SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST

Curriculum Lead for Science
based at
King Arthur's School
Wincanton
Somerset

April 2019

King Arthur's School

Curriculum Lead for Science
RECRUITMENT INFORMATION PACK

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SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST

St Aldhelm's House
Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4EQ
Tel: 01935 811066
Website: www.sast.org.uk

April 2019

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Curriculum Lead for Science in the Trust based at King Arthur's School, Wincanton. This is an exciting period in the school's history because it joined the Sherborne Area School's Trust (SAST) on 1 April 2019. We have been supporting the school since July 2018. In 2018-19 there has been an Interim Head, seconded from The Gryphon School - one of the 7 current Trust schools. We have recently appointed a new Head of School who will lead the school from 1 September 2019.

This is a wonderful opportunity to join a school within a Trust with great potential, some real strengths and the ability and desire to develop further. This post will be ideal for either someone looking for their first Department lead role or someone who has experience and is looking for a new challenge in a new area. There are currently 340 students from age 11-16 with capacity for the School to grow. When you visit the school you will notice the:

- Friendly and welcoming atmosphere
- Students are well-behaved, comfortable and safe
- The range of experiences and opportunities
- Hard working, committed and caring staff
- Beautiful location and space for learning
- Strong local community

The School was inspected in November 2017 and judged to be Inadequate. There has been significant support provided for leadership and governance from The Gryphon School with an additional Assistant Head with responsibility for Teaching and Learning, English Improvement Support, a Business Manager, SENCO support and a Community Lead. An Interim Executive Board has promoted and overseen rapid improvement in the school to ensure that there is a strong sustainable strategy for future development. The new structure of leadership, specialist teaching positions and support staff posts will be in place for the new academic year including a new Curriculum Lead for Science.

The Gryphon's 'Teaching, Learning and Assessment' model is being used with King Arthur's, and common systems are being implemented for curriculum design, examination boards, feedback and marking. New policies have been introduced covering areas such as attendance, aspirations and behaviour. In a small school with 20 teachers the single teacher subject areas are supported by the larger teams. Therefore Art and Design is included with Science to support CPD and day-to-day organisation – the accountability for Art and Design sits with the Art and Design specialist teachers.

The school is spacious with good specialist facilities. It has access to an excellent sports centre with swimming pool and sports fields. We are committed to enhancing further the environment and facilities. An Environmental Improvement Grant is funding new student toilets. The Performance Hall is being given a facelift and new flooring, and the main hall will be redecorated as well as having a new projector and screen installed to facilitate learning. The Reception area is being redesigned to improve access and refresh the entrance area.

The Sherborne Area Schools' Trust was established with seven schools serving the West and North Dorset area as well as students from South Somerset. Currently there are almost 2700 students and we employ over 450 staff. The Trust is expected to have an additional 6 schools join us by the end of the academic year. There is real strength in coming together with a collective responsibility for all of the children's development and progress between 0-19 years. SAST has large town primary schools with over 300 children, smaller village primary schools and nursery provision. There is a large 11-18 secondary school with a Sixth Form of over 400 students. There is a mix of formerly maintained and Church of England schools - both voluntary controlled and voluntary-aided in the Diocese of Salisbury. We believe in preserving Schools in their local community.

At the heart of SAST is the desire to work in partnership, to collaborate with others and to be outward facing for the benefit of children and staff. The schools have extensive links beyond the immediate area and are keen to extend these further. The Gryphon School was designated as a National Teaching School and National Support School in the summer of 2017 and leads the North Dorset Teaching School Alliance of which SAST will be at the heart.

The Wincanton and Sherborne area is one of the best places to live in Britain. There are easy road and direct rail links to London, Bath, Bristol, Exeter and the glorious Somerset and Dorset coast and countryside. It is a great area in which to live, offering something for everyone.

In summary, there is a great sense of pride in what we collectively already achieve, and we have accepted the challenge for achievement to be even higher at King Arthurs. Education is more than just test and exam results – we place great value on the personal development of each child. We aim for them to ultimately leave school as well-rounded young people with a strong sense of what is socially, morally and culturally acceptable, and to feel that they have a contribution to make to the greater community.

