



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Dear prospective applicant,

Thank you for your interest in working with us at Forest Hill School.

It is my privilege to be the Headteacher of Forest Hill School, a unique and ambitious school with a well-established comprehensive and inclusive ethos. Our student intake is a genuine reflection of the community in our district of London and we are clear that they should expect the highest of standards in all aspects of their education. Our broad and creative curriculum gives them a firm basis on which to move forward to make choices for examination subjects as they progress through the school. A culture of aspiration and high expectations underpins this progression, with our students playing a key part in shaping the learning process.

Forest Hill's ethos is aptly summarised in our motto 'Aspiring to excellence together'. We are a community in which mutual support and a spirit of relentless ambition drive a desire to ensure that we constantly strive to surpass previous achievements. All community members are encouraged and expected to contribute to this culture thus ensuring that the creativity and evolution of our student offer is maintained. We are a performing arts' school, but creativity does not simply apply to our performing arts' subjects, but also to the academic curriculum in which we promote engagement, enquiry and ingenuity. We want our students to emerge from Forest Hill as engaged citizens and leaders of the future, fully equipped to confidently enter a competitive world.

We communicate and reinforce the vision and ethos of the school community through our Core Values, which were developed in consultation with all stakeholders:

- **Aspiration**
- **Ambition**
- **Rigour**
- **Partnership**
- **Community**

All aspects of life at Forest Hill is underpinned by these values, and we promote them as the prerequisites of academic excellence and success. The values also encapsulate a sense of pride in belonging to Forest Hill, something which is shared by all students and staff.

Our new staffing structure is now in place filled with enthusiastic and motivated colleagues keen to move the school forward. Ofsted visited in December 2017 and judged that we are not yet good, which matched entirely with our own robust self-evaluation. I encourage you to read the report in its entirety. Whilst it highlights areas for development which the school had already identified, there is also an extremely positive narrative about the actions leaders have already taken to improve the school, leading to an upward trajectory. We have clear plans aimed to take us out of our current Ofsted category within 5 terms.

We now find ourselves in a new and very positive chapter in the school's journey. We are in a strong position to realise our vision of excellence. We wish to add to the fantastically committed and enthusiastic staff body in order to further accelerate and sustain our rapid improvement. We want colleagues at Forest Hill who have a desire to contribute their skills and knowledge at this exciting time, and to learn with us. The strategic vision and drive of school leaders to secure positive accountability is at the heart of our journey.

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Headteacher: Mike Sullivan BSc (Hons)

There is a renewed focus on the development of a bespoke and challenging curriculum, a relentless pursuit of excellence in standards of teaching and learning and the improvement of outcomes for all students.

Forest Hill School places a heavy emphasis on the holistic development of our young people. Our pastoral system is a real strength and we are recognised for this. The focus on performing arts broadens the curriculum but also gives many opportunities outside of it, with free music lessons available to all and a plethora of opportunities to become involved in music, drama and dance performances within the school and beyond. We have a strong tradition of sporting excellence with our representative teams regularly winning honours at local and London-wide levels, as well as nationally. In addition to this, sport is widely enjoyed at participation level as part of our extra-curricular offer, with many clubs, activities (including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award) and school journeys available to our students. We actively encourage staff to bring their passions and interests to add to our wider offer.

At Forest Hill School staff wellbeing and professional development is very important to us. We have an early closure one day per week to provide dedicated planning time as well as identified slots in the meeting cycle for assessment of pupils' work. The school also provides all staff with high-quality personalised training linked to priorities identified in the performance management cycle.

I hope our values and standards strike a chord with you and that you will pursue your interest in joining our school.

We look forward to receiving your application.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sullivan', followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

**Mike Sullivan**  
Headteacher