

Ulverston Victoria High School



APPLICATION PACK Teacher of English

To start
September 2016
(Teacher Pay Scale)



Welcome from the Headteacher ~ Mr Denis Fay

Thank you for taking an interest in our school and considering an application for a post at Ulverston Victoria High School

Ulverston Victoria High School is a happy and thriving 11-18 school and sixth form and is at the heart of the community in the picturesque South Lakeland market town of Ulverston.

In our most recent Ofsted Inspection (November 2013) we achieved a good judgement with outstanding features for the behaviour and safety of our students and the leadership and management of our school. We regularly analyse our performance and seek new ways to enhance learning opportunities for our students.

A multi-million pound refurbishment has recently been completed at Ulverston Victoria High School, the new facilities were officially opened in November 2015 with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony.

There are now new and improved facilities in several areas of the school including a fantastic new Sixth Form Common Room and resource area, a superb new Cloister Corridor (*pictured*) a new Special Education Needs Department, great new science facilities, three modern maths rooms, three art rooms which have been refurbished and a new Engagement Centre.



These improvements to UVHS mean that we now have the facilities that match its true potential.

With 1274 students on roll, including at least 268 in our sixth form, we are in a position to offer a wide GCSE and A-level curriculum.

One of the major strengths of our school is our outstanding pastoral care and student welfare structure. Our students are supported by form tutors and pastoral heads of year. We also have access to other external support agencies. Behaviour and attendance are excellent at UVHS and our students are highly motivated, keen and enthusiastic.

They are warm, welcoming and have a good working relationship with staff, which is built on mutual trust and respect.



Each year, we recruit around 160 students to Year 12. Half of our existing Year 11 students continue into the sixth form. There are a wide range of popular subject options available at sixth form with a history of successful outcomes for our students.

Our intake into Year 7 for September 2016 is over-subscribed. On entry, students are placed in eight forms and are taught in forms for most subjects in Years 7-8. We have strong GCSE and A level outcomes. The vast majority of our students make very good progress and we use a range of data measures in school to set challenging targets.

Staff have high standards; both of themselves and our students. A vital element is the excellence of our teachers and support staff and we offer you the opportunity to apply to become part of our staff team in which you will be able to flourish in an environment of exemplary support.

We have a large number of support staff who work alongside our teaching staff. Staff have many opportunities to develop their skills through CPD and participation in school development groups.

We want teachers who are committed to making a difference to their students, have an excellent academic knowledge and see the need to continually challenge their students, who are interesting people and who will bring that something extra in presence and character enhancing our extra-curricular provision and our whole school.

Is that you? If so we would love to receive your application.

Department Information

The Curriculum in Years 7 – 11

All pupils study English in Years 7-11, with two top sets in each year (one in each half of the year group) and mixed ability classes below these. Top sets are established on entry to the school using a combination of internal and external data, and thereafter classes are kept under constant review with movements encouraged to support individual progress.

At KS3 pupils follow a Scheme of Work that ensures a balanced coverage of reading, writing and speaking and listening. There is the on-going opportunity for English teachers to contribute to these schemes within an overall framework, and constant improvement in the quality and provision of every pupil's learning is our permanent aim. At KS4 all pupils take both AQA English Language (8700) and English Literature (8702).

The Curriculum in Years 12 -13

At advanced level the school currently offers OCR English Language (HO70) and AQA English Literature (HO72); both are perennially popular with normally two sizeable groups in each subject, in each year – and both have a long and proud record of high attainment. AQA Creative Writing is also offered as enrichment and attracts a large and enthusiastic group.



Accommodation

The department is housed in a suite of five classrooms, each with projectors (two rooms have interactive whiteboards) and seating for up to thirty two students. There are currently three additional classrooms dedicated to English in a separate block, again with seating for up to thirty two. The subject has an additional work space that is used for small group interventions, and benefits from the school's excellent library facilities which are housed above it.

Other Aspects Of The Department

The English team is characterised by its collective professionalism and commitment, and its variety of individual talent and approach: the school's most recent Ofsted inspection (November 2013) categorised it as "phenomenal".

The department is an established and long-standing associate of the Princes Trust (the first one to be associated in Cumbria), promoting English in the community, and remains the only Cumbrian department to have been invited to speak at Clarence House.

