



HEAD OF ENGLISH



*Stanchester Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs Amy Joynes

Recruitment Information Pack

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Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of **Head of English** at Stanchester Academy. This post is permanent and full time. Accompanying this letter is information about the Academy which we hope will provide you with everything you need to know to apply for the post. The Academy Website gives further details.

We are seeking to appoint a creative and inspiring leader to this post with the energy and enthusiasm to lead a developing department at an incredibly exciting time. We believe this is an outstanding opportunity to join a diverse and successful school, within a well-respected and ambitious Trust, who works hard to enthuse students and instil in them high standards.

The successful candidate will:

- have a real passion for their subject and for the development of literacy across the school
- be an outstanding classroom teacher
- be able to build relationships quickly, with humility and empathy
- show respect to others – students, parents and colleagues – in order to get the best out of them
- be positive, optimistic, caring, kind and approachable
- be willing to be immersed in the life of a busy and successful Academy
- be able to inspire and motivate others, supporting a shared vision and direction for the Academy
- use resources, intellect, creativity and innovation to be successful

At Stanchester Academy we aspire to be amongst the best, not just out of a healthy competitive spirit, but because it is our duty to foster and pursue this commitment for our learners and learning community.

We are proud to be an Academy known for a productive and welcoming atmosphere, valuing achievement but also strongly promoting personal development. School should be a preparation for later life, and learning self-respect, consideration for others, tolerance, resilience and the consequences of our own actions, all helps develop a sense of duty, citizenship and belonging.

Stanchester Academy is a rural comprehensive school set in a stunning location in South Somerset, close to Yeovil and within a mile of the A303. We benefit from exceptionally good road and rail links to major cities in the UK. Stanchester Academy is an exciting Academy with aspirations that match the high expectations we have of our students. The professional development of our staff drives learning and has helped to create the “buzz for learning” that can be found in all classrooms.

In October 2019 Ofsted judged the school as ‘good’, recognizing the vision of the school and its commitment to student’s personal development and focus on continual improvement through a well-structured curriculum that builds on prior knowledge and is owned by all. A recent externally commissioned quality assurance review found “leaders are steering the Academy confidently and strategically towards outstanding”.

The academy is frequently praised for its positive ethos where students feel valued and respected and where a healthy culture for learning exists across the school. GCSE results are also good though progress, particularly for boys, needs to improve; steering this improvement in progress will be a key responsibility for the successful candidate to this post.

We are looking for someone with high expectations, evidence of strong leadership, a love of their subject and the ability to inspire others and thrive upon the challenges of this role. You need to be a team player, who will go the extra mile to support students and want to continually develop and pick up the best ideas from around the world in Education.

You are very welcome to visit us in advance of an application or to contact us to find out more.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Amy Joynes
Headteacher

Application Process

Should you wish to arrange a visit to view the Academy or wish to discuss the vacancy further, please contact Liz Joynes on 01935 823200 or at Liz.Joynes@stanchester.co.uk

Completed applications should reach the school by **Midday, Friday 7th February 2020** and should include:

- I. fully completed TES on-line application form or a Trust application for application form (please note, CVs will not be accepted)
- II. a letter of application (no more than 2 sides of A4) outlining:
 - How your experiences and skills will enable you to fulfil this role.
 - Additional areas to which you feel you could contribute in this thriving community school

Completed applications should be returned either via the TES portal or by post, to:

HR Department
Bridgwater College & Taunton Trust
C/o Bridgwater College Academy
Parkway
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 4QY

or by email to BCTRecruitment@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Stanchester Academy has an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Academy follows the national and Somerset policies and procedures for child protection and security and the interview will include questions about safeguarding children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process pre-appointment checks if the applicant is short listed. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service. Stanchester Academy is committed to equal opportunities and positively encourages applications from all sections of the community.



Information about the school

Stanchester is currently a small rural secondary school with eight feeder primary schools situated in villages and small market towns across a nine mile radius. In July 2019 the Governing Body made the decision to apply to join Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust, which was approved by the Trust and subsequently by the Regional Schools commissioner in September. The Academy officially joined the Trust on December 1st.

The decision to join the Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust has enabled senior leaders to plan for a secure and stable future with additional capacity to support continual improvement. The Academy is growing, with numbers on roll currently standing at 680. The roll increased significantly in September 2019 when the Academy returned to a six form entry admission policy (current numbers on roll and PAN can be seen on the Academy website).

The Academy has two ambitions for its students:

- Providing the optimal intellectual experience, in which students master a breadth of academic and vocational disciplines in order that they may thrive academically, personally and professionally.
- Equipping students with the life skills that will ensure success in life as outstanding citizens in their local, national and global community.

The staff at Stanchester are absolutely committed to these ambitions and recognise the value of providing a curriculum, in and beyond the classroom that engages, motivates, inspires and challenges young people. Throughout the curriculum there is a relentless focus on student's personal growth through a character development framework that has been in place for three years – the Stanchester 6Cs. The whole curriculum in year 7 is centred around this framework with a commitment to personal development lessons where students reflect on their own growth and identify where they need to improve in order to impact on their overall approach to life and learning.

In 2015 the Edge Academy was founded. The Edge Academy is a prestigious enrichment programme for the highest achieving students. The aim, to provide the top 20% of students with experiences and opportunities which will raise their academic aspirations and ultimately close the gap between those students from the independent sector and those in the state sector successfully applying for places in Russell group universities. The first cohort to receive a full programme through the Edge Academy achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.28 in 2019.

The Academy operates a three year key stage 3 to ensure students are exposed to as broad a curriculum as possible before narrowing their choices to three subjects as well as the core in key stage 4. All students learn two languages in year 7 – French and Spanish, making a choice of which one to continue in year 8. The provision for PE was increased in key stage 3 four years ago to return it to three hours a fortnight. In 2017 we introduced a new themed year 7 curriculum to support students with transition. In the themed curriculum the humanities subjects are grouped together as 'Enquire' and the creative and performing arts under 'Create', all teachers work under a theme each term which culminates in a show case event for parents.

Academic attainment has fluctuated over the last five years, as is often the case with small cohorts (year 11 2018 of 95 students). Key areas for improvement are English, high prior attainers in maths, science and computing. A review of the curriculum offer has recently been completed, resulting in a revised offer and an increase in the number of vocational subjects offered at key stage 4. The successful candidate to this post will line manage the Assistant Headteacher responsible for curriculum, as well as line managing outcomes and teaching and learning.



Critical



Caring



Challenge



Collaboration



Commitment



Creative

Character Development at Stanchester Academy

The ethos and culture at Stanchester Academy has personal development at its core. Using the 6Cs our aim is to nurture and develop the characteristics that will help students to become well rounded people and equip them with the skills for lifelong success.

Good character has been identified as the foundation for improved attainment, better behaviour and increased employability, but most importantly, flourishing societies and as such we have committed to developing this within our students.

The 6Cs program is based on research conducted by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. All research reports can be found on the Centre's website at www.jubileecentre.ac.uk



Stanchester
Academy

Welcome to Stanchester Academy