Teacher of Geography

for September 2020

information for applicants



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL | BARNARD CASTLE | COUNTY DURHAM DL12 8UN | UNITED KINGDOM

Welcome from the Headmaster

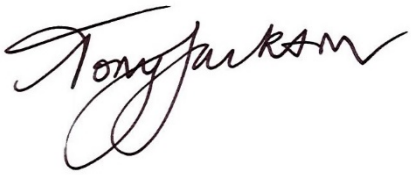
Dear Candidate

Barnard Castle School is seeking an outstanding individual to be a full-time Teacher of Geography for our thriving day and boarding school, which has remained at the forefront of girls' and boys' education for over 130 years. Whilst the school retains a strong academic record, its focus continues to be on developing life skills and nurturing each individual character. This is something that as a school, we take great care and pride in.

Geography is an important subject in the school and the department has a good record of academic results in public exams. There is an annual trip to Iceland as well as a number of fieldwork visits in the UK. Barnard Castle is particularly well-situated to take advantage of its stunning natural surroundings: the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and North Yorkshire coast are all within easy access, not to mention the immediate environment of beautiful Teesdale and Weardale.

This role could be suited to newly-qualified teachers and more experienced practitioners alike. The ability to teach lessons in another Humanities or a related subject to KS3 level may be an advantage, as would a willingness to contribute to our extra-curricular programme, including Games.

Barney is an exciting and hugely rewarding place to be, and I look forward to receiving your application.



Tony Jackson
Headmaster

The history of Barnard Castle School

Barnard Castle School has its roots in the medieval past and its eyes set firmly on the future. The school traces its origins back to the nearby Hospital of St John, which was an educational and religious community established by John de Balliol in 1229. He was also the founder of Balliol College in Oxford and his passion for learning remains central to our philosophy today. In 1883 with a gift from Benjamin Flounders, a Victorian philanthropist, and the proceeds of St John's Hospital, the present main School building was constructed. Tony Jackson, the school's tenth Headmaster, was appointed in September 2017 as "Barney" embarks on an exciting new era.

The School

'When you are steeped in little things, you shall safely attempt great things'

This motto perfectly sums up what Barnard Castle School - or 'Barney' as it is affectionately known - aims to do in preparing its pupils for life beyond its doors. Through creating an inspirational, compassionate and unpretentious environment, Barney aims to develop young adults with character. Our staff believe that our pupils should be confident, resilient, intellectually curious, tolerant and driven, with an undercurrent of humility, and are prepared to live, embrace and lead in an ever-changing world.

'Parvis imbutus tentabis grandia tutus'.

The school has a genuine warmth amongst its 675 pupils and 180 staff, which fosters a strong sense of community and endeavour. It is highly unusual to find a school where pupils from Year 9 and Year 11 sit on a table at lunch together sharing a conversation, discussing their latest sports fixture or drama rehearsal. However, this attitude is ingrained in a Barnardian from very early on. The co-educational and cross-year group atmosphere starts in the journey from the Preparatory School (ages 4-11) right through to the state-of-the-art bespoke Sixth Form Centre in the Senior School (ages 11-18). A Barney pupil is quick to make someone else feel at ease, whether that is through simple encouragement or a warm smile.

Whilst we are extremely proud of what our pupils achieve academically, we also recognise the importance of preparing the next generations for an evolving and increasingly competitive global marketplace. To do this we focus on developing the individual character of every child, and during their journey with us, we aim to cultivate vital life skills through building relationships amongst the pupil body and teachers alike. Each pupil has a dedicated Tutor who meets with them a couple of times a week to discuss anything from pastoral issues to academic progress.

We want our pupils to develop a prepared mind for life beyond school. This requires confidence, resilience and compassion, all built up over a period of time, and in a variety of ways, both within and beyond the classroom. It also requires that most important quality: humility. At our core is an unpretentious and humble outlook, and it is this combination of confidence and humility that allows our pupils to light up a room.

We want teachers who believe in our purpose as educators and are proactive in immersing themselves in school life during term time. We would like them to role model the qualities we hope to instil in our pupils throughout their journey from the Prep School through to the end of the Sixth Form. Teachers are expected to take part in the extensive extra-curricular "Mind, Body and Soul" programme that runs between 4pm and 5pm and can choose to offer an activity that they are passionate about. We believe in fostering lasting relationships, and contact time with pupils outside the classroom is what makes the *Barney* difference.

The School is situated in its own extensive grounds on the outskirts of an historic market town, recently noted as being the safest in England, in an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is well-resourced and enjoys an enviable reputation for its pupils' achievements on a broad variety of fronts. It is also in proximity to and enjoys close relationships with departments in the universities of Durham, York and Newcastle.

Continuous improvement and investment have produced a number of new buildings, including the MacFarlane Building which houses Physics and ICT, the Atha Fitness Centre, an extension to our Prep School including a new science lab and the new purpose built Sixth Form Centre.

Further details about Barnard Castle School may be found in the Independent Schools' Yearbook and on the School's website www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Brief:
All pupils study Geography in Years 7 to 9 and in most years about half of all pupils in Years 10 and 11 select it as a GCSE option. It is also popular in the Sixth Form, and external exam results at all levels are very good, with candidates following the AQA GCSE and A Level specifications. Most Geography teaching takes place in a classroom block which is shared with the other Humanities and the Mathematics Department. The department comprises three full-time staff.

