BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Dare to be Remarkable

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December 2019

Dear Applicant

Thank you so much for showing interest in our school and the post of Head of Computer Science. We are extremely proud of our school, our students and our staff. We are excited to appoint a dynamic and inspirational teacher and look forward to hearing how your skills, attributes and experience can match our needs at this time.

Beaconsfield High School is a happy, high achieving and remarkable grammar school in the delightful town of Beaconsfield. The school is oversubscribed, our students achieve incredibly well at both GCSE and A Level and make good progress each year that they are with us. The vast majority of our students go on to higher education but some take a gap year and then progress to university or higher-level apprenticeships.

Computing Science has been developing rapidly at Beaconsfield High School since it's introduction in 2016. We are now looking for an inspirational Head of Computer Science to lead our growing department and our fantastic students in the next stage of the school's development in computing.

Computer Science is taught in 3 specialist rooms, well equipped with 32 work-stations, data-projector, interactive whiteboard, and a range of resources. As a school we have recently invested significantly in our IT infrastructure with new servers installed last summer and faster broadband and WI-Fi on the way. This is an exciting time for the school as we look at the use of new and evolving technologies across the school, as well as in Computing Science specifically.

Key Stage 3 students have one (60 minute) lesson a week and currently cover a mixture of computing projects including: Scratch, Python, robotics, Microbits, computer dis-assembly and computational thinking.

At Key Stage 4, Students can choose OCR Computer Science as one of their GCSE options with sets in both Year 10 and 11. Computer Science is also offered at 'AS' Level (AQA) with a plan to extend this next year to the full 'A' level.

The department is currently staffed by the Head of Department and two other specialist Computer Science teachers.

I joined this school in April 2015 and I can genuinely say that there is so much positive energy, achievement and 'buzz' at Beaconsfield High School that it is difficult to give you a full picture of what goes on here. Our staff give so generously of their own time to enable the girls to have wonderful and enriching experiences, often in their holiday time, such as language trips, history trips, ski trips, sports tours (including to South Africa!), music tours, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, to mention but a few. Sporting achievements are outstanding, with national medals being won by several of our teams, hundreds of our students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and many students take part in debating competitions, mock trials, young enterprise competitions, drama productions, music concerts…the list is endless.

We believe that students should feel cared for, we work very hard to support their well-being through a strong pastoral care framework, and a recently developed scheme called 'Getting Life Ready'. We recognise that happy and confident young women are far more successful in all that they do. There is something for everyone at our school and the ethos and atmosphere is one of acceptance and mutual respect.

In September 2014, we became an academy and last year we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with many events but the largest project was our creation of three brand new science laboratories. We have invested over £3,500,000 in refurbishing some of the older parts of the school to include a new staffroom. We have also invested £100,000 in new servers and IT infrastructure ready for the next stages in the development of an IT vision over the coming five years to support and promote the remarkable learning that already takes place.
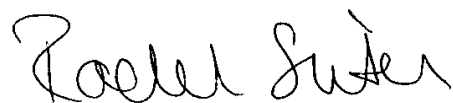
All of our academic faculties achieve very well, and the Mathematics & ICT Faculty has many strengths. Now we wish to enhance the high standards already in place.

As part of your application, please write a letter (no more than to two sides, font 11) explaining how your skills, creativity and passion for effective learning and teaching in Computing & ICT would best meet the requirements of the job description and personal specification.

The closing date is on the advert and details of whom to contact are there too.

This is a remarkable school and we will provide you with a vibrant, exciting opportunity to develop your leadership skills in a school dedicated to excellence.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Rachel Smith
Headteacher