**LETTER TO APPLICANTS**

September 2019

Dear Colleague

**Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo)**

Thank you for your interest in working at Boston Spa Academy. I am delighted to enclose the details of the post and the application form.

This vacancy represents a unique opportunity to join a highly ambitious and motivated professional body which is changing the lives of young people in the community that we serve.

After ‘Good’ Judgements by Ofsted in 2012 and 2015 governors agreed a strategic plan to be judged as an ‘Outstanding’ school at the first opportunity, recruitment to this post is a very important part of that strategy.

The key element of strategy was to choose to convert to an academy with The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT) in September 2018. We chose TGAT because their values dovetailed with those of our school, and because they had a track record of working with schools to develop outstanding provision. The Trust has an unprecedented six ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted reports across all three phases as well a seventh for teacher training. We are an ambitious academy but never complacent. We work incredibly hard in genuine partnership across the Trust which is integral to our ongoing success; we passionately believe that only through collaboration and learning together are we able to deal effectively with the ever-changing educational landscape and prepare young people for an ever changing world.

TGAT is a not-for-profit charity whose driving energy is centred on creating exceptional schools within the Leeds region. The Trust has established a reputation for setting standards of excellence and achieving rates of improvements which have received national attention. The Chief Executive Officer, Sir John Townsley, is a National Leader of Education and gives considerable support to an increasing number of primary and secondary schools across the North.

At Boston Spa Academy our young people range from 11 to 19. At post 16 we work in particular close partnership with TGAT’s Elliott Hudson College who are already ‘Outstanding’, and have opened ‘Elliott Hudson College at Boston Spa’ in September 2019. This is a development bringing a £1,000,000 capital investment. There will, for the right candidate, be opportunities to teach in both Boston Spa Academy and at Elliott Hudson College at Boston Spa.

We have a clear mission, ‘A Path to the Future for All’, which is an ambitions that drive all that we do. We are, then, a school that holds hope for every child, in an environment free from cynicism and unwilling to put limits on what young people can achieve. We are blessed by an incredible professional body, both teachers and support staff. As Principal, it is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team that is relentless in its determination to secure the very best outcomes for the young people we serve.

We hold high expectation and standards for all and are a community that is confident and caring. We are committed to the development of the whole child, the physical, spiritual, aesthetic, moral, and cultural as well as their academic development. We have abroad PSHE provision that supports young people in addressing issues as diverse as emotional and mental health to LGBT issues, from faith and spirituality to the role of women in society. We are proud to be part of a trust which never shies away from tackling difficult and potentially controversial topics.

Clearly, working in our academy will be demanding as well as very rewarding. We assure you that as our colleague you will be of great value and importance, an importance reflected in the quality of our induction and professional development programmes. Professional development is an area we take extremely seriously. One of TGAT’s strategic priorities is the development of staff, and in particular the support for newly and recently qualified teachers. It is an innovative programme of exceptional support led at the highest level within the Trust.

Visitors always comment that our community is calm, welcoming and friendly. This comes from the pride in what we have achieved together and our eagerness to share this with others. As our academy continues to grow, we are looking for new colleagues who are passionate about working with young people of all abilities and all backgrounds. Outstanding teachers prepare carefully, deliver with enthusiasm and drive and assess in detail. It is on such people that Boston Spa Academy will continue to build.

Should you wish to join us then please ensure that the enclosed application form is fully completed. A CV is not required. Supporting statements should be no longer than two sides of standard font and should address how your approach to developing outstanding provision for SEND students will deliver the highest standards of achievement for all young people at Boston Spa Academy.

As a part of our strategic planning we are seeking to build further capacity in STEM subjects, so we would particularly welcome applications from colleagues with this expertise.

The closing date for applications will be 12:00 Monday 14th October 2019.

Applications can be posted, with the envelope clearly marked ‘**Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo)**’ or emailed direct to my PA Michelle Rushton. Michelle can be contacted on 01937 846630 or by email at rushtonm@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk

Boston Spa Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is therefore required for appointment to this post.

I appreciate that an application takes commitment and time. I would want to thank you in advance for the time and trouble that you will take and I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully



CHRISTOPHER WALSH

Principal