



Bramhall High School

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

'No Child Left Behind'



Science



Teacher Training
& Development



A Reed College
of Enterprise



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND
ARTMARK
SILVER



SPORT
ENGLAND



Healthy School



International
School Award

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the vacancy at Bramhall High School. I hope that you find this information useful as a way of an introduction to our school. You will be able to gain a further insight into the areas we feel are of particular importance to us in helping guide the development of our young people on our website.

Bramhall High School has a long standing good reputation for its excellent GCSE results, committed staff and mission to personalise the learning for all students so as to make progress with every child. Our vision is that no child should be left behind, no matter what their skills and talents, barriers or aptitudes. At Bramhall we are committed to securing positive outcomes for all students and our mantra is "Every Student, Every Subject, Every Grade" to ensure all students make excellent progress. In October 2014, our school was classified as by Ofsted as requires improvement but since then much has changed to ensure that Bramhall is recognised as the outstanding school we have the potential to be.

We are looking closely at ways to continue to develop both staff and students for the challenges of the future whilst meeting the needs of all our students as we continue to strive for very high academic performance.

Our driving focus is to ensure that all students achieve the very best life chances and are successful in a range of ways. I believe the experience of school should be to engage and excite, challenge and support: these things are done well here. As we enter a new phase of educational reform and respond to the changing face of schooling, Bramhall will continue to provide educational experience based on personalisation and equal opportunity for all. We strive to develop young people who are independent learners, able to work well in teams and to manage their own workloads. Our House System has curriculum subject areas grouped together so as to afford greater opportunities for a cohesive and supported teaching environment.

In the last three years our GCSE 5+En//Ma has been 62%, 66% and 68% and we are ambitious to achieve 70%+ this year. We focus mainly on GCSE qualifications and offer a full range of subjects including triple sciences, three languages and Geology as well as a range of D&T, with some vocational subjects at BTEC, including Travel and Tourism and Child Development. We place great emphasis on students being aware of the need for a rounded and broad curriculum choice. We regularly achieve A*/A grades from over a third of our entries and nearly 40% EBacc. Progress tracking for all year groups is well developed in the school and we use SISRA to inform planning and challenge learning.

In a large school such as ours, it is important to have a sense of community and pride. Our students take a role in the leadership of the school and are very pro-active in a range of school and community events. We focus greatly on encouraging independence and creativity as well as responsibility and accountability. Subjects have student ambassadors and we also have student leaders of learning.

Two years ago we became a pilot school for Restorative Approaches and are embedding this within the school. Our rewards, behaviour and sanctions policy, the Bramhall Way, is developed in conjunction with this approach and led by a working party of staff who regularly update and evaluate our progress in this area. We believe behaviour of students in the school to be good.

We emphasise the importance of extra-curricular activity and many staff are involved in clubs and activities with students. We field over 50 sports teams and teachers of all subjects are always welcome to help with this. Similarly, Performing Arts within the school are very important to us and the range of activities always need extra hands and support. We have a range of orchestras, choirs and bands and frequently perform in the community as our Director of Performing Arts runs an Arts based hub from our school, working closely with the Fairey Band and the Halle. Every year we perform musical theatre and concerts. In addition, there are many opportunities for learning outside the classroom and frequent educational visits, such as those we run to Switzerland, Germany, Spain and France.

I look for qualities in staff which reflect our school aims and encourage people to be conscious of career progression as well as utilising the skills gained so far to benefit our school. I expect staff to be interested in their own growth and development through educational research and CPD as well as to be familiar with current educational research which impacts on effectiveness in the classroom.

Above all, I believe a passion for working with young people and helping them progress should be a fundamental reason for being interested in working in our school. Expectations for the quality of teaching are high and I expect people to share our vision to be a future outstanding school.

Thank you for your interest in this post. Should you wish for further information or more detail on a particular aspect of our work please contact us through my PA, Denise Brennan.

Lynne Fox

Headteacher

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Bramhall is a pleasant residential area on the Cheshire border, in the south-west of the Borough of Stockport. There is quick road and rail access to Manchester (9 miles) and connections by rail from Macclesfield or Stockport to London. The nearest access to the motorway system is about three miles (M63 & M56). Bramhall railway station is within walking distance of the school and we are also on a regular bus route.

THE SCHOOL

We are a successful school of just under 1200 students aged 11-16. We have strong links with our Primary schools and work to provide for the all through education of the children in our community, feeding a range of 6th form providers.

Our students make excellent attainment, as shown through us being named as one of the top 100 schools nationally for progress between KS2 and KS4 in 2012, but in recent years we have been identified as needing to improve the progress of some sub-groups of students.

We have excellent sporting achievements in a range of disciplines, a wide ranging extra-curricular programme and the high quality of our pastoral care for students are hallmarks of our school.

We are proud of the fact that almost no students leave without qualifications and that almost all of the students who remain with us full time, leave with at least 5 GCSEs at grade G or above. We work hard to provide learning pathways which are personalised to suit all our students, and we work constructively with other local agencies. A considerable investment has been made in the development of an Alternative Curriculum and vocational routes at Key Stage 4.

The Parent Teacher Association includes members of staff, students and parents and regularly raise up to £20,000 for the school. We have a good reputation, both for the quality of our teaching and for our care of the students and their parents. Surveys of our parents' views are overwhelmingly positive about the school and its policies.

