

# FINHAM PARK SCHOOL

A Mathematics & Computing College



## Post of Assistant Headteacher

## Applicant Information



FINHAM PARK  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



## Dear Applicant

We are writing to thank you for your interest in the vacancy for an Assistant Headteacher at Finham Park School. We sincerely hope that this letter, together with any additional supporting documentation and opportunities to visit the school will inspire and encourage you to want to work with us. This unique and exciting opportunity has become available due to the recent promotion of the existing postholder.

Finham Park School converted to become a single academy in 2011 and our Multi Academy Trust was formed in 2015. The family of schools within our Trust currently comprises Finham Park School; Finham Park 2, our Free School; Finham Primary School and Lyng Hall School.

Finham Park School has been led by Mr Mark Bailie for the past eight years and during that time we have gained an 'Outstanding' judgement in two Ofsted inspections (2010/11 and 2014/15). We are hopeful that our next Assistant Headteacher will contribute to leading our school towards our stated ambition of being a "World Class" school – somewhere that our pupils experience an education that rivals the very best around the globe and reflecting our desire to be a leading organisation on the national and international stage. To this end we are not a community that rests on its laurels; rather we are constantly striving to improve the experience we offer our pupils and, whilst proud of our track record and history, recognise that there is much still to do.

We want to appoint an inspirational Assistant Headteacher for Finham Park School – a leader with charisma, expertise, and the skills to motivate both adults and young people to achieve the very best for themselves and their school community.

We feel we can offer many things to a successful applicant. These would include the support of an experienced governing body; the collegiate support of other leaders from both primary and secondary phases; an excellent team of specialist teachers and support staff together with opportunities to develop the links and networks that a school like Finham Park needs not just to be successful in its own right, but also to support and learn from other partner organisations – In our view, this is an exceptional opportunity for the right person to develop themselves as a school leader.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving an application from you in due course if you feel Finham Park may be the school for you.

Mr Peter Burns MBE

Chair of Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Miss Alethea Fuller

Chair of Finham Park Governing Body



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## Our school community

Finham Park is a popular, successful and exciting secondary comprehensive school, located in the south-west of Coventry – about 3 miles from the City centre and on a greenfield site bordering Warwickshire). The school became an 'Outstanding' converter to Academy status in August 2011 and was judged as 'Outstanding' for a second time in 2015. Currently oversubscribed, the school attracts students from across the city. Finham Park attracts children from six main partner primary schools. There are currently 1500 on roll, including 320 in the Sixth Form.



At Finham Park we strive to inspire through the delivery of a “World Class” education – success for all our learners. This school is a beacon of excellence for our community where everyone feels safe, valued, included and proud. We nurture every learner’s natural curiosity – providing them with life enriching opportunities to develop socially, academically and morally.

feels national nurture high Learners No-one  
 everyone resilience excitement beacon  
 curiosity inspire teamwork quality children  
 life-long others making school enjoyment  
 life community academically  
 valued Pupils love enriching World  
 opportunities staff  
 Coventry providing key develop excellence respect  
 socially teaching international learner's natural  
 good education honesty features allowed  
 success proud members



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## Teaching & Learning

We have a large team of dedicated specialist staff who deliver an unusually broad and balanced curriculum. Our students are supported through a vertical College system with four Colleges – Northgate, Eastgate, Southgate and Westgate. There is a comprehensive system of Student Leadership in place and students are given the opportunity to take on a wide range of responsibilities in all year groups.

Our facilities have been constantly developed over the years to ensure that all students are able to specialise and develop skills and understanding in their chosen subject areas. Subjects are organised into Faculties and broadly speaking are suited together around the school site. In recent years we have benefited from a comprehensive programme of capital improvements – including roofing; refurbishment of toilets; heating and ventilation to the whole school and provision of a new, state of the art Sixth Form teaching block. Information Technology has benefited from a rolling programme of updating and upgrading for a number of years now and the school provides an IT Service to other schools, both inside and outside our own Multi Academy Trust.





## Outcomes for Students

Standards are consistently above national averages for attainment and progress - a credit to the students, their families and our staff. We have chosen to retain our specialist status in Mathematics and Computing; Training School and also have National Support School and Leading Edge status. Finham Park has developed a specialism in Mandarin education – we are a hub school for the nationally funded Mandarin Expansion Programme and have strong links with partner schools in China, USA, India, and Europe. Additionally, we offer a large and ambitious community education programme.

