

Dear prospective Science Leader at The Wren School!

Thank you for expressing interest in our science leader vacancy at The Wren School, which is a new six form entry secondary free school that opened to year 7 students in temporary accommodation in September 2015. Located in West Reading, the school is well situated, with easy access to the M4 and good rail links to London and nationally. In September 2018, we moved into our purpose-built accommodation, which has received universal acclaim from everyone who has visited.

We are looking to appoint an exceptional and ambitious teacher to lead the science team as they prepare to welcome our first 6<sup>th</sup> form cohort in September 2020. To start as soon as possible.

We are delighted that, in June 2018, in our first Ofsted inspection, we achieved a 'Good' rating. The report describes us as "a school that enables pupils to succeed". We are certainly demonstrating that we are 'a local school for the local community'; we are a popular choice for local families. We will have 1176 students in Years 7 – 13.

In February 2019, The Wren School formally joined Excalibur Academies Trust (EAT). EAT's vision for its schools is:

*'Empowering individuality'*

*'Achieving excellence'*

*'A family of schools'*

The benefits of being part of a multi-academy trust are now being realised, in particular through a fantastic central team who offer our school staff support and training in addition to providing many opportunities to network widely and develop professionally. Continued professional learning is important at The Wren School and we aim to provide each member of staff with personalised and appropriate training to further their own careers in ways that are appropriate to them and reflect their aspirations.

We are fully committed to the importance of staff wellbeing including continuing professional learning as is evidenced, for example by our staff feedback that we have shared on the Statement of Staff Wellbeing that is included in this recruitment pack.

The subject leader of science vacancy is an exciting prospect for an ambitious teacher or leader. As a growing school, the applicant will have the opportunity to build upon our innovative curriculum and work with a committed and positive staff team. There are already additional responsibility post holders within the department who will work with the subject leader in developing the curriculum and STEM projects throughout the school.

The well-resourced science department is housed in modern accommodation. Students currently study AQA Trilogy Combined Science and A Level Physics, Chemistry and Biology courses will begin in September.

Successful candidates for this post will be characterised by high expectations, a passion for engaging learners and an ambition for The Wren School to be the best it can be. You will bring knowledge and experience of secondary school teaching coupled with a desire to lead learning in this important subject area. The work is undeniably challenging and necessitates applicants who are both determined and resilient but it is also the most rewarding and exciting project that most teachers will ever have the opportunity to participate in. To date, the school has been blessed by the high quality and enthusiasm of all appointees, who want to ensure that each of our students benefits from an exceptional all-round education.

We expect everyone who works at The Wren School to support and embrace our school vision and ethos, which is that:

*'Each child, regardless of background, will receive a world-class education and be nurtured, challenged and inspired to aim high'.*

The Wren School develops this statement under the following five headings:

### 1. Each child an individual

Children only get one chance at education – and it should be an outstanding one, tailored to their needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive ethos where each student is enabled to thrive and achieve. The Wren School wants to be recognised for its personalisation of learning, ensuring that students feel safe and confident. This process commences before our students take up a place at The Wren School as part of a comprehensive transition programme. The role of the form leader is paramount and is supported by the structure of the school week which includes daily reflection time and regular drop down 'dynamic' days.

### 2. Innovative curriculum and teaching

We provide a broad and relevant thematic curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) that promotes the development of knowledge alongside Wren skills in order to prepare each student to become an active and engaged citizen. We want The Wren students to be challenged by our engaging and exciting curriculum and to make exceptional progress. Consequently, our students will be equipped to make career choices that enable them to realise their ambitions and achieve economic wellbeing. Year 9 is seen as a transition to GCSE year, where students commence their GCSE studies in the core subjects and sample a Key Stage 4 taster module of each of the optional subjects. Our sixth form curriculum is in the process of being planned to meet the diverse needs of our students, benefitting from our



excellent facilities and being attractive to prospective students who will join our school for their final two years of study.

We aim to employ innovative and effective teaching strategies that derive from best practice. There is a strong emphasis on enquiry-based learning that develops skills and knowledge within a real context, teaching students how to think, not what to think. This action research is embedded across the school and is designed to ensure that we attract and retain the best teachers and support staff.

### **3. Working together with parents and carers**

Listening to, and engaging with, our students' voices forms the backbone of our school development plans. We want to work with parents and carers to support our children during their teenage years so that together we ensure they fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character.

The Wren School offers wrap-around care through an extended school day that all staff are expected to contribute to, so that learning can continue beyond the classroom. There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and trips to choose from.

### **4. State of the art buildings and resources**

From the outset, The Wren Team envisaged an exceptional secondary school, with a modern, attractive environment that encourages and facilitates learning. From September 2018 we have been housed in a brand new permanent school equipped with high quality resources that enhance learning. Our new accommodation includes a Sport-England compliant sports hall with a floodlit 4G artificial pitch and multi-use games area.

### **5. A school at the heart of the community**

The Wren School aims to inspire and challenge students to nurture high expectations and aspirations for themselves and respect for the citizens of our local, national and international communities. We intend The Wren School to make a positive contribution through its involvement with the local community and society as a whole, establishing a modern, multi-cultural, community-based school, in a global context.

Our website ([www.wrenschoo.org](http://www.wrenschoo.org)) gives you further information about opportunities to be part of this amazing school at this early stage of our development.

#### **Interested in joining our team?**

If you would like to have an informal chat about the role, the school or the community, please give me a call (0118 959 1868) or send me an email ([headteacher@wrenschoo.org](mailto:headteacher@wrenschoo.org)).

If you believe that you have the passion and determination to help shape the future of this exciting new school, please complete the application form (including supporting statement). Please also return the equal opportunities monitoring form. Internal applicants should complete a letter of application but all other previous paperwork will be brought forward to this application. Completed documents should be either emailed to [recruitment@wren.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@wren.excalibur.org.uk) or sent to me at the address above.

We have an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process and pre-appointment checks. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check (DBS).

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Broadhead', written in a cursive style.

Jo Broadhead  
Headteacher