Trips and visits flourish both abroad and in England, they are a major feature of school life and we value opportunities made for students to take part in contextualised learning.

We are keen to develop further our ethos of being a caring and respectful community, where student leadership and help with the social health of the student body are greatly prized. In recent years we have developed Enterprise Education as well as STEM, and are always keen to look at new practices and strive for the most effective ways of teaching and our students learning.

Our belief is that it takes all roles in school to raise our children and we have as many support staff as teachers, all of whom play a vital role in the school.

The House System

The school is divided into four academic Houses with each one containing approximately 300 students and 30 staff. An Assistant Head teacher, referred to as a Director of House, line manages three subject areas which are run by Subject Leaders and are clustered together to provide greater flow of ideas and practices.

Ignis House Director of House: Mr. D. Nuttal Subjects: Performing Arts, MFL and P.E.	Terra Firma House Director of House: Mr. J Longworth Subjects: Science, Geography and Geology, R.S.
Aura House Director of House: Mr S Stonehouse (Acting) Subjects: English, History, ENT (Enterprise and New Technologies)	Aqua House Director of House :Mr P Wraith Subjects: Maths, Design Technology, Art

The ethos of each House has emerged as this system has developed and subjects are developing co-operative practices. To aid the staff and students, each House has a member of staff responsible for leading learning practices, co-ordinating the curriculum, tracking student progress and leading their support. In addition student administrative assistants see to the daily needs of students and behaviour managers help us drive our restorative approaches programme. Cover supervisors assist when staff are unable to be with their classes and Learning Support Assistants help students in classes. We have an Inclusion department, run by an Assistant Head teacher who is also the SENCO. We use a range of in-house and external services to help with our students' development. Our nurture unit provides pathways for more vulnerable students according to their needs and delivers programmes designed to bridge learning when necessary, give an opportunity to catch up and restart courses and have enhanced help with transition for those who need more time to achieve Level 4.

We are keen to make sure that none of our students are disadvantaged and use our funding to assist disadvantaged students to run a bespoke centre for Learning Mentors who are assigned to look after the needs of all our FSM students and work on removing any barriers to learning that may exist. They work in the Learning Point and provide exceptional opportunities for students to benefit from more individual help.

THE STAFF



Staff enjoy working at Bramhall, and are encouraged to reflect on their practice and self evaluate their progress. We operate a distributed leadership system and all teachers are seen as leaders within their own classrooms. There are 67 members of the teaching staff, and 63 support staff roles. We believe that the opportunities we offer for support staff are excellent and we have developed progression routes for support staff roles in school, as we greatly value the work non-teachers contribute to the well being and

progress of students. The school also has good relationships with a wide range of outside agencies and has developed strong professional links with a range of other organisations.

The Senior Leadership of the school is organised into responsibilities for each of the areas of personalised learning which are instrumental in driving school improvement and raising standards. These also reflect the areas which Ofsted are interested in when considering the efficacy and value of our provision.

Support staff are managed by the Business Manager and by subject or team leaders across the school. There is a performance management and appraisal policy in place for all members of staff.

Strong links have been established between the Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders. Regular meetings are held at which a common line management agenda is used which focuses on self evaluation.

School Development and Aspiration

Consultation is a way of life and much decision-making rests with committees of staff and working groups. The school operates a seven weekly cycle of meetings. Each cycle will contain a staff development meeting as well as staff briefings where the emphasis is on development and pedagogy.

We aspire to become an outstanding school in the eyes of Ofsted and work tirelessly to provide an excellent education and safe learning environment for all.

The school was last inspected by OFSTED in October 2014. Inspectors found a school with much strength and praised the quality of inclusion and attainment, but our rates of progress and achievement were a concern for some groups of students. Although we work very hard, the school is a pleasant, lively and rewarding place to work in, with good relationships between staff and pupils.

We are currently responding to curriculum change drivers, such as the New National Curriculum Guidelines which are informing our decision to change the curriculum so as to be fit for purpose in ensuring good student progression.

APPLICATION

We offer an excellent opportunity to join a highly regarded, supportive school which has the well being of its pupils at the centre of its work. The emphasis in our school is on quality first teaching and we welcome applicants who are interested in learning and teaching, ready to continue to develop their skills and professional competency and share their work with others.

To apply please complete the on-line application form and submit via the Hirewire. Please use the additional space provided to summarise your particular skills and suitability for the post as well as your approach to learning and teaching. You should do this by the date given in the advert or in the details. Unfortunately it will not be possible to notify unsuccessful candidates individually.



HOW TO FIND US



By Train:

Bramhall is served by trains from Macclesfield and Manchester Piccadilly / Stockport.

Trains run half hourly at peak times and hourly through the day.

The station is about a 15-minute walk from the school.

Taxi:

Metro
- 0161 480 2901

Teletaxis:
- 0161 480 4864

By Bus:

Regular bus services run from Stockport Centre to Bramhall, via Bramhall Lane South.

By Car:

From Stockport Centre, follow the A6 south and turn right at the Blossoms Public House in Bramhall Lane.

From the Motorway and the South and West, the best route is via the A34 and the A555 (Airport Eastern Link Road).

Bear right in Bramhall Village Centre onto Bramhall Lane South.

Signposts point to the Recreation Centre which adjoins the school.



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