Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in joining the team at Thamesmead School. I thought it might be useful to give you some background into who we are and what we offer.

Thamesmead is an 11-16 school based in the vibrant community of Shepperton Village, a short walk from the rail station and with good road links. As a heavily over-subscribed school (over 700 applications for our 210 places in year 7 this year) most of our students come from our local community and we try to play our part in this. Our staff, students and PTA can be found enjoying themselves and performing at the Summer Fair and the not to be missed ‘Big Tree Night’, to name but two of the events that combine to make the village much more than the location of a famous film studio!

Our students arrive with prior attainment above the national average and leave us having made more progress than expected. Our value-added score for 2016 was 1027 and we are projecting even higher this year. If you look at our results over the last few years you’ll see we are steadily pushing higher year on year and aim to keep going with this trend! We are proud our hard work has been recognised with an award for ‘Pupil Premium Excellence’ and we have also received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, commending us for our exam results.

Obviously, providing the best for our students and our school is hard work and we are looking for inspirational and energetic staff who share our moral purpose of ensuring the best quality educational experience for the students in our care. We know it’s hard work and that’s why we invest in our staff so they also have the best possible experience and enjoy their work. We believe if people are happy they are much more likely to be successful.

Our motto is ‘where learning comes first’ and this really does tell you about our starting point for all we do. For staff this means a comprehensive programme of continuing professional development that is ‘done with’ not ‘done to’. As a School Centred Initial Teacher Training Provider we are able to support staff at all stages in their careers. We support colleagues wishing to undertake accredited development such as their Master’s Degree or professional qualifications such as the NPQSL.

We play hard as well as working hard and our Staff Wellbeing Group organises varied events from Bake-off to Paintball, along with the weekly staff ‘morphing trophy’. All members of staff become part of a school House, so there are also times when students might call on your skills, such as performing – for an idea of what Thamesmead School gets up to have a look at our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thamesmeadmusic>

I hope this has helped you to decide if you would be happy at our school. If you would like to visit or speak to someone about the post before applying please do not hesitate to contact Zoe Midwinter, our HR manager, on 01932 219 448 or by emailing hr@thamesmeadschool.com Alternatively a huge amount of information about the school can be found at [www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk)

I look forward to reading your application.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rodin

Headteacher