



THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL

Appointment of Design and Technology Technician

(part-time, 0.6)

Information for Candidates

May 2021



Contents

1. The King Alfred School
2. Design and Technology at KAS
3. Job Description
4. Person Specification
5. Terms of Employment

For further information about The King Alfred School please visit our website at www.kingalfred.org.uk

1. THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL



For over 100 years, The King Alfred School [KAS] has stood for a nurturing and enlightened educational experience. Founded in 1898 by a group of parents uncomfortable with late Victorian educational practices, KAS was created to encourage learning for its own sake and to provide a well-rounded education that brought out the best in each child.

KAS still stands out from the prevailing educational environment as a school that achieves academic success without unnecessary pressures, and social success through the development of relationships and responsibility rather than external discipline. It is a school that is genuinely loved by students, parents and staff alike.

KAS has often been referred to as a "progressive" school. Certainly, it subscribes to many of the concepts of the progressive movement. We emphasise child-centred education, which aims to draw out the best in the individual child. We believe in the principles of mutual respect, of relationships based on trust rather than authority and punishment, and of allowing each child to develop at his or her pace. The school places a strong emphasis on creative and active learning and on the value of play. Informality is typified by the use of first names, the absence of uniform and as few rules as can be managed within a community.

The village green setting of the main site, next to Hampstead Heath, contributes to the community feeling. The school has about 650 students, from age 4 to 18. Most children will join at Reception and continue on to the end of their school lives. Transition from Lower to Upper School is a natural one and for KAS pupils does not depend on assessments, tests or examinations. We aim to provide a happy, compassionate environment in which the emotional, physical and social developments of the child are held in equal regard to academic progress.

A high teacher/pupil ratio enables the committed and professional staff to provide a rich variety of activities. Within a curriculum leading to successful preparation for GCSE and A levels, teachers strive to provide a broader and more generous education. KAS measures the success of its philosophy by the acknowledged maturity of the students when they leave, by their successful pathways on leaving school, and by the fact that students invariably end up doing something worthwhile, interesting or unusual.

KAS is committed to professional development and training for all its staff. New ideas from teachers are encouraged and there is active staff involvement in all aspects of the school. Staff are supported to pursue master's degrees, engage in action research projects, and connect with education professionals in this country and abroad.

The King Alfred School is situated on two beautiful sites. On the main site at Manor Wood, school buildings are spread around an open field; a number of mature trees from the original Manor Wood provide play and camp-building areas for the younger children and protection for a small amphitheatre. The facilities have been expanded considerably over the years, and we are looking forward to opening our new Sixth Form centre this summer.



Curriculum Principles:

- Our curriculum is the total of all learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and all staff are expected to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the School.
- We put the child at the centre of our teaching and learning. Intelligence will show itself in many different ways and we aim to educate in a way which will challenge and support each individual.
- Our curriculum aims to help students to make meaning of the world around them. We support our students to develop an awareness of spirituality and morality; an understanding of the importance and the limitations of inherited knowledge, culture and values; a sense of social responsibility; and an understanding of and preparation for the world of higher education and work.
- Our curriculum aims to enable our students to enjoy achievement and keep competition in perspective, valuing the intrinsic worth of actions and learning.
- While being aware of the National Curriculum, we are not constrained by it and take full advantage of our independence and our own rational, progressive traditions.
- We actively encourage opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, with opportunities for students to apply their skills and knowledge from a range of curriculum areas. This will be especially high profile in our Years 6 to 8 curriculum.
- It is our expectation that in Years 10-13 KAS teachers will use GCSE and A Level specification as a starting point but will aim to teach above and beyond examination requirements. We are also now questioning the future of GCSEs, and are a leading member of the Rethinking Assessment group.
- Success in external examinations is a proven consequence of our approach but our truest measure of success is the fact that our students leave KAS as adults who are well-rounded, socially adept, emotionally resilient, inquisitive life-long learners, who are self-motivated, independent thinkers.
- Our curriculum is constantly evolving. A process of review and development informed by current educational research and thinking is embraced by our community of learners, teachers and parents.