We are looking for someone with high expectations, a love of learning, able to inspire and also laugh and enjoy the challenges of this role. You need to be a team player, you will go the extra mile to support students and want to continually develop and pick up the best ideas from around the world in education. In return, you will join a School and Trust that is full of activity, opportunity and optimism. You will be joining a team of five middle leaders in the school and will be strongly supported by the new Head and SLT in your work developing Science provision in conjunction with teams in our other schools.

There is further information on the School and SAST websites. If you would like to visit the School, the Trust or discuss any aspect of the post please contact Bella Byrne in the first instance. You are very welcome to visit us in advance of an application or to contact us to find out more.

On behalf of the Trustees of SAST, the future LGB, staff and students we look forward to seeing your application and meeting you.

Very best wishes,

Steve Hillier
CEO



St Aldhelm's House
Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4EQ
Tel: 01935 811066
Website: www.sast.org.uk

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

We look forward to receiving your application by **9.00 am on Tuesday 23 April 2019**. You are asked to provide the following:

- A completed SAST application form
- A letter of application of no more than 2 sides of A4 detailing your experience and expertise

Completed applications should be returned either by post, marked 'Confidential' to; Catherine Watson, SAST Head of HR, St Aldhelm's House, Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4EQ or by email to: catherine.watson@sast.org.uk

You are warmly encouraged to visit our school prior to application, please do not hesitate to contact Bella Byrne who will be happy to arrange this. Our CEO, Steve Hillier is also available to have an informal discussion with interested applicants about the role. Please contact his assistant Bella Byrne on 01935 811066 or at Bella.Byrne@sast.org.uk.

Shortlisting is planned for after the closing deadline on 23rd April 2019. Interviews are scheduled for 25th April 2019

SAST and King Arthur's School has an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Trust and School follows the national and Somerset policies and procedures for child protection and security and the interview will include questions about safeguarding children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted for references as part of the verification process pre-appointment checks if the applicant is short listed. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

SAST and King Arthur's School is committed to equal opportunities and positively encourages applications from all sections of the community.

Job Description

Job Title:	**Curriculum Lead : Science and Art, Design**
Reports To:	Head of School
Pay Grade:	TLR 2.3
Responsible for:	The quality of leadership and management, achievement, teaching and learning and resource management in Science and Art, Design
Department:	Science and Art, Design

Main Purpose of Job*:*

As a middle leader:

- To lead outstanding teaching of Science and to be the lead subject specialist.
- To ensure all groups of students fulfill their potential in terms of levels of progress, value-added and attainment.
- To lead the Science and Art ,Design teams by supporting, guiding, developing and motivating colleagues.
- To promote inclusion of all students and their families and ensure their access to the curriculum and all school facilities and provision. To work with colleagues and external agencies in order to ensure that all Science and Art, Design students are supported appropriately.
- To use assessment data to monitor the progress of Science and Art ,Design students, and to maximize support and intervention
- To make a significant contribution to the special ethos and culture of the School through the development of a positive ethos in which all students have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum experience, which contributes to their personal and academic achievement.
- To promote the social, moral, cultural, spiritual and physical development of students, so preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To be outward looking by analyzing, researching and interpreting relevant national, local and school data, research and inspection evidence to inform the practices, expectations, targets and teaching methods.
- To actively support and facilitate the development of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum under the leadership of the designated member of the senior leadership team.
- To represent the Departments and the school with parents, the community and external agencies to the highest professional standards.

Main Responsibilities and Duties:

Quality of Achievement

- To be accountable for the achievement and attainment of students in Science
- To monitor and evaluate achievement and attainment including tracking student progress.
- To quality assure the accuracy of progress grades reported to parents, teachers and students.
- To develop, implement, monitor, maintain, evaluate and review Department policies and practices to ensure they reflect the School's commitment to raising achievement and improving the quality of education provided.
- To set appropriate examination targets for the Departments and have responsibility for exam entries
- To contribute to the school's self-evaluation procedures and which will inform the Team SEF and Improvement Plan.