Departmental Staff

Mr M Martin	Subject Leader/ Head of Department
Mr M Stubbert	KS4/Literacy Development Coordinator
Mr M Sims	KS5 Coordinator
Miss A Smith	Teaching and Development Leader. Co-ordinator: Initial Teacher Education. Schools Direct Co-ordinator
Miss S Fisher	Teacher of English/ Year 9 Pastoral Leader
Miss R Cockburn	Teacher of English
Mr A Guerrero	Teacher of English
Miss G Thompson	Teacher of English
Ms L Wiper	Teacher of English/Law

Members of the department also take the lead on promoting literacy both across the curriculum within school and in the local school community, and, as Partnership Programme Lead for a local Teaching School Alliance's School Direct Programme, on all ITT. A member of the department also delivers English "Pedagogy for Learning" days for the University of Cumbria, as well as delivering subject training at a regional and national level.

The department also includes an English and ITE SLE, a Chartered Teacher of English, a Member of the Institute of Educational Assessors and the current Chair of NATE. There are experienced GCSE examiners and one senior moderator on the team, and members of the department have also been published in the field of English teaching by CGP and Oxford University Press amongst others. Obviously, we are looking for applicants with the ambition and energy to maintain such a dynamic involvement in the pursuit of English excellence; and would look to offer wide and flexible opportunities for professional development to the successful candidate (at a pace which they were comfortable with, of course!)

The principal focus of every teacher however should be the progress of the pupils for whom they are responsible and the English team collectively puts a great deal of effort into achieving this. In 2015, 78% of all pupils achieved expected progress in English, equalling or exceeding national figures at every sub-level, with 63% of disadvantaged pupils achieving expected progress, an outcome significantly above the national achievement.

In its inaugural year UVHS produced the regional champion of the Poetry by Heart competition, representing Cumbria and the North West at the national finals in London, and at KS5 students are short-listed every year for the prestigious Anne Pearson award for creative writing. UVHS is also one of the few state-schools to enter the annual UK Linguistics Olympiad. Other contributions of the English department to the school's extra-curricular provision include an annual Year 7 Christmas theatre trip for the entire cohort and numerous other theatre and film trips at KS4 and KS5.

Person Specification

A = Application I = Interview R = Reference E=Essential D=Desirable

Requirements for the advertised position	Evidence	Essential/ Desirable
Ability to teach English subject to A-level standard	A, I	E
Ability to teach English subject to at least higher GCSE standard	A, I	E
Ability to teach Drama to Key Stage 3 standard	A, I	E
Qualifications		
Academic degree(s) or other professional qualification(s) relevant to secondary phase	A	E
QTS	A	E
Professional Experience		
Proven record of excellent classroom practice	A, R	E
Evidence of continuing professional development or relevant PGCE training	A	E
Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge students	A, I, R	E
Successful teaching record (in current school or on teaching practice at KS3-KS4 and KS5)	A, R	E
Knowledge and Skills		
Knowledge of the KS3, GCSE and A level English curriculum	A, I	E
Knowledge of best practice in assessment	A, I, R	E
Knowledge of Able, Gifted and Talented strategies	A, I	E
Understanding of self-evaluation processes	A, I	E
Personal and Professional Qualities		
Belief in sustaining the highest academic standards and excellence	A, I, R	E
Ability to lead and enthuse teams to succeed	A, R	E
Ability to prioritise, plan, organise well and work with others to achieve objectives	A, R	E
High professional standards in dress, attendance and punctuality	I, R	E
Suitability to work with children and satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure with the DBS	A, R, DBS Check	E

School & Local Area Information

The School

We are an 11-18 school in the lovely Cumbrian market town of Ulverston surrounded by fells and beaches on the scenic Furness Peninsula. Our oversubscribed school is a very popular choice for parents who tell us that their children feel safe, make good progress in their learning and that the school is well led and managed. Students, teachers, parents and governors regularly express their pride in their school.

Our students of all abilities and backgrounds come from communities across the area. Although we enjoy International School status, we are particularly proud to be Ulverston's secondary school and we know that the town is proud to have an outstanding school at its heart.