2. Design and Technology

The Post

We are looking for a Design and Technology technician / teaching assistant for four days a week during school term time.

This is an exciting job in a very special place and thus we are primarily looking for candidates with a commitment to supporting teaching and learning through the skills and ethos of Design and Technology. This job could also give you the opportunity to teach blacksmithing, therefore any blacksmithing experience is desirable but not essential.

The Department

The Design and Technology Department is a leading department at KAS. We are committed to making a difference by delivering compelling and exciting learning experiences for young people. The purpose built D&T block was constructed thirteen years ago and was designed following sustainable design principles. The department comprises of two fully equipped workshops and two design studios, and a fully working blacksmithing forge.

The Department has three staff (one of whom is part time and who teaches the majority of the Lower School lessons (Reception to Year 5), plus technician team. In addition, the department includes a part-time Blacksmith who offers D&T activities as part of the Choice programme.

The post principally involves supporting the teaching Design and Technology across the Lower and Upper School. There has historically been a strong emphasis on design which is taught mostly through resistant materials. But in recent years this has expanded out to include textiles and jewellery with one workshop fully equipped for jewellery making. There is a growing interest in the department in sustainable and inclusive design as well as developing a full experience of craft and manufacture from primitive crafts to CAD/CAM.

Reception to Year 6 lessons are taught in small groups. Design Technology remains in the curriculum until Year 9, at which point students can opt for a GCSE in the subject. It is a popular option at GCSE and at A-level.

3. JOB DESCRIPTION

Role	Technician (0.6)
Date	September 2021
Salary	KAS Support Staff Scale Term-time (with 2 weeks in school holidays)
Line Manager	Head of Design Technology

We are aware that the combination of technician, teaching assistant and potentially blacksmith is unusual so training in either area will be possible for the successful candidate.

Job Duties

Technician – working with resources

- Organise and prepare materials, equipment, and resources, ready for lessons and learning to take place.
- Have an understanding of and experience in managing health and safety matters in accordance with school policy and statutory requirements.
- Maintain a high level of organisation within the workshops, including stock checks, placing orders and health and safety maintenance services.
- Manage the DT yearly budget, updating budget costs regularly.
- Assist students and staff in matters relating to the workshops and forge.

Technician – working in the classroom

- Show energy and commitment to operating and developing the role of DT (and potentially blacksmithing) in the school.
- Devise, prepare and run small group teaching and learning activities.
- Identify and work towards individual student needs, both in small groups and individually, providing suitable feedback as needed.
- Deliver and lead demonstrations to larger groups of students related to age context and ability.
- Work with students on curriculum and examination coursework projects.

Whilst this job description outlines the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified. Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description.

It is understood that areas of responsibility can evolve in the light of the needs of the school and the professional development of the staff. This job description may therefore be periodically amended after joint review with you.

4. PERSON SPECIFICATION

Attributes	Essential
Qualifications & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant experience of managing workshop equipment and monitoring budgets and health and safety• Experience of working with young people in a formal or informal education setting <p>Desirable – Blacksmith experience</p>
Skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong organisational skills• Good standard of written and spoken English• Ability to establish successful relationships with students, parents and colleagues
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enthusiasm and drive• Empathy and sensitivity• Resilience• Analytical and self-reflective• Welcomes feedback and accountability• Sets and maintains high standards in professional relationships with young people and colleagues
Commitment to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The KAS ethos, and child-centred progressive education• Working in a 'can-do' culture with a commitment to continuous improvement• The happiness, well-being, and progress of all at the school

5. TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

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- Colleagues are auto-enrolled in the Support Staff Pension Scheme
 - The appointment will be made subject to successful references and DBS check.
 - The post is 0.6 and is a permanent post
 - All new staff have a probationary year supported by a carefully structured induction programme.