Quality of Teaching and Learning

- To be a lead teacher of Science through outstanding personal teaching.
- To lead the development of teaching and learning including coaching and leading training for staff.
- To evaluate the quality of teaching through lessons observations, drop-ins, work scrutiny, learning walks etc across the Departments.
- To co-ordinate the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, methods of teaching and assessment to meet the needs of the students.
- To develop and improve the teaching for all groups of students promoting challenging, purposeful, enjoyable and appropriately differentiated lessons and support throughout the curriculum.

- To identify, research and adopt the most effective teaching approaches for students with SEND, including study skills that will develop pupils' ability to work independently.
- To promote a positive learning environment, ensuring that there is a commitment to equal opportunities and student entitlement; that the Behaviour for Learning Policy is applied around the Departments; that there is excellent behaviour in classrooms and Department areas.
- To promote a passion, interest and enthusiasm for Science and Art, Design through the quality of learning including extra-curricular activities.
- To ensure planned and coherent progression and pathways from primary Science through to KS4.
- To support the effective deployment of teaching assistants in the Departments.

Leadership and Management

- To develop a clear vision and strategy for the delivery of high quality provision in Science and Art, Design
- To liaise with parents over the provision for their children, providing information on targets, achievements and progress and have oversight of any planning meetings.
- To have high and challenging expectations of staff and students.
- To be outward looking, seeking to research and implement the best ideas nationally and internationally.
- To ensure effective quality assurance in the day-to-day management of the Departments.
- To monitor the progress made in achieving plans and targets, and evaluate the impact on teaching and learning.
- To produce the team Self Evaluation Plan and departmental development plans in line with the School Improvement Plan to reflect departmental priorities.
- To manage and administer the Departments' budget and resources effectively, and monitor the progress made in achieving plans and targets, and evaluate the impact on teaching and learning.
- To support the appraisal of staff and evaluate the impact on teaching and learning.
- To create and maintain effective working relationships by promoting a creative and collaborative working environment.
- To contribute to the recruitment of staff, and induct new staff
- To liaise with, and co-ordinate the contribution of external agencies.
- To ensure a stimulating, clean and well organised learning environment through a real attention to detail.

Other Duties

- To teach students within the School and carry out other associated duties as are reasonably assigned by the Head of School.
- To attend Parents' Evenings, Heads of Department meetings and other appropriate groups as required.
- The post holder may be required to attend, from time to time, training courses, conferences, seminars or other meetings as required by his/her own training needs and the needs of the school.

Additional Information

The professional duties of the post are those detailed in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and the national Teachers' Standards in England.

This job description sets out the duties and responsibilities of the post at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties and responsibilities may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

King Arthur's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

SAST Middle Leadership Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and Professional Development	• Qualified Teacher Status supported by a degree or relevant qualification • Evidence of recent professional development (in part relevant to middle management activity)	
Knowledge and Experience	• Successful Maths teaching experience in a Secondary school • Middle leadership potential • High quality learning across the 11-16 age-range • Up to date knowledge and understanding of guidance in relation to working with, and the protection of children and young people	• Work within a Multi Academy Trust • Knowledge of small secondary school issues
Qualities and Skills	• Personal optimism and positivity • Encourages and values creativity • An effective communicator at all levels • Able to build and maintain effective teams • Respects the views of all stakeholders • Emotionally resilient and literate • Sharp analysis of performance data • Promote the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of pupils • Commitment to inclusive practice and equal opportunities	• Knowledge and experience of a range of successful teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of all pupils and to challenge poor performance where appropriate • Demonstrable ICT skills along with an understanding of the use of new and emerging technologies to support learning and teaching
Leadership and Management	• Effective leadership qualities • Ability to organise and effectively manage departmental teams • Evidence of successfully implementing strategies for improvement with impact • Ability to lead performance management and develop staff • Knowledge of current legislation and developments in education • Ability to identify challenges and generate solutions • Commitment to a collaborative management style • Possess an attention to detail and quality provision	
Learning and Teaching	• Outstanding teacher and coach • Committed to a broad and balanced curriculum with a diverse range of experiences and opportunities for children • Ability to design schemes of work and resources which promote a love of learning, number, logic and problem-solving • Assessment for learning strategies • Thorough and confident knowledge of examination specifications • Confident application of school ICT systems to support learning and progress	
Relationships	• Being outward looking, committed to sharing, partnership and collaboration • Evidence of a contribution to extra-curricular opportunities and the wider community • Have positive and mutually supportive working relationships with all colleagues • Maintaining a good working relationship with the governing body and wider parent body • Collaboration and /or learning with other schools • Effective management of own workload and support for department teams so that they can achieve an appropriate work-life balance	
Safeguarding	• Commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people	

