



Astrea Academy Trust

INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

HEAD COOK

CANDIDATE PACK

SCHOLARSHIP

TENACITY

CURIOSITY

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT

Open Letter from our Principal



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in Astrea Academy Woodfields.

Astrea Academy Woodfields is on an exciting journey towards excellence. Offering provision for 750 students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form, there is much to be celebrated within the academy and, for the successful candidate, this position offers a fantastic opportunity to shape and enhance the life chances of our students so that they go on to be successful in their next stage of their educational journey.

To ensure that we continue and strengthen the trajectory of rapid improvement, we are keen to attract exceptional colleagues to join the staff community to realise the potential which Woodfields clearly has. We are keen to attract the right calibre of professional to work alongside our dedicated team of staff; a colleague who shares our vision and commitment.

We believe that schools must teach powerful knowledge, 'the best that has been thought and said' and an 'entitlement curriculum' for all, with an underpinning philosophy that 'education for all should confer the benefits associated with education for the rich' (Michael Young). With careful curriculum design, spaced retrieval practice, detailed assessment and achieving mastery in small steps, rates of progress can increase greatly. We believe in explicit instruction and have been greatly influenced by Lemov's 'Teach Like A Champion', Rosenshine and recent developments in cognitive science. Excellent teaching must sit alongside a carefully considered and sequenced curriculum, implemented successfully and consistently through a culture of deliberate practice and instructional coaching.

We have recently launched the Astrea Behaviour Curriculum, where behaviour expectations and routines are explicitly taught and deliberately practised. The creation of a scholarly culture that is warm and strict, disciplined and joyful, where there is 'purpose not power', ensuring impeccable behaviour, where teachers can focus on teaching and pupils can focus on learning, underpins everything. There needs to be relentless consistency with the implementation of the behaviour policy in every classroom, and overcommunication of the 'why' to all stakeholders, to help ensure impeccable behaviour.

I hope you can see that this is an exciting time to join the Academy. If you are considering applying for this role, you will need to have ambition for the students as well as for yourself. We want colleagues who are prepared to push themselves professionally to develop their skills and experiences, so that the young people of Woodfields get the very best we can offer them.

Yours sincerely,

David Scales

Principal - Astrea Academy Woodfields

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Job Description

JOB TITLE:
Head Cook

REPORTING TO:
Catering Manager

SALARY RANGE:
£25,979 - £27,803 per annum full time equivalent salary

ACTUAL SALARY IF PRO RATA:
£21,749 - £23,276 per annum

CONTRACT TYPE:
Permanent

WORKING PATTERN:
35 hours per week, Monday to Friday

Term time plus one week – 40 weeks in total
- 38 weeks plus 5 INSET days plus one additional week

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Role Description

Purpose

A Cook or Second Chef, prepares and serves meals. Their duties include preparing and cooking meals according to recipes, serving meals and maintaining control of the kitchen, service and food.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Preparing and cooking ingredients according to a recipe.
- Prepping various ingredients such as meats and vegetables.
- Collaborating with the Catering Manager to prepare meals.
- Serving food and drinks to the students and school staff.
- Cleaning down the kitchen after service and ensuring the prep area and kitchen is cleaned and sanitized at the end of the shift.
- Ensuring the kitchen is kept at a good standard of cleanliness throughout the day.
- Rotating stock items as per established procedures 'first in first out.
- Ensuring Fridges and Freezers are clean and organised, taking care to ensure food items are stored in the correct locations at the correct temperatures.
- Leading and organising the kitchen in the absence of a Catering Manager.
- Ensuring Catering Assistants are performing their duties correctly.

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Person Specification

Experience

- Excellent organisational skills including the ability to multitask and organise workload.
- Great communication skills. Communicating effectively with different internal and external stakeholders.
- Has the ability to work to tight deadlines whilst paying excellent attention to detail.
- Excellent team working skills including communication and prioritisation.
- Helpful and positive approach to dealing with all stakeholders.
- Proactive approach to planning work and achieving deadlines.
- Able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Welcomes challenges and is flexible and adaptable to the needs of the trust.
- Experience preparing fresh food.
- Experience working in a similar chef's role.

