



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
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Dear candidate,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a teacher of English at Atlantic Academy Portland!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you more about our department and team. Appointed as Director of English in April 2019, I am relatively new to Atlantic and I can say that moving to Dorset and joining Atlantic Academy is the best professional decision I have made in my career. Our team currently consists of myself, my deputy subject coordinator and two others (one of whom is a pastoral lead). We are a strong, creative and knowledgeable team who are passionate about teaching and our subject.

Below are the answers to questions that I thought you may have.

What do you teach to KS3?

We have created a new thematic curriculum for Years 7-9. Our selections at Years 7 and 8 are aligned with the core curriculum set out by Aspirations Trust. Each unit has a specific theme with a key text that is supported by a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. For example, our Year 8 students are currently completing a unit on 'Exploring Enigmas' which is a study of reading and writing creative fiction; the key text of the unit is Patrick Ness' brilliant *A Monster Calls*.

Which specification do you teach to KS4?

AQA English Language and AQA English Literature is taught to all students in Years 10 and 11. We teach the 'Power and Conflict' poetry cluster. Our lessons are delivered in thematic units that are interleaved across the two years. For example, Year 10 is currently studying a unit titled 'Possession and Control'. The unit includes the first two acts of Macbeth, poetry (such as Remains and London), and descriptive writing.

Do the students behave?

Yes! If you are a person who appreciates routines and clear structures, you will thrive at Atlantic. We enjoy rewarding students too - for each lesson that you teach, you will award a 'golden ticket' to one student which gives them three positive points (a text message is automatically sent to parents). Students who make the wrong decisions receive clear sanctions.



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Are classes set by ability?

Year 7 are taught in their tutor groups so they are in mixed ability groupings. Years 8-11 are set by ability.

What is your technology like?

Fantastic! We have Clevertouch Plus boards in each classroom. Once employed by the school, you will be issued with a laptop and mini ipad. We use Google Drive and Google Classrooms.

Do you prioritise staff wellbeing?

Yes! For example, we have a feedback policy, NOT a marking policy. We use our visualisers to deliver whole class feedback. Additionally, our units have been planned collaboratively - we use booklets so there aren't extra resources to prepare.

May I visit?

Normally, we would be pleased to welcome you! However, at this time, we are unable to have any visitors on site but please look at our virtual open day video which is linked [here](#).

If my application is successful, will I interview in person?

Yes. We feel that it is essential that you visit and see the school in action. Appropriate safety measures will be taken to ensure a safe environment.

We very much look forward to hearing from you. If you have further questions, please contact me at ddetterick@atlantic-aspirations.org or 01305 820262.

Kind regards,

Diana Detterick

Assistant Principal