The Advert

Curriculum Lead for Science

Sherborne Area Schools' Trust based at King Arthur's School Wincanton, Somerset

Start Date: 1 September 2019
Closing Date: 9.00 am on Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Interviews: Thursday 25th April 2019
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR
Contract: Permanent

We are looking to appoint an inspirational Curriculum Leader of Science who will join a team of Science specialists across the Trust's schools as the Head of Department at King Arthur's School. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a school within a Trust with great potential, some real strengths and the ability and desire to develop further. This post will be ideal for either someone looking for their first Department lead role or someone who with leadership experience looking for a new challenge in a new area.

King Arthur's School is a fantastic small secondary school at the heart of a rural Somerset community serving the town of Wincanton and surrounding area. The school will join the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust in April 2019 and work closely with The Gryphon School in Sherborne to continue its pursuit for tangible and rapid improvement. When you visit the school you will notice the:

- Friendly and welcoming atmosphere
- Students are well-behaved, comfortable and safe
- The range of experiences and opportunities
- Hard working, committed and caring staff
- Beautiful location and space for learning
- Strong local community

The school is on the Somerset/Dorset border located close to Sherborne and its surrounding area. It is one of the best places to live in Britain, with Sherborne itself being described as 'one of the most drop-dead-gorgeous towns in the country' and having the feel of 'a small cathedral city'. It is a centre of excellence for education. There are easy road and direct rail links to London, Bath, Bristol, Exeter and the glorious Dorset coast and countryside. It is a great area in which to live, offering something for everyone.

The successful candidate will:

- Have high expectations and the skills to raise standards further
- Demonstrate evidence of truly effective middle leadership
- Have a passion and desire to promote a love of learning and literacy
- Be positive and optimistic in making a difference to children's lives
- Be highly resilient, with a relentless determination to succeed and drive change
- Have the ability to support, challenge and inspire our children, encouraging them to achieve the best they can through the promotion of outstanding teaching and learning
- Use resources, intellect, creativity and innovation to be successful
- Be a team player and leader who will go the extra mile to support children and families

Our values and ethos focuses on developing a love of learning, high achievement both personally and academically which comes from the tremendous work of all our staff and the great achievements of our children.

This role will be challenging, yet immensely rewarding. Working within our Trust, you will be supported by an experienced leadership team, strong governance and a committed staff. We will also offer an excellent package:

- a competitive salary -starting point to be agreed on appointment
- leadership development support
- high-quality CPD opportunities

- possible relocation expenses
- a strong sense of shared moral purpose and a real opportunity to transform the lives of young people

You are warmly encouraged to visit our school prior to application, please do not hesitate to contact Bella Byrne who will be happy to arrange this. Our CEO, Steve Hillier or the Head of School designate, Jen Jacklin, is available to have an informal discussion with interested applicants about the role. Please contact his assistant Bella Byrne on 01935 811066 or at Bella.Byrne@sast.org.uk

For a recruitment pack and online application form, please visit the school website or trust website: www.sast.org.uk

Closing Date: 9.00 am on Tuesday 23 April 2019

Proposed Date for interviews: Thursday 25 April 2019

SAST and King Arthur's School has an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced criminal record check via the DBS. The Trust values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community

USEFUL INFORMATION

Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) Information

SAST is a multi-academy trust, formed in June 2017, of seven schools serving the West and North Dorset area as well as students from South Somerset. Currently there are almost 2700 students and we employ over 450 staff.
SAST has large town primary schools with over 300 children, smaller village primary schools and nursery provision. There is a large 11-18 secondary school with a Sixth Form of over 400 students. There is a mix of formerly maintained and Church of England schools - both voluntary controlled and voluntary-aided in the Diocese of Salisbury. We believe in preserving Schools in their local community. Six new schools are expected to join the Trust during the academic year.

Our Schools
A key principle of the SAST is that member schools maintain their own character, such as church and community status.

All schools in the multi-academy trust are equal partners and are committed to the principles of collaboration, sharing expertise and resources to enable all partner schools to deliver excellent education for all young people in their care. The current schools that are members of the MAT are:

- Buckland Newton CofE Primary School
- King Arthurs School
- Sherborne Abbey CofE Primary School
- Sherborne Primary School
- St Andrew's CofE Primary School
- St Mary's CofE Primary School
- The Gryphon School
- Thornford CofE Primary School

At the heart of SAST is the desire to work in partnership, to collaborate with others and to be outward facing for the benefit of children and staff. The schools have extensive links beyond the immediate area and are keen to extend these further. The Gryphon School was designated as a National Teaching School and National Support School in the summer of 2017 and leads the North Dorset Teaching School Alliance.

SAST works by providing opportunities to share and improve - to develop further our provision as well as supporting the quality of leadership and management. This includes sharing best practice, being creative in maintaining a broad and diverse curriculum, ensuring the care and support is in place for children and families and enabling further staff and teacher development. We also work together on meeting the challenges of funding and the opportunities for financial efficiency, determining for ourselves which services and providers we will use to provide outstanding provision for our children. There is real strength in coming together with a collective responsibility for all of the children's development and progress between 0-19 years.

What we value – our ethos

Partnership and Collaboration
Our schools support each other, by sharing expertise and resources, to ensure improvement.

Pursuit of Excellence
We provide a high quality education to enable all students and staff to aspire, thrive and succeed.

Holistic Lifelong Learning
We promote the personal development of every child and a love of lifelong learning for our students and staff.

Equality and Distinctiveness
We celebrate the individuality of each school and all in it. We are proud to be at the heart of our local communities.

Our Team
All schools within SAST are equal partners. The Headteachers, senior staff, middle leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff all make a significant contribution to their own schools and more widely.

SAST has Members and Trustees who have been appointed on the basis of their skills, expertise and experience. The Chair of the Trustees is Nigel Rees, who is a National Leader of Governance. He has over 30 years' experience as a Chair of Governors.

The CEO is Steve Hillier, who is a National Leader of Education. He has been teaching for 30 years, a senior leader for 20 years including 10 years as Headteacher.

The Head of Finance is Chris Vigar, the Head of HR is Catherine Watson and Head of IT Services is Neil Burroughs. Alongside financial, HR and IT support SAST is also developing central support for school improvement, estate management and compliance.

Organisation - How we work
All our schools are successful. They are performing at a good or outstanding level. Of course we recognise that we need to continually improve and evolve. The priority is to enable every School to continue to provide an excellent education for all our students while protecting the School's role at the heart of its community, along with our unique qualities and strengths.

There is a balance as to the responsibilities delegated to Schools and those that are the responsibility of SAST. The focus is to continually evaluate, improve and develop through strong, effective and accountable leadership at all levels. The aim is to establish clear, simple and effective accountability including slim and streamlined governance.

Partnerships
We believe that the new North Dorset Teaching School Alliance will complement the work of the Trust and fill the gap in provision in this area. There have been longstanding links and partnerships with the Schools of Blandford, Gillingham, Sturminster Newton and Shaftesbury.
35 Schools put their name to the application including 8 secondary and 27 primary Schools; 21 are Church of England Schools, both state and independent, a mix of maintained and academy schools along with the Mid-Somerset SCITT, Bath Spa University, the University of Exeter; Dorset LA and the Diocese of Salisbury.

