February 2020

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about the role of Teacher of Science at Haverstock School. We hope very much that you enjoy reading the information provided and that you decide to apply for this role.

Haverstock is comprehensive school in the heart of Camden. Although our school community is very diverse and complex, it is both aspirational and welcoming. As a proud member of the Camden family of community schools, we are supported by highly effective school collaboration service, *Camden Learning* which enables us to build extensive networks across the borough to support ongoing improvement.

I became Headteacher of Haverstock in September 2017, shortly after the school had been graded ‘Requires Improvement’ by Ofsted after a dramatic fall in standards. The school has been transformed over the last two years and we were delighted that the school was graded ‘Good’ in July 2019 following a huge programme of change in order to ensure that our students were provided with a higher quality education.

Although we are very happy with how far the school has come in a short space of time, we are not satisfied with merely being a ‘Good’ school. We want to provide a First Class education which has a transformational impact on our students’ lives both in terms of their academic outcomes and the experiences and opportunities which will help them to have the confidence and knowledge to strive to reach their full potential now and in the future.

Working in a school can be incredibly challenging and to be at your best, your wellbeing and development need to be a priority for us. Teachers at all levels at Haverstock have lower timetable loadings than most schools and significantly below the statutory maximum. We also operate a centralised ‘disruption free’ classrooms policy in which teachers do not have to run detentions. We have recently introduced an early Friday finish time of 2pm to allow for additional Professional Development time for all colleagues.

The Science Department at Haverstock has a proud history, with GCSE results which are top of the school, first class resources and fantastic facilities. The department has ten fully equipped laboratories and a fully stocked technician’s room managed by two technicians with all the bells and whistles to make practical lessons sing. Alongside the Head of Science, there are nine full time staff within the department, two of which have a second in charge responsibility. The department is warm and friendly and has a collegiate culture where the latest scientific and pedagogical ideas are discussed and shared.

Students in KS3 follow the National Curriculum over three years, to build skills of scientific enquiry, literacy and numeracy in order to prepare students adequately for Key Stage 4. GCSE courses start in Year 10, where we offer Edexcel Combined Science in addition to the option for higher ability pupils to elect to study Separate Science. Students who choose Separate Science will have six hours per fortnight of curriculum time in addition to the 10 hours all students receive for Combined Science. Traditionally the Separate Sciences have a high uptake, allowing us to appropriately prepare students to stay on with us to study at A Level. Our A level KS5 courses have 9 hours of curriculum time in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and we offer 10 hours for the Applied Science BTEC Level 3 course.

The department has a very strong link with the Francis Crick Institute, with projects for next year including a Y7, 8 and 9 Scientific investigation into the links between sunscreen and cancer, using their state of the art equipment which is loaned to us for all students to use. Additionally, we run a Y8 trip to the Crick each year for their ‘Cracking Crick’ Science show, and Y12 Biologists use their facilities to carry out gel electrophoresis as part of their Practical endorsement. Links with Highgate school have given us the pleasure of being part of the Chrysalis programme to stretch our high attainers, and each year Dr. Szydlo comes to do his ‘Chemistry roadshow’ with our Y9 pupils to introduce all of our students to the wonders of GCSE Chemistry. In 2019 we ran our first ever Science Fair for Y9 pupils who take Separate Science, and the winners were taken to the London Big Bang competition. Y12 Physicists each year have the fantastic privilege of attending an end of the year trip to CERN in Geneva to see the Large Hadron Collider! This is by no means an exhaustive list and the Science department is looking to expand its already impressive links and trips further.

The closing date for applications is Monday 24th February at Noon and interviews will be held on Thursday 27th February We regret that we are only able to contact short-listed candidates but please do forewarn your referees of the possible request for a reference.

Thank you, again, for requesting information about becoming a Science Teacher at Haverstock School. If you would like to find out more in advance of applying, please don’t hesitate to contact **jobs@haverstock.camden.sch.uk** to arrange an informal discussion or visit to the school. We very much look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



James Hadley

Headteacher