Overall expectation

To teach effectively, encourage independent learning and instil in pupils an appreciation of the importance of Geography, the world and its people. This is a full-time role.

Overall Responsibilities:

- To teach according to the timetable, ensuring that teaching is **inspirational**. The role could involve teaching up to A Level, but the post-holder should expect to teach any year groups from Year 7 upwards.
- To be aware of the need to differentiate work and challenges according to the ability of the pupils, whilst maintaining high expectations of all and taking full account of any Special Educational Needs.
- To work as part of a team, in harmony with and for the furtherance of the school's ethos and declared educational aims and priorities.
- To be supportive of the department's aims, agreed teaching styles, methods of assessment and other policies.
- To set written assignments or other creative pieces of work that involve a finished product (Prep) regularly and mark them promptly and in accordance with School and Departmental policies, ensuring that formative comments are always helpful and make helpful suggestions for further appropriate improvement in learning.
- To provide parents with written reports on their students' work and progress according to current school policy and to attend parents' meetings.
- To take a share of supervising duties, invigilation and cover for absent colleagues.
- To be responsible for the supervision, control and proper use of teaching rooms, materials and resources, and to have regard to health and safety issues and regulations.
- To attend weekly staff meetings and other meetings that may be called from time to time, as required by the Headmaster.
- To report in a timely manner any concerns about students and their learning progress to the appropriate colleague.
- To report in a timely manner any concerns regarding Child Protection or Bullying to the appropriate colleague.
- To take responsibility for one's continuing professional development and, to this end, to participate in Development and Review procedures as directed by the Headmaster.
- To contribute to Barnard Castle School's broad and active co-curricular activities programme.

Expectations as a member of Barnard Castle School Common Room

- To have high professional standards and so be an appropriate role model of reliability, behaviour and appearance
- To relate to children in an atmosphere of trust, frankness and ambition and to engender a climate of mutual respect
- To make sure that pupils meet the School's expectations of them
- To facilitate the development of children's confidence, self-esteem, determination, responsibility and personal pride in achievement, behaviour and appearance
- To understand that offering a well-rounded education means engaging beyond the classroom, and therefore contributing to the wider life of the Barney education.
- To contribute to marketing the school and to promote the School to prospective pupils and parents
- To establish and maintain high standards of communication with pupils, staff and parents
- To uphold all the policies of Barnard Castle School
- To take an interest in how the School functions and to convey suggestions for improvement to the Head of Department, Senior Management Team and Headmaster from time to time
- To subscribe to the Common Room's ethos of inclusivity, collegiality and helpfulness.

This job description reflects the present requirements of the post and is not intended to be exhaustive. Teachers may be required to carry out such other duties as the Headmaster may reasonably require from time to time.
Duties and responsibilities, may be subject to change and development, the job description will be reviewed periodically and subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.

Support

The Teacher will be appraised by the Head of Department and will also have a review with the Headmaster but routine communication will be on going. Professional development is encouraged and will be discussed as part of the Teacher's Review and Development cycle.

In order to meet the high standards expected of a teacher in our School, the Headmaster is seeking to employ a person with the following qualities, experience, skills and abilities.

Essential Criteria:

- A good honours degree;
- Evidence of either being or having the potential to be an outstanding teacher;
- The ability to teach Geography to A Level;
- The ability to inspire and motivate children;
- Clear and effective communication skills;
- An ability and willingness to make a contribution to the extra-curricular life of the School;
- An ability to relate well to colleagues and children;
- Approachability, accessibility and flexibility, with high levels of organisation;

Desirable Criteria

- A higher degree or experience of educational or subject-specific research ;
- A record of and commitment to continuing professional development;
- The ability to teach in another Humanities or related subject to KS3 level or above;
- The possession of QTS;
- Experience of working in a boarding school;
- A willingness to contribute to boarding: single-person accommodation may be available for those who undertake boarding duties;
- The ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with all members of the school community;
- Sympathy with the Christian values of the School and the nature of working in a boarding environment.

Recruitment Process

Applications

If you feel that you can meet the above requirements then please submit a letter of application along with the Barnard Castle School application form to the Headmaster. Only applications containing the requested information will be considered.

Applications should be sent to:
Mr A C Jackson
Headmaster
Barnard Castle School
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8UN

Phone: 01833 696081
Fax: 01833 638985
E-mail: hr@barneyschool.org.uk

Deadline: 9am, Monday 27th January 2020

Interviews: Week commencing Monday 3rd February 2020

Applicants should read carefully the application procedure – guidance for applicants, Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders and the Disclosure policy and the Safer Recruitment policy.

Barnard Castle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and all applicants will undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS and Barred list check with Disclosure and Barring Service.

Barnard Castle School is an equal opportunities employer.

Contact

Mr A C Jackson
Headmaster
Barnard Castle School
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8UN

Phone: 01833 696003

E-mail: hr@barneyschool.org.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1833 690222

Fax: +44 (0)1833 638985

www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk