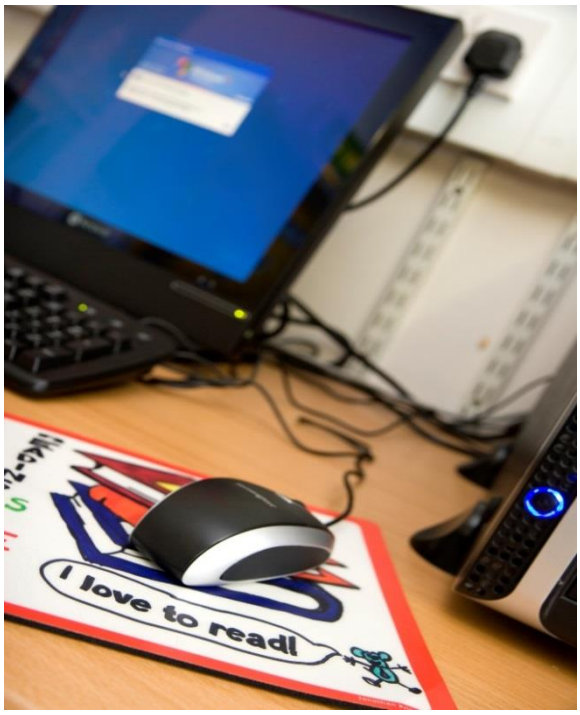
Partnership and collaboration is a core feature of all our Schools – a genuine desire to be outward-facing, to use the best ideas from across the world. The Schools have always worked closely together and across Dorset and Somerset. In addition there has been membership of the South West Academies Group, the Jubilee Group, the Princes' Teaching Institute, Pixl, the North Dorset Partnership, Sherborne independent schools and the JCTSA as a northern hub

Across the existing SAST Schools there is considerable expertise of a real diversity of size, setting and foundation. There is deep knowledge and professional expertise of running an academy school with all that this entails.

Departmental Information: King Arthurs School

Moving forward, our team will be made up of 3 teachers. Our staff are dedicated, enthusiastic and committed to giving the young people at King Arthur's the very best futures. We understand the importance of science in enabling our students to shape their futures. We believe in collaboration and like to benefit from each other's extensive skills at every opportunity; sharing of best practice is a key feature of all of our meetings and work together.

The department is looking forward to embracing new colleagues from September. The team are in the process of building clear schemes of learning, a broad range of GCSE resources, which were recently redeveloped to teach the new specification. We encourage staff to capitalise on their own enthusiasm, skills and knowledge and are keen to support career progression in our school.



Teaching

We are looking for the right candidate to lead this department and shape the future of science teaching at King Arthur's. We are offering the successful candidate the opportunity:

- To teach your own specialism and have the chance to teach the other two science subjects in KS3
- To build upon, strengthen and develop innovative strategies for teaching and learning in Science
- For continued professional development in a supportive and experienced environment, with great team spirit and mutual respect

Standards

- The results in Science are currently above the National Average, with our low prior attainers achieving particularly well

Team resources

We have:

- a suite of 4 laboratories, with bright and open rooms surrounding a dedicated foyer
- each room is equipped with whiteboards and projectors, and our ICT resources are being upgraded ready for September
- a large resource base of both software and more traditional paper based
- a prep room and ample storage space



The Curriculum

- Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are taught in mixed ability classes. In Year 9 we aim to prepare students for GCSE and students are taught with an aim to achieving 3 GCSEs as single sciences, or 2 GCSEs on the Combined Science GCSE course.
- Our KS3 students follow a scheme based upon Exploring Science – How Science Works materials, but with a greater emphasis on literacy skills. This course is designed to be completed by Christmas in Year 9 to allow maximum time to prepare for the GCSE
- GCSE Science currently follows the AQA syllabus, but this is likely to change to the EdExcel syllabus in September 2019, as part of King Arthur's becoming part of SAST.

