



Think for yourself, act for others

JOLIE KIRBY, HEAD of CHENEY SCHOOL

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for showing an interest in this post at Cheney School. I hope that the accompanying information will provide a further insight into what makes our school such an invigorating and exciting place to work and learn. The success as a single Academy Trust is leading Cheney School to expand into a Multi Academy Trust and we are sponsoring Bayards Hill Primary School which is a large feeder Primary School. This creates new opportunities for staff development and staff leadership across the secondary and primary sectors.

As a high achieving specialist school we enjoy many of the benefits of being both successful and ambitious. Our students are enthusiastic leaders, particularly in sports and languages contexts. We have, for example, a well-developed Student Council and many students take an active role in our diverse extended curriculum offer. Results at GCSE and A Level are consistently good with every department achieving above the national average at GCSE and A Level. Cheney students achieve well in academic terms and benefit from a curriculum which is personalised to meet individual needs.

We are not complacent and know that we can make further progress through embracing innovative practice and concentrating on making sure every opportunity is taken to make learning exciting and challenging. We have good levels of care and support for students and our students are able to access a wide curriculum offer, with vocational qualifications offered across Key Stage 3-5. Over a hundred students progressed onto University in September 2015 with 7 out of 8 students who applied to Oxbridge being successful in securing an offer in their Oxbridge applications. Through careful guidance and the support of talented staff we are able to secure the best possible progression routes for Post 16 students.

The student body is truly diverse, with just over 50 different languages spoken and parents choose Cheney School from a demographic which is varied in terms of social class. Our students are outgoing, friendly and highly enjoyable to teach. They are very keen to help the school progress further and take their learning seriously.

We benefit from having excellent relationships with both Oxford Brookes University (which is our close geographical neighbour) and the University of Oxford. We are able to offer staff the benefits of having close partnerships with both universities alongside our partnerships with Oxford City Learning and Oxfordshire School Alliance.

We want our staff to have as many opportunities as possible to develop their levels of expertise and have an extensive in-house training program for staff. We are delighted that we have an excellent track record of staff being promoted to senior posts.

The school was recognised as making very good progress in the most recent OFSTED report where the school achieved 'Good' in every category. This report also highlighted the strength of a professional body of staff with a high level of expertise and a genuine commitment to our school values.



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The school also has well established partnerships with local Secondary and Primary Schools. We believe that, through working together, we can maximise the opportunities for students living in the City of Oxford. For example, we have many events throughout the year which include local Primary Schools; celebrating the artistic talents of students through joint art exhibitions and sporting events, to name just a few. These provide staff with additional opportunities for professional involvement with wider communities, schools and organisations.

I hope that you decide to apply for a position at Community Schools Alliance Trust. We are keen to attract, retain and develop staff with real enthusiasm to make a difference to the life chances of individual students. If you share the same goals, Cheney School could well be the right school for you to develop further your career.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jolie Kirby BA (Hons), NPQH
Head Teacher