Education and Qualification

- Cooks require at the minimum to have 2 years' experience working in professional kitchens. Professional catering qualifications are preferred; however, this training is not a mandatory requirement.
- It will be important for Cooks to hold a higher level of training and qualifications than Catering Assistants, but these can be provided through onsite and online training.

Skills and Knowledge

- In-depth knowledge of various cooking techniques.
- Working knowledge of food safety and hygiene protocols.
- Strong team spirit.
- Ability to work in a high-pressure environment.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Two years or more experience as a Cook.
- Working knowledge of mathematical principles such as ratios and proportions.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Experience leading a team.

This is not exhaustive.

Astrea Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Posts are subject to enhanced DBS checks.

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About Astrea

Astrea is an ambitious, dynamic and young trust with a mission to tackle historic educational disadvantage and raise quality standards across all of our schools. Our academies are based across South Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire, often in areas or at schools which have experienced generationally poor educational opportunities. Our role is to change that. We have grown rapidly over the last four years and now educate around 14,000 students in 27 academies and settings. Whilst our educational outcomes have improved over the last 4 years, they are not yet as strong as we would like them to be, nor as strong as our students and communities deserve. With this in mind, we are entering a new period in our development. We are increasingly clear and specific about our vision for behaviour, curriculum and teaching quality.

Key Characteristics of our academies:

- High aspirations, with a firm emphasis on academic attainment
- A knowledge-rich curriculum that develops a general knowledge of the world not simply for progression for the workplace, but for the love of the acquisition of knowledge
- A calm and purposeful learning environment built on mutual respect and centralised behaviour systems
- Outstanding pastoral care with the provision of specific trust delivered SEMH services where appropriate to the pupil
- Standardised reading and arithmetic catch-up programmes for pupils where this is relevant that are taught by specialists
- Active parental and community involvement
- A broad range of extra-curricular activities including sports, music, performing arts and academic clubs

Objectives for pupils:

- Encourage all children to be confident, hard-working and ambitious, regardless of background
- Transmit a core body of knowledge to all pupils and the ability to think for themselves in order to be aware of the world around them
- To be active and thoughtful participants in their local community
- To be successful in achieving their qualifications at both GCSE and A Level

A knowledge-rich education:

- By a knowledge-rich education we mean a rigorous and extensive, knowledge-based education that draws its material and methods from the best and most important work in both the humanities and the sciences.
- The aim of a core-knowledge education is not primarily to prepare pupils for a job or career, it is more to transform their minds so that they are able to make reasonable and astute judgments and engage fruitfully in conversation and debate – not just about contemporary issues, but also about the universal questions that have been troubling mankind throughout history.
- We want children to leave our schools with the confidence that comes from possessing an essential general knowledge. A knowledge-rich education should not confine itself to the Western canon, but should embrace other cultures and traditions. What that canon includes will be subject to review, but will always be closely connected to the history and the present nature of the society in which we live, including our international connections.

View the [Astrea 2025 Strategy here](#)

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Astrea Academy Trust are delighted to be part of such an important movement, which will ensure we have the guidance to challenge attitudes towards disability, tap into wider talent pools and help all individuals across the Trust fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations. As a Disability confident employer we have pledged to promote a culture that ensures there are no barriers to the development and progression of disabled staff.

Astrea Talent Programme

We believe that everyone has talent. At Astrea, we want your career to flourish, nurturing potential through the Astrea Talent Programme. This provides a defined career pathway, with associated personal and professional development way points and opportunities, funded by the Trust, wherever you start on the pathway. From apprentice to senior leader, we are devoted to growth and fulfilment. We want you to realise your ambition plus competence towards a brilliant education for all our pupils, giving them the opportunities they truly deserve.