Performance Measure	National av. %			Finham %		
	14	15	16	14	15	16
<b>5+A*-C (inc. En/Ma)</b>	55		<i>na</i>	68	81	72
<b>Progress 8</b>	0	0	0	0.2	0.3	0.1
<b>Progress in Ma</b>	65	66	<i>na</i>	75	85	76
<b>Progress in En</b>	70	69	<i>na</i>	78	83	79
<b>A'Level/Equiv A*-B%</b>	52	52	53	58	60	55



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## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

'Finham Park achieved Training School status in 2004 and has now developed into a highly regarded strategic partner within two Teaching School Alliances locally - The Swan TSA based at Sidney Stringer Academy in Coventry and the Griffin TSA based at Lawrence Sherriff School in Rugby. We offer high quality training not only to all staff within the school, but colleagues across the City, including in our National Support School capacity.

As part of our role as a Teaching School we work with several local universities to provide placements for their trainee teachers. We cater for PGCE trainees and School Direct trainees; both routes complement each other and the trainees gain from this experience. We are a School Direct Alliance hub for a number of local schools and therefore we organise placements across the city. The school benefits tremendously from our work with trainees: Firstly, staff are continuously developing pedagogical practice and secondly there are many opportunities to recruit new staff into the profession when vacancies become available.

A particular strength of Finham Park is our comprehensive CPD programme. All staff are encouraged to offer training sessions. The school has also been instrumental in creating Teaching and Learning Communities. This follows the ideas and research of Dylan Wiliams. Staff currently undertake action research projects which are linked to the Strategic Framework for school development and promote teaching and learning. This has sustained a culture of curiosity and development in the classroom.

## What do our staff feel about Finham Park?

During the summer term of 2016, colleagues were asked to reflect on what they felt was positive about working at Finham Park School. There were many factors, but the list below highlights just a few:

- “Supportive students work well with staff”
- “Positive ethos from the entire staff body”
- “Great opportunities to develop career”
- “High standards and expectations keep you challenged to push yourself”
- “Forward thinking school with regard to development of teaching & learning”
- “Parents are keen to communicate and support”



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## The City

**Coventry** is an historic city dating back to Saxon and Roman settlements as well as developing significantly during medieval times, and has a proud history in weaving, watchmaking, cycle manufacture and the automotive and engineering industries. Following devastating bombing during World War II, the city became a symbol of hope and regeneration and was the first city to 'twin' with another city in the world – the city is now twinned with 27 other towns and cities internationally. This also paved the way for the city to become a centre for peace and reconciliation and at its heart is the modern Cathedral designed by Sir Basil Spence, right next to the University campus. More recently, the city has enjoyed taking part in the Olympic Games, hosting international football matches at its Ricoh Arena; and artists and performers in the city created the incredible 6 metre cycle-powered Lady Godiva puppet which travelled to London to take part in the Olympic opening Ceremony. The city has a diverse range of activities to enjoy, including major pop concerts, ice hockey, rugby, football, theatre and has some interesting local attractions including the British Road Transport Museum, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and a wide range of restaurants and cafes.

Coventry enjoys excellent public transport links and close proximity to major road networks – London is just under one hour by train and the city is easily connected to the surrounding countryside of Warwickshire. Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick are all within commutable distance of the school from the South, while Solihull and Birmingham lie to the East.

Easy commuting to Coventry means that you will have a wide choice of areas to consider living if you need to relocate to join our team - there is the city itself with many multicultural suburbs, thriving towns and villages located in beautiful nearby countryside.

## Relocating

If you are relocating to Coventry or the surrounding area, you can be assured that we will do all we can to help you and your family successfully settle into the area. The Trust offers a relocation scheme (terms and conditions apply), which provides financial assistance towards the expenses associated with relocation. In addition we can offer advice, guidance and support to make the move as pain-free as possible.



## Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Formed relatively recently in March 2015, our vision is encapsulated as:

*Schools in the Finham Park MAT will set out to pioneer, innovate and deliver a “World Class” education for all children from the age of 3-19 where the artificial barriers of stage and age are removed.*

*Our education will aim to exceed the highest national and international benchmarks for academic achievement, whilst ensuring young people develop a passion for learning in all its contexts and are ready to take their place as active members of our global community.*

*Schools in Finham Park MAT will seek to move beyond collaboration and into co-construction – ensuring our education is developed with and by all members to reflect the needs of our children, their families and the wider community.*

There are currently four schools in our group:

Finham Park School; Finham Park 2 Free School; Finham Primary School & Lyng Hall School.



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Executive Headteacher: Mark Bailie  
Chair of Governors: Alethea Fuller



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