Our school is a thriving community with lots to learn outside the classroom. There are many opportunities such as our excellent music provision, internationally renowned orienteering, or our brilliant sports provision in which we challenge students through competition locally and nationally. There is too much to list!

Ulverston Victoria High School was formed by the 1969 amalgamation of the Victoria Secondary Modern located by Ford Park and Ulverston Grammar (1903) located on Springfield Road. After the amalgamation the former Victoria Secondary Modern site was known locally as "Lower School", and the Grammar School site as "Upper School". Up to the early 1990s the Lower School site was used primarily for pupils in senior years 1-3, the Upper School for years 4-5 and the 6th form college. In 1998 the Lower School site was closed and all pupils transferred to the Springfield Road site.

UVHS is situated in a residential area, occupying a vast site with Ulverston railway station and bus station a five minute walk away. Regular train connections to Lancaster, Preston, Chorley, Ulverston, Windermere and Barrow-in-Furness are available.

Most staff act as Form Tutors or are assigned to a particular year group for support tutoring and mentoring. There are many opportunities to get involved in clubs, extra-curricular activities and visits.

The original 1930's building comprises a large part of the main school with a neighbouring humanities and language block, English building and technology and art block. Our newly designed "Coach House Computing Centre" is available to our sixth form students. There is also a sports field encompassing the school, with a sports hall and gym. Our Sixth Form building, Todbusk is located next to the main school buildings.

The Local Area

Ulverston is a historic market town located in Cumbria on the edge of the Lake District. The town is renowned for its many festivals including the popular Dickensian Festival. Ulverston's most visible landmark is Hoad Monument, a concrete structure built in 1850 to commemorate statesman and local resident Sir John Barrow. The monument provides scenic views of the surrounding areas, including Morecambe Bay and parts of the Lake District. The population of Ulverston is 13000, with a large number of outlying rural small villages with coastal aspects.

House prices are affordable and there is a rich mixture of flats, small houses and larger family homes. Average house prices for a three-bedroom semi-detached house are £150,000-£160,000.

The town centre has a range of uniquely independent shops, restaurants and cafes with Lancaster only 45 minutes away (by rail). The Trafford Centre and Manchester city centre are only two hour's drive away.



Photo courtesy of Adam Kapustynskij (former student)

The majority of staff live in and around Ulverston or in the outlying villages. Others live further afield thanks to the excellent transport links by rail.

Advisory Note to Applicants

Information for Applicants

Please complete the application form and provide a supporting letter to the Headteacher comprising a maximum of two sides of A4 stating your particular strengths and how your experience to date has prepared you for this particular role. Your letter and completed application form should be submitted by email to Andrea Herman, Headteacher's PA/HR Manager, at UVHS at: recruitment@uvhs.uk

Please note that CVs will not be accepted.

Please ensure that your letter addresses the person specification and generic job description (2012 Teachers Standards).

Safeguarding - Disclosure and Barring Service Check

Ulverston Victoria High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS).

Health

Appointment to the post will also be subject to a satisfactory health record.

Code of Conduct

The UVHS School Code of Conduct outlines expectations and standards which all school employees should fully observe in accordance with school standards.

As part of the recruitment process a copy of the UVHS Code of Conduct for School Employees is available for applicants to view in the vacancies section of our website.

Equal Opportunities Policy

UVHS is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

The School's Equal Opportunities Policy states that it will give equal treatment to all persons within its organisation regardless of sex, marital status, race, colour, nationality, national origin, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, age and not allow any individual to be disadvantaged by any other condition which cannot be shown as justifiable.

At Interview

If you are invited for interview, references will be taken up prior to your interview. Any applicant called for interview will be required to sign their application form at the interview.

At interview candidates are invited to bring a portfolio of their own work.

Applicants are also requested to bring to interview the original documentation of their qualifications. Applicants who have not received an invite to interview within three weeks of the specified closing date should assume they have not been shortlisted (unless otherwise stated in the advertisement).

Application Closing Date

The closing date for applications for this post is Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 12 noon.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 19th May 2016.

If you have not heard from us by the end of May 2016, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.

Applications may be submitted by email to recruitment@uvhs.uk



**For more information, please contact the Headteacher
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