The Science Team

- Our team will comprise of 3 teachers from September. They will all be Science specialists.
- We have 1 dedicated science technician

The person appointed to this position will be an excellent teacher, able to enthuse students and demonstrate a real passion for Science.

About the role

This post would suit an ambitious middle leader looking either to extend their experience of middle leadership or to take up their first department head appointment in a highly supportive Trust environment and working with collegiate support from middle leader colleagues in the Trust.

For first time department heads, we will provide all support needed in the form of individual mentoring from an experienced SAST middle leader and access to high quality CPD opportunities to support you in role.

Your opportunity

Leading a curriculum area(s), you will have the opportunity to develop your department in your own way, but also to work closely and collaboratively with the Maths team at The Gryphon School.

Why work at King Arthur's School, Wincanton?

King Arthurs serves a deserving community in rural Somerset where retaining secondary provision, improving educational standards and raising aspiration through vocational and extra- curricular opportunities has a hugely valuable moral purpose. Every student deserves the right to realise their potential. As Head of Department at King Arthurs, you can transform lives.

SAST Benefits

As part of the Sherborne Area Schools Trust, we can offer you a range of benefits including:

- High quality CPD opportunities
- A network of experienced senior and middle leaders to share knowledge and expertise
- Membership to the Teachers' Pension Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme and subsidised access to the Gryphon Sports Centre
- On-site nursery provision at some of our academies
- Cycle to work scheme

Information about Sherborne, Wincanton and surrounding areas

Sherborne

Sherborne is one of the most beautiful towns in England. It has an abundance of medieval buildings, a majestic Abbey, world famous schools, a picturesque alms-house and two castles. In March 2014, The Sunday Times described it as 'one of the most drop-dead gorgeous towns in the country and having the feel of 'a small cathedral city'. This is boosted, it says, by the quality of its schools, both private and public. It is ideally located on the Dorset and Somerset border and has excellent transport links enabling the town to flourish. Later that month, The Times listed it as one of the best places to live in the countryside.

There is a direct rail line to London, and Bath, Salisbury and Exeter and the spectacular Dorset coastline are within easy reach. It is a wonderful area in which to live and it has attracted many newcomers and families from across the country to settle in and around the area.
Sherborne is renowned as a town which is a centre of educational excellence. The links with the other schools in Sherborne are good - there is a genuine partnership and desire to share expertise and opportunities.





Wincanton

Wincanton is a small market town situated on the extreme southeast of Somerset almost on the borders of Dorset and Wiltshire. This part of Somerset is a countryside of diversified and unspoilt scenery which ranges from the lush pastures of the Blackmore Vale, through orchards and richly wooded combes to the hills with panoramic views over Somerset and adjacent counties.

Wincanton lies 15 miles north east of Yeovil, 12 miles north- west of Shaftesbury, 17 miles south west of Warminster and 34 miles east of the county town of Taunton. London is 111 miles by road. Situated on the main A303 London to Penzance trunk road, Wincanton enjoys excellent road links and is in an enviable position for exploring this attractive corner of rural England.

For the active, the countryside around Wincanton is perfect for exploring on foot, bicycle or horseback. Within easy reach of Wincanton are numerous places of interest easily and quickly accessible including an Iron Age hill fort at South Cadbury - reputedly King Arthur's Camelot, Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford, the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton and Longleat. Sherborne and Glastonbury are half an hour away. Wincanton's famous racecourse stages numerous race meetings - including a full National Hunt programme.





High Street, Wincanton

Support in Relocating

Every year we have new staff joining the trust. Many staff live in Sherborne or the surrounding villages. House prices are a little lower in Yeovil and other Dorset towns like Dorchester, Shaftesbury and Gillingham. Some staff comfortably travel from Somerset or Devon and we are easily accessible from Bath, Taunton and Bournemouth. We would be very happy to provide informal guidance about available accommodation; some new staff like to share, and staff often share transport.