At Bideford College we want people who are excellent teachers and communicators; colleagues with vision and imagination and if the position calls for it, leaders with credibility and insight. In return we offer the chance to work in a fantastic BSF building and campus, completed in September 2011, with a team of committed and caring staff who have already secured a steady improvement in results. We are proud of our achievements and what we offer our students … and we have no intention of standing still!

We are a mixed comprehensive school for 1550 students aged 11-18 years and we cater for students of all abilities from a diverse range of backgrounds.  You are invited to use the website to find out about the College, the work of our department teams, what specialist status means for us, our new buildings and facilities as well as a host of other things. There is also a direct link to the OFSTED website and you can, of course, view our student data.

Bideford is a town of some 13,000 inhabitants, situated on the Torridge estuary in North Devon.  It is an attractive and historic town in a popular holiday area.  It serves as a commercial and administrative focus for the northwest corner of Devon and has an importance as a port and market town.  Bideford is 9 miles from Barnstaple, the largest town in the area, 43 miles from Exeter and 56 miles from Plymouth.  The surrounding district is unspoilt and of outstanding natural beauty.  The many attractions of the North Devon coastline, the Taw/Torridge estuary and the Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks are within easy reach and they offer opportunities for a wide range of outdoor pursuits.

The College serves the town of Bideford, the nearby larger villages of Northam, Westward Ho! and Appledore near the Taw/Torridge estuary, and a wide rural catchment area which spreads westward along the coast to Hartland Point, and east towards Barnstaple.  The College population includes a wide spectrum of ability and social background and an interesting blend of urban and rural youngsters. There are significant areas of disadvantage and deprivation within the catchment areas.

Standards at both Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 are improving. Our most recent OFSTED inspection acknowledged what has been achieved but also identified the need to ensure all students are suitably challenged.  The College - along with most other schools these days - does have its challenges, but the number, extent and frequency of the positive outcomes is increasing and the future is looking good. The College is a busy place, there is a lot going on and a lot to do and we are refining systems and procedures to make life easier for us all. A relatively small number of our students are very demanding and we are constantly trying to improve the nature and quality of what we can provide for them. We have made great strides with the Key Stage 4 curriculum and many students are gaining better examination results or improving their employment prospects through work placements and other vocational experiences as a result. This has been a key area of success for us in recent years. Last year our results exceeded the targets agreed with the Local Authority.

The Sixth Form is flourishing and students are appreciating and benefitting from the new facilities and dedicated Sixth Form Centre. Their results, too, are very much going in the right direction and university applications have remained steady against a backdrop of national decline. Two of our students have just been accepted into Cambridge University.

The staff here are committed to the students they teach and have high expectations of colleagues in roles of responsibility. We, in turn, set ourselves challenging targets and standards and, in keeping with colleagues in other schools, work long hours to support staff and students. The gains that we have made have been the result of effort and commitment from staff at all levels and a collective approach to College improvement.

We respect the critical partnership with parents, carers and the wider community in developing young people’s social, emotional, physical and intellectual qualities and we are uncompromising in our pursuit of the best for all concerned.

You will have picked up from this brief introduction that we are an improving and developing establishment. There are many indicators that we have the potential to be a very successful College.  Recruiting the right person therefore becomes a vital step towards achieving this goal.

Bideford College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.  An enhanced CRB disclosure is required for this post.

V Matthews
Principal