January 2020

Dear Candidate

**HEAD OF SCIENCE**

Thank you for requesting details of the post of Head of Science at Colchester County High School for Girls. I hope the information below will help you with your application but please contact me if you require further information.

The School is very popular with a reputation for excellent results within a caring environment, as evidenced by the following comments taken from our last Ofsted Report.

• “Colchester County High School for Girls is an outstanding school.” “It continues to strive for, and achieves excellence in all it does.”

• “Students say they relish the independence teachers give them and appreciate the high levels of encouragement.” “Students talk positively about the environment and facilities that this new building offers, particularly for music.” “Students have excellent opportunities to take on additional responsibility and make a positive contribution to the school and the community beyond.”

• “Students say they feel safe and supported both by the school and by each other.” Parents “stated how the school had ‘balanced study, social development and student happiness’ extremely well.”

• “Leadership and management at all levels of the school are outstanding.” “Governors remain highly supportive and actively involved in the strategic development of the school.”

• “The school’s contribution to community cohesion is outstanding and supports students’ personal development well.”

• “The development of students’ leadership and team working skills is excellent.”

This position offers a rare and exciting opportunity to join a committed and motivated team in a unique learning environment and to experience the immense satisfaction of working with able and enthusiastic students. The school is innovative and creative, having Leading Edge Status; many teaching staff are involved in action-led research and the school leads training and development for the local Teaching School Alliance (NEETSA) and Colchester Teacher Training Centre (CTTC). In addition there are opportunities for collaboration with colleagues across Alpha Trust.

The Science Department at Colchester County High School for Girls is both a friendly and a successful one, in which all members of staff share a genuine enthusiasm for the teaching of their subject. Our students are motivated and exciting to teach; expectations of our students are high and they require a challenging and stimulating approach.

The Science facilities at the school include 10 well equipped laboratories with 4 preparation rooms. Individual laboratories are designated for the teaching of Biology, Chemistry and Physics; 2 of the laboratories are specifically designated for A level teaching. The Department has its own office and support from a team of technicians; there is a school pond and greenhouse area.

All students from Years 7-11 are timetabled for triple Science, taught as discrete subjects. Examination groups at Key Stage 4 currently follow Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Biology, Chemistry and Physics (1BI01, 1PH0 and 1CH01). At Key Stage 5, Biologists study the OCR A Level H420, Chemists study the OCR H432 and Physicists OCR H556 specifications. Well over 70% of our students study at least one Science subject at KS5 and the majority of our students will go on to further education; a significant proportion to Medical or Veterinary School and a large number to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities. In 2019 all Science subjects achieved highly at GCSE: in Biology 98% of students gained grades 9-7, Chemistry 93% and Physics 89%, and at A Level at least 72% of students achieved A\*/A/B, and over 50% A\*/A.

The Department regularly prepares students for participation in a range of Science competitions including Biology and Chemistry Olympiads, the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, RSc Analysts Competition and Genezone Online Competition, as well as for BMAT entrance tests. In addition, the Department offers a range of extra-curricular co-curricular opportunities including clubs, for example, MedSoc, VetSoc, Engineering Soc, Gardening Club and Year 7 and 8 Science Club, and the department leads on STEM activities. In addition, the department takes an active role in preparing students for future academic study including university entrance tests.

The successful candidate will already be an exceptional leader of one or more Science disciplines and ready to take the next step in their leadership career. They will be expected to be able to teach all science subjects at KS3, at least two of Physics, Chemistry and Biology at GCSE level, and at least one Science subject at A Level. The ability to teach either Physics or Chemistry at A Level is desirable.

They will be required to undertake Form Tutor responsibilities including the teaching of PSHCE, be involved in extra-curricular activities and participate in the 11+ entrance examination day. We welcome applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers from all secondary education sectors.

Colchester County High School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced criminal record check by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

If you feel that Colchester County High School for Girls can provide the challenges and opportunities you are looking for then please complete the school application form and send, supported by a covering letter addressed to the Executive Principal. The covering letter should not be more than 2 sides of typed A4 and should set out your suitability for the post and vision for Science at Colchester County High School for Girls. Applications must be returned to the school by the closing date: Midday on Monday 27 January 2020.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Marshall (Mrs)

Executive Principal