school model and teach the behaviour of a good citizen.

### **SEND and additional needs**

- Ensure the school holds ambitious expectations for all students with SEND and additional needs.
- Establish and sustain culture and practices that enable students with SEND and additional needs to access the curriculum and learn effectively.
- Ensure the school works effectively in partnership with parents and professionals to identify the additional needs and SEND of students, and ensure support and adaptation are provided where appropriate.
- Ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties with regards to the SEND code of practice.

### **Management of staff and resources**

- Lead, manage and develop staff members, including completion of the Trust's Performance Development cycle.
- Maintain effective procedures for the safety, security, supervision and maintenance of the school environment and resources, ensuring that all relevant health and safety regulations are met.
- Ensure that the school financial, human and environmental resources support effective, relevant and stimulating teaching and learning.
- Promote harmonious working relationships within the School.
- Maintain relationships with organisations representing staff members, e.g. Trade Unions.
- Ensure staff are deployed and managed well with due attention paid to workload.
- Ensure staff, resources and finances are managed in line with the Trust's policies and procedures.

### **Professional development**

- Ensure staff have access to high-quality, sustained professional development opportunities, aligned to balance the priorities of whole-School improvement, team and individual needs.
- Prioritise the professional development of staff, ensuring effective planning, delivery and evaluation which is consistent with research informed best practice.
- Ensure that professional development opportunities draw on expert provision from beyond the School, as well as within it, including nationally recognised career and professional frameworks and programmes to build capacity and support succession planning.
- Identify talent and play a mentoring role in developing leadership across both the Trust and the School.
- Participate in arrangements for the Trust's Performance Development Review of staff and review of their own professional development needs.
- Participate in arrangements for their own further training and professional development and, where appropriate, that of other teachers and support staff including induction.
- Take responsibility for their own CPD, engaging critically with education research.

### **Communication and working with others**

- Consult and communicate with the Executive Team, governing body, staff, students and parents.
- Collaborate and work with colleagues and other relevant professional within beyond the School including relevant external agencies and bodies.
- Forge strong and constructive relationships beyond the School, working in partnership with parents, carers and the local community.

- Commit to ensuring the School works successfully with other schools and organisations in a climate of mutual challenge and support.
- Establish and maintain working relationships with fellow professionals and colleagues across other public services to improve educational outcomes for all students.
- Build and maintain excellent relationships with other schools in the Trust, the LGB and, the Trust Central Team the Board of Trustees.

### **Governance and accountability**

- Work closely with the Local Governing Body (LGB) and Trustees, providing specialist advice when required to ensure robust and positive working partnerships.
- Provide regular information to the LGB and Board of Trustees on all aspects of performance, progress and achievement.
- Ensure that all responsibilities delegated by the LGB and Board of Trustees are carried out promptly and effectively.
- Ensure that staff know and understand their professional responsibilities and are held to account in one with Trust policies and procedures.
- Ensure the School effectively and efficiently operates within the required regulatory frameworks and meets all statutory duties.

### **Ethics and professional conduct**

- Uphold and demonstrate the application of the Trust Ethical Leadership Framework including Seven Principles of Public Life at all times – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Uphold public trust in school leadership and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour.
- Build relationships rooted in mutual respect and observe proper boundaries appropriate to their position.
- Show tolerance of, and respect for, the rights of others, recognising differences and respecting cultural diversity.
- Uphold fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Ensure that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit their position or students' vulnerability or which might lead students to break the law.
- Serve in the best interests of the School's students.
- Conduct themselves in a manner compatible with their influential position in society by acting ethically.
- Uphold their obligation to give account and accept responsibility.
- Know, understand and act in line with the relevant statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.
- Make a positive contribution to the wider education system.

## **General**

1. To be aware of, and comply with, Trust and School's policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
2. The above duties are not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Chief Executive Officer and Local Governing Body.

3. This job description will be kept under review and may be amended at any time via consultation with the individual, Chief Executive Officer and Local Governing Body as required. Trade Union representatives will be welcome in any such discussions.

## Section 7: Person Specification

### Qualifications and Experience

Graduate with QTS or QTLS.

Evidence of leadership preparation through Continuous Professional Development.

