June 2019

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the position of Teacher of Science at The King’s School.

The King’s School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-19 comprehensive school (OFSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1100 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. In challenging financial times, we have managed to maintain a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16 which allows students to select subjects that they are passionate about and this breadth offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff.

The experiences of our students reflect our ‘Achievement for All’ ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We have a highly effective Skills for Learning team who work alongside classroom teachers ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of our students progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. New accountability measures which reflect progress demonstrate that students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

The King’s School has a sharp focus on personal as well as academic outcomes and, as a result, we have strong pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our new uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sports offer that caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching alliances and we have a number of staff who are actively engaged in supporting other schools in their role as Specialist Leaders in Education, including in Science.

The Science department has 12 teaching staff, with most based in their own laboratories, and they have support from an excellent team of technicians. The modern laboratories are well stocked with equipment and are arranged to allow flexible teaching spaces and encourage a rich experience of practical science. Teaching in Science is lively, innovative, creative and rigorous but above all fun. The extra-curricular provision is also very strong with a thriving and successful Science Club as well as a host of Gifted & Talented activities and curriculum based trips and visits.

Science is a popular option at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Over half of all students opt for Separate Sciences at Key Stage 4. Our A Level Year 12 options usually have two groups running in Biology and Psychology and at least one group each in Chemistry and Physics. The department enjoys teaching Science in an active and practical manner in classes that are mixed ability from Year 7 through to Year 13. At Key Stage 3, the school follows its own scheme of work, created using staff interests and expertise to meet the students’ needs. Students then have a free choice to study Combined Science or Separate Sciences at GCSE. Students are not only very successful at Science but they also enjoy Science, with more than half of Year 12 studying at least one science.

We are looking to appoint a teacher of Science. The candidate would ideally be able to offer Physics as a specialism and A Level teaching would be available for a suitably qualified candidate. However it is more important to us to have an enthusiastic, engaging teacher of any science who will join and enrich our strong teaching team and who can work under pressure without losing their all-important sense of humour. We offer a very strong support programme for science teachers who are starting their career and working towards NQT status or returning to teaching after a break.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King’s School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important part of the school is its staff and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King’s School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful but if you would like further information or wish to visit the school in advance of an application please contact Ms. Pickering.

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King’s School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children at the school and someone who lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have a very stable and supportive staff who enjoy their work and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely



Mr R J Gammon

Headteacher