



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST. MARY • DEVON • EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NFQH



June 2019

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of Teacher of Design and Technology (0.8FTE) at The King's School.

The King's School was founded by Henry VIII in 1545 and therefore the school has a long and proud tradition of educating young people in Ottery St Mary and the surrounding area. The school has a strong reputation that is based on high academic performance and an inclusive ethos, ensuring that students of all backgrounds and abilities succeed. The school is an outstanding 11-19 comprehensive school (OFSTED 2011, 2014) with approximately 1100 students on roll and has been oversubscribed for many years. We have a thriving Sixth Form which continues to perform very well. In challenging financial times, we have managed to maintain a broad curriculum offer pre- and post-16 which allows students to select subjects that they are passionate about, and this breadth offers a wide range of opportunities for students and staff.

The experiences of our students reflect our 'Achievement for All' ethos. Students are taught in mixed ability classes in all subject areas (except mathematics) and we believe that this approach supports the development of academic success as well as the strong sense of community and mutual support that is present in the school. We have a highly effective Skills for Learning team who work alongside classroom teachers ensuring that those students with additional learning needs are well catered for. We provide extension opportunities for the most able students and continue to see many of our students progressing to the best universities and apprenticeships in the UK. New accountability measures which reflect progress demonstrate that students of all abilities at the school make sustained learning gains during their time with us.

The King's School has a sharp focus on personal as well as academic outcomes and, as a result, we have strong pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to all students. The house system is an integral part of school life and is reflected in our new uniform. Students and staff are very proud of their house associations and this provides a platform for a wide range of house competitions and leadership opportunities. The legacy of our sports college designation means that we also have a very strong physical education and school sports offer that caters for students from across the ability range. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have a highly successful Ten Tors programme, which is facilitated by a team of committed staff and volunteers. We continue to maintain additional opportunities including school productions, STEM activities, dance performances and an Arts and Technology evening to name but a few. Student voice is also strong at the school and the School Parliament and Prefects play a very active part in school life.

The school converted to an academy in April 2011 but we still maintain very strong relationships with our local primary and secondary schools. We continue to work alongside local teaching alliances and we have a number of staff that are actively engaged in supporting other schools in their role as Specialist Leaders in Education.

The Design and Technology (D&T) department consists of several specialist areas – food, textiles, electronics and resistant materials. All students in Key Stage 3 cover these areas in rotation. D&T is taught in fully mixed ability classes; therefore the ability to differentiate effectively is essential.

At GCSE we offer Food Preparation and Nutrition (Eduqas) and Design and Technology (AQA) leading onto A Level Product Design (AQA). With the new GCSE D&T course, students opt for a preferred area/class to work in (Textiles, Electronics or Materials). All of the classes cover the core content and specialise in their chosen discipline for their NEA and examination.

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The department has four teaching staff (2 full-time and 2 part-time) supported by three teachers from Art and IT who teach some of the Year 7 Textiles lessons. There are three technicians (1 full-time and 2 part-time) who support the teaching and learning in D&T.

Our facilities comprise of two workshops for Resistant Materials, 1 purpose-built Textiles room, 1 Graphics / Computer room, 1 purpose-built Food room and a small Sixth Form study room with computer facilities. We have experienced staff who have been D&T practitioners for many years.

Results across the department for the last three years have been in line with, or significantly above, national averages and this area is considered a strength of the school. This is reflected in our commitment to maintain a broad offer at Key Stage 3 and 4 and the opportunity to study the subject to A Level.

The D&T department is looking to replace a colleague who is creative, dynamic and able to communicate their passion for design and technology to the whole ability range. We are looking for a talented classroom practitioner and a team player who can communicate an enthusiasm and depth of subject knowledge using a student-centred approach. The ability to lead Textiles to Key Stage 4 is essential and a willingness to teach Food is desirable.

With the new GCSE specifications underway, we also require a candidate who can promote the use of textiles skills to solve real client-based design problems and work to increase the number of boys opting to work with textiles as their preferred D&T option at GCSE. It is important that candidates view Key Stage 3 and 4 Textiles as a major part of product design and see its relevance in prototyping multi-material outcomes. The candidate should also be organised, confident in assessment for learning and, above all, someone who will form positive relationships with the students they teach and be supportive of the school ethos. Very importantly, we wish to appoint someone who works well in a team, is flexible, adaptable and can work under pressure without losing their all-important sense of humour.

We have lively and enthusiastic staff, a number of whom have worked at The King's School for many years. We believe firmly that the most important part of the school is its staff, and we are keen to offer them opportunities to develop. The King's School is in a very fortunate position in that it is located in a beautiful part of the country. It has an excellent reputation in the area and consequently is always heavily oversubscribed for student places. We are very proud of our strong examination results and outstanding OfSTED judgment but are equally proud of the caring, supportive and friendly ethos that exists here whether you are student or member of staff.

We hope you find this information helpful but if you would like further information or wish to visit the school in advance of an application please contact Ms Pickering.

Finally, thank you once again for showing an interest in this post. The King's School is a very special place to study and work. As a parent of three children at the school and someone that lives in the community, I can talk from personal experience of the impact that this school has on the lives of young people. We have a very stable and supportive staff who enjoy their work and I hope that you will take the time to consider if this school is the right place for you. I wish you well in your application.

Yours sincerely

Mr R J Gammon
Headteacher

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