Recent experience of successful secondary school(s) senior leadership OR Post 16

Recent experience of having secured on-going student progress through own teaching

Direct experience of:

- Motivating, inspiring and leading a dedicated and highly professional staff
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and wellbeing of all students
- Strategic development planning and self-evaluation
- Raising standards in learning and teaching and improving outcomes for Post 16 students
- Recruiting and developing skilled, effective teams throughout the School
- Effective change management.
- Developing and delivering a high quality and impactful secondary or Post 16 curriculum.

Development of effective and sustainable relationships, respect and credibility, working with key stakeholders including staff, students, families, Governors, other schools, the wider community and other external partners and organisations.

Experience of effective management of people.

### Qualities and Knowledge

Able to build and communicate a coherent vision of excellence and equality, empowering all students and staff to contribute and achieve their full potential.

Recent evidence of planning and leading whole school improvement initiatives and policies which have a demonstrable impact on students' attainment.

Knowledge and understanding of and ability to respond to current educational policies and practices, including statutory requirements and the legal framework in which academies operate.

### Students and staff

Ability to implement strategies to celebrate diversity and to ensure inclusion, access and equality of opportunity so that all students are able to achieve their full potential.

Track record of the professional development of teams and staff to raise the quality of teaching to improve outcomes.

Commitment to provide a rich and varied curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

Ability to develop, empower and support individuals and teams, to recognise and promote excellence and the skills and resilience to challenge poor performance across the school.

Commitment to and ability to implement an ethos of the highest standards of student behaviour, standards and welfare.

### Systems and Process

An understanding of how to create whole community accountability systems and implement them with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, combining data from a range of sources in order to maximise the achievement of all students.

Experience of securing and making effective use of additional resources.

Developing the use of information systems and technology in the School.

Commitment and proven experience of effectively implementing procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and staff.

Ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with the Chair of Governors and Local Governing Body to ensure effective governance and successful implementation of the Governor's responsibilities.

Effective people management capabilities, including understanding of the role of Performance Development Review in staff development and school improvement.

## Self-improving school system

An understanding of, and sensitivity to, the needs of all members of the School and wider community.

The ability to build trusting relationships and inspire commitment to support both the academic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.

Ability to engage the School's community in systematic and rigorous self-evaluation, combining the outcomes of this with external evaluations to support the continuous development of the School.

Commitment to collaborative working both internally and with other schools to improve outcomes and the ability to develop opportunities, initiatives and partnerships to derive maximum benefit for the School and its stakeholders.

## Personal qualities

Passionate about education, inclusion and success for all, leading by example with optimism, empathy and integrity to inspire, motivate and generate trust in others.

Highly effective and creative communicator (oral and written) with the ability to motivate and inspire others.

Has the skills and confidence to negotiate and consult across a wide range of decision makers and partners.

Ambitious, driven and resilient with a collegiate approach. High expectations and good judgement to recognise and reward professional excellence, and recognise and deal effectively with poor performance.

Ability to generate commitment and develop strong teams to manage change effectively.

## Section 8: The Appointment Process

These notes are intended to guide you when making an application.

- The Application Form  
Complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. The form may be typed or handwritten but if you do write it by hand, please make sure that it is legible and that you use black ink. Indicate clearly on the front page the post you are applying for. You are requested to submit a concise application.
- Education and Training  
State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.
- Present Appointment  
Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is.
- Previous Appointment  
When completing this section, it is important that you offer a continuous record, or an explanation of any gaps to allow full account to be taken of your experience, for example, child raising, voluntary work. This is a requirement under our recruitment and safeguarding policies.
- Referees  
Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.
- The Supporting Statement/Letter of Application  
The supporting statement or letter is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post. You should take particular care to demonstrate how you meet the person specification included as part of these details. **Please limit your supporting statement to two sides of A4 in size 11 font – ensuring you make reference to the Job Description, person specification and Headteacher Standards.**
- Arrangements for Interview  
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. Referees are contacted prior to the interview stage for teaching and some support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website prior to attending the interview.
- The Interview  
The interview will take place at Stocksbridge High School and Trust Central Office, unless informed otherwise.
- Feedback  
Verbal feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.
- Selection for Appointment  
Selection is made conditional upon the successful candidate meeting the Trust's requirements for health, physical capacity and conduct.
- Arrangements for Applications  
When you have completed your application, the completed form and covering letter should be emailed to [recruitment@minervalearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@minervalearningtrust.co.uk) by the closing date and time.