Life at SPH

Thank you for your interest in the position currently being advertised at St Philip Howard Catholic School (SPH). I would like to take this opportunity to give you a taste of 'Life at SPH' to help you decide if this is the right opportunity for you.

SPH is a co-educational 11-18 Catholic comprehensive school, which in April 2017 became an academy leading the Bosco Catholic Education Trust. The school and academy trust's ethos is based on its Catholic character and good relations are central to our work. As a consequence, both students and staff are happy, positive and enjoy their time at school.

Standards at SPH are outstanding with the vast majority of students achieving very well. In last year's GCSE examinations 78% of students gained five or more A* - C grades (75% including English and Maths), with a Progress 8 score of 0.71 and the pass rate at A Level was 99% (60% A*/B). Despite the fact that these results place us in the Top 5% nationally, we have the belief that "getting better never stops!" We are determined to be outstanding in all aspects of our work as a school and pursue this goal relentlessly.

There is a great team here at SPH, something which was immediately obvious to me on my appointment as Headteacher in 2012. We are all determined to be the very best we possibly can be. We hope that you will be up for this challenge too.

A great deal of emphasis is placed upon extra-curricular life at SPH and outside the formal curriculum there are numerous opportunities for students to take part in a wide range of activities: drama, sport, music, exchanges, days of reflection, Duke of Edinburgh and trips, both nationally and internationally. We would expect you to contribute in some way to this important side of school life should you be successful in your application.

SPH is heavily over-subscribed and is very highly regarded in the local community. Whilst students and staff are well supported, expectations of them are high. We are determined to recruit the very best teachers and those with great potential, to support and develop them in their roles and prepare them for promotion. That is why we invest heavily in professional development opportunities. Our staff are our number one asset and must be cherished if we are to succeed in achieving our goals.

We have a relentless focus on learning and the quality of teaching; under-performance will always be addressed and student outcomes placed at the heart of all we do. We were delighted to be graded as 'Outstanding' in every category at our most recent Ofsted inspection in April 2016 and believe this to be great affirmation of what we are trying to achieve. I hope you will take the opportunity to access the report on our school website. We were delighted to be designated as a National Teaching School in September 2017 and believe this to offer tremendous opportunities for all staff, engaging with other schools, sharing best-practice and providing school to school support.

The challenge now is to continue to improve and become the best school in the country. Are you the person to help us achieve this goal?

The ideal candidate would be enthusiastic, ambitious and an excellent practitioner. We would expect at least two years' hard work and good service. In exchange we will prepare you for the next step in your career.

I believe SPH is a fantastic place to work and I am always excited about the prospect of appointing colleagues to help drive the school forward. There are great opportunities here for the right candidate. I would be delighted to meet you in person or to discuss over the phone any aspects of the role, so please do get in touch.

I hope you decide that SPH is the right opportunity for you and I look forward to meeting you soon.

David Carter
Headteacher