



At Ravenscliffe we always try to put our students interests first so it feels appropriate also here to start with their thoughts on what they’d want in our new Headteacher: “really funny and fun”, “funny, respectable and kind”, “really nice but also strict”, “to chat and play with us”. There’s a warmth and a camaraderie at our School - I hope that shines through even in those 4 views.

Ravenscliffe High School and Sports College caters for students with a wide range of Special Educational Needs as the only such Secondary School in Calderdale. It’s successful, repeatedly recognised as Outstanding by Ofsted, and it’s growing with Student numbers up by about a third every 4 or 5 years.

It is an extraordinary institution. At its heart is a partnership between a top quality Staff team with genuine expertise in their fields and huge commitment and our many Stakeholders. The elected members and officers of Calderdale Local Authority; the local businesses, 34 of whom offer work placements to our students; the local community, who visit our Cafe@The Track to be served by our students and fund raise for our charity; our parents; our Students and our Governors all play a part in helping our Students to achieve their best possible outcomes. Last September Hannah Cockcroft MBE, Halifax’s own Paralympian Gold Medalist, and Lord Sebastian Coe, himself an Olympic Gold Medalist and President of the IAAF, formally opened our new 6th Form Site at Springhall in Halifax. 300 people attended, all of whom had played an important role in realising our dream of a high class facility for our Students and our Community.

In the summer of 2020 our Headteacher, Martin Moorman, will move on after nearly 25 years at Ravenscliffe and a decade in post and so we seek a new Headteacher to build on his rich legacy. We must continue to develop as a School, to invest, to innovate, to change and to further improve how we support our Students yet we must also maintain the ethos and values which so many hold dear and which have helped to shape what is so good about Ravenscliffe. It is an important and delicate balance which our new Headteacher must lead and guide us through and so we need to find an outstanding candidate.

I will not repeat the Job Description or the Person Specification here, you can find these later in this pack. I will however emphasise our commitment to inclusion and to diversity, to finding the very best candidate whatever their background and beliefs.

Thank you for showing an interest in Ravenscliffe and for taking the time to read my letter. Please do take a look at the additional information available in this pack and on our website. We also have some days available to welcome candidates to the school ahead of Interview.

My own journey with Ravenscliffe began about 10 years ago when my Work Team visited for a day. It was called ‘A Day to Make A Difference’ and I was inspired by the Staff and the Pupils I met that day. I found Ravenscliffe to be an Extraordinary place and my engagement has grown every year since.

Are you the right next Headteacher for Ravenscliffe? If you are, please do apply.

**Phil Bishop**

**Co Chair of Governors**