



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Bishopton Road West, Stockton-on-Tees

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E: enquiries@ourladyandstbede.org.uk W: www.ourladyandstbede.org.uk

Headteacher: Chris Hammill BA (Hons), QTS, NPQH

CEO: M Regan OBE, DL M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons), FCIEA, CEA

Chair of Directors: Cyndi Hughes LLB (Hons), M.Ed., M.Phil

Headteacher's Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our Head of History post which, I believe, is a great opportunity to join our school at a very exciting point in the development of our school.

Over the last year significant improvements have been made in all areas of the school, building on existing strengths and working alongside the Carmel Education Trust.

Our 2016 academic achievement places our results among the very best in the country with:

- 86% A* - C English and Maths
- 93% A* - C Maths
- 90% A* - C English
- 85% A* - C in all examinations
- Progress 8: +0.69

Our Lady and St Bede is a great place to work, first and foremost because of our fantastic students. The majority come from our four Catholic partner primaries and a sizeable minority from other schools across the town and beyond, including from overseas. The majority are Catholics but we welcome equally students from many Faith backgrounds. There is an excellent ethnic, socio-economic and academic mix in the school. The roll is around 750 and growing. For September 2016 pupil numbers within the school have increased by 50%, with a Year 7 of c190; a strong sign of our standing in the local community.

Our Lady and St Bede benefits from having excellent staff, both teaching and support. The staff are the school's greatest asset and, therefore, the task of appointing new staff is always given great importance. Governors are really committed to the school and are very supportive of staff, as are parents. We also enjoy a very strong partnership with our family of primaries, all of whom are fully supportive of Our Lady and St Bede. Links with parishes are strong as is our partnership with Diocesan and Local Authority schools.

We strive for excellence in all that we do, which of course, includes academic excellence. High standards of academic achievement are, however, just one element of our mission to provide our students with the best possible holistic education. Their all-round development is equally important. As a Catholic school, nurturing children's spiritual development is central to everything we do. Teachers and school leaders do not need to be Catholic to work here but we do need to be committed to understanding and actively promoting the schools distinctive Catholic/Christian ethos in our daily work. We have an excellent climate for learning in school. Students are extremely well behaved in and out of lessons. This is a key characteristic in the school's on-going success and popularity with parents.

One unique element of Our Lady and St Bede and central to our ethos is our ASD Base. As a school we host a specialist unit for children on the ASD spectrum in the local area. We have a very strong reputation in this field and again this is a visible sign of our ethos in action for these children.





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The appointment of high calibre staff from within and beyond the school will be a significant factor in Our Lady and St Bede's achievements and, as such, the appointment of a Head of History is extremely important to us. We are seeking an excellent practitioner, to build on Our Lady and St Bede's existing strengths and to contribute fully to an excellent school. The Job Description outlines the main responsibilities of the post.

I hope that you will be keen to apply. Should you be successful, I can assure you that you will be given unstinting support. To apply, please complete the CES application form and include a supporting letter outlining the qualifications, experience, skills and attributes which you can offer. Your letter should be 1,300 words maximum. Please note there is no need to complete section 8, the supporting statement section of the CES application form, as your covering letter will outline your suitability for the post. Could I ask all applicants to include in the qualifications section of the form, details of their degree class and division, as well as A-level grades and GCSE's, as the CES form, which we cannot alter, does not make this clear.

Your completed application, along with your disclosure form, should be returned, marked for the attention of Mrs Johanna Smurthwaite, Headteacher's P.A. by **9:00am on Wednesday 24th May 2017** to the above address, or alternatively email to smurthwaitej@ourladyandstbede.org.uk

Many thanks.

Chris Hammill
Headteacher