Haberdashers' ADAMS
a grammar school with state boarding

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Dear Applicant,

Thank you very much for taking an interest in our school and considering being a part of the team at Haberdashers' Adams.

Adams has a long history built on both traditional and forward looking values. It is very low on the social deprivation index and the majority of our pupils come from outside the area of Newport. We changed our Admissions Policy three years ago to establish an Attendance Area of 7 local primary schools, with the specific aim of encouraging more local pupils. Demand for school places is very strong, based on a number of factors, not least the focus on educating the whole person. This is evidenced by not just the combination of academic results and range of extra-curricular activities, but also by the nature of the individual and our aspiration for the Adams graduates to be morally and spiritually defined as people who understand right from wrong and who are aware of their strengths and areas for development.

Academic standards have risen continually over a 15 year period and the school competes favorably with local independent schools and regional grammar schools, and Adams is one of the best performing state boarding schools in the country for attainment. The Ofsted inspection (2013) judged the school overall to be outstanding, with boarding outcomes also being judged as outstanding.

We want our pupils to have the choice and opportunity to pursue their dreams, academic or otherwise. The outcomes of any school are its young people and as such the destinations of our leavers are the main benchmark for success. But our Adams graduates also reflect our purpose, which is to provide a distinct, first- rate holistic education, where pupils aspire beyond their initial expectations and are prepared for the next stage of their journey. Pupils will leave the school with a sense of perspective on the world, able and willing to play a key role in 21st century society. They will be balanced, thoughtful and considerate, valuing the views of others, celebrating their differences and contributing to their community.

We know that at the core of a successful school is our belief that success arises from the culture (the values) of the school and from the happiness of the pupils and the staff. Success is centered on our young pupils' lives at school, through modelling and acting out the civilised values and codes which we would like everybody to share and live by. We want our pupils and staff to experience joy and astonishment, excitement and risk, and to take memories away from school to share with their grandchildren. Of course, qualifications are important in improving our pupils' life chances - they act as the currency, the admissions ticket, to the next stage, yet school is about much more than that and academic results should grow naturally from everything else that the school is doing to educate its young people.

Our vision is therefore that we will develop confident, articulate young people, who achieve excellent academic results, are interesting, balanced, determined and resilient independent people and who are interested in others. This is delivered through two core values:

*Our pupils will achieve academic excellence through a sustained focus on improving learning and teaching.*

Our pupils attend school to learn - to learn about themselves, to learn about others, to learn to be independent, to learn to think. Learning is therefore at the centre of all we do and the classroom experience is the starting point, but not the end point, for providing a relevant, stimulating learning experience for our pupils. Through sustained investment in staff, both through recognising their talents and achievements and by investing in their own development, we will ensure that we have a succession of high quality teachers, who are able to inspire and support our pupils, in order to improve their learning.

*Our pupils will develop into well-rounded people, who take responsibility for their own lives, as well as the lives of others within the school.*

We want pupils to leave the school ready and willing to tackle the challenges of the next stage of their journey. They need to be able to communicate effectively and work in teams or independently. They should leave with a range of interests, celebrating and valuing their difference and their diversity, with excellent academic results and with moral values that make them sensitive to others. They will have a sense of self-worth which enables them to see beyond themselves and into the wider society.

I do hope that you find all the information about our school exciting and inspirational, and should you consider applying for this post I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

With very best wishes,

Gary Hickey.

Gary Hickey
Headmaster