

# The Ferrers School

## Now Recruiting Teacher of RE and Philosophy & Ethics

**Head Teacher - Mrs Angela Smith**

The Ferrers School Address: Queensway, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8LF

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## Welcome to The Ferrers School

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I feel both proud and very privileged to be the Head Teacher at The Ferrers School and have been in role since September 2017. I am keen to appoint subject specialists who are passionate and demonstrate true excitement for their subject specialism that will challenge, inspire and motivate our learners.

It is true to say that the school has experienced fluctuating exam success in recent years culminating in an especially turbulent year in 2017. Please do not let this put you off, there is a clearly defined agenda for improvement and we are committed to increasing rates of student progress and raising levels of attainment at Key Stage 4.

Results were improved in 2017-2018, but further work is required to ensure all learners make progress that meets or exceeds national expectations. To achieve this, we are seeking staff who are not only openly positive, energetic, enthusiastic and deeply committed to supporting our rapid improvement drive, but those who are also prepared to go that extra mile to contribute to our whole school improvement.

The Ferrers School is a school in which diversity is celebrated through an inclusive culture in which every student can thrive from feeling respected and valued for the positive contributions they make.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. This post will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and reference and medical checks.

If you are interested in applying for the post, I would strongly recommend a visit. Please return the application form with a covering letter clearly stating why you want to be part of the team.

**Mrs Angela Smith, Head Teacher**



## Our Mission

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To help all our students to be the very best they can be.

We express this through our motto, “**Aspire, Achieve, Acclaim**”.

- ❖ **Aspire** – we have the highest aspirations for our students and we expect them to have high expectations in all that they do.
- ❖ **Achieve** – we want all our students to achieve their best in all that they do. We set challenging targets and constantly seek ways to raise levels of achievement for all.
- ❖ **Acclaim** – we celebrate and reward the achievement of our students. We foster a climate in which success is recognised and celebrated to support students’ aspirations and achievements.

Our vision is to send our students out into the world as confident, motivated, aspirational and high achieving young people who will make a positive contribution to the local and wider community as responsible and ambitious citizens.

Our students are our biggest asset and  
we are very proud of their many  
achievements and successes.



## The Role

The Ferrers School is seeking to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic teacher to join the Department.

This is a fantastic opportunity for an enthusiastic, inspirational and highly motivated professional to play a key part in this subject. The successful candidate would join our Humanities department and work with the team to drive up standards.

We are looking for a creative, passionate and energetic teacher who can work with us as we strive to bring about rapid improvement to secure better progress for our learners.

The successful candidate will be a highly committed team player, with a true passion for Religious Education and Philosophy & Ethics and an understanding of the strategies required to motivate and inspire students. The ability to teach History to KS3 is desirable. They will play a part in promoting the subject throughout the school.

We are looking for someone who understands the value of high quality assessment and uses this to drive planning and progress. The successful candidate will be expected to draw upon the latest resources and teaching methods in delivering RE and Philosophy & Ethics across the ability range at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Some Key Stage 5 teaching may be available depending on experience and specialism.





## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

We would welcome applications from any teacher who is keen to immerse themselves in a hardworking, supportive, forward looking department.

We welcome applications from NQTs and we run a highly supportive and successful NQT programme. We also have a strong track record of leadership development and succession planning for an ambitious candidate who is keen to progress to leadership in the future.

### The Department

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Religious Education and Philosophy & Ethics is a dynamic and growing subject area at The Ferrers. It is a popular GCSE and A Level option subject with both girls and boys. Several students have gone on to study Philosophy and Ethics or other related disciplines at University in the last few years.

We are looking for a passionate, enthusiastic and dedicated teacher to help us to further develop and improve the quality of learning and student success in the subject.

There is one full-time teacher in the Religious Education Curriculum Area, and we are proud of our open, supportive and collaborative approach with our other Humanities subjects. There are currently two GCSE and one A Level Philosophy and Ethics groups although we expect the number of A Level groups to increase in 2019-20.

We place emphasis on the quality of learning and facilitate this by providing an attractive and stimulating learning environment and by using high quality and varied teaching materials. Teaching, as we do, in mostly mixed ability groups requires the development and use of a range of differentiated resources and a wide variety of teaching and learning styles.

The person appointed will be expected to work effectively with other staff in the team to build upon the excellent work currently done. A willingness to actively and consistently contribute to the further development of the Religious Education and Philosophy and Ethics curriculum for students at all the key stages is essential.

Responsibilities will include:

- Teaching Religious Education to the full age and ability range in Key Stage 3 and Philosophy and Ethics at Key Stages 4 and 5.
- Teaching History and Geography at Key Stage 3 if required.
- Preparing students for internal and external assessment.



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- Effective record keeping based on regular classroom assessment and the setting of student homework.
- Attendance at relevant parents' evenings.
- Maintaining an attractive and stimulating Religious Education learning environment through the use of displays.
- Contributing to the ongoing improvement of Religious Education and Philosophy and Ethics units of study, teaching and learning materials.
- Attending curriculum area meetings and training events.
- Providing information for termly progress reports to parents for all students taught.
- Involvement in appropriate extra-curricular activities.
- Ensuring high standards of dress, behaviour and work from students.
- Any other duties reasonably required by the Head of Faculty, Subject Area or the Principal.

The successful candidate will also be expected to take pastoral responsibility for a tutor group. The form tutor is responsible for monitoring the progress of his/her tutees and the delivery of a 'Learning for Life' programme during tutorial time.

The following units of work are studied in Key Stage 3 Religious Education:

#### Year 7

- What is belief?
- Christianity

#### Year 8

- Islam
- Religion, Science and Creation
- Religious Attitudes to the Environment
- Hinduism
- Inspirational People

#### Year 9

- Life, Rights and Responsibilities
- Judaism
- The Holocaust
- Buddhism

#### Year 10

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B: Beliefs in Action

Area of Study 1: Religion and Ethics- Christianity - 50% of the final GCSE grade.



## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

### Content overview

- Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Religious Life
- Matters of Life and Death

### Year 11

#### Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B: Beliefs in Action

#### Area of Study 2: Religion, Peace and Conflict- Islam - 50% of the final GCSE grade

- Beliefs
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Religious Life
- Peace and Conflict
- Revision/Exam skills- preparation for the final three

### Year 12 & 13

#### OCR A Level: Religious Studies

#### Philosophy of Religion 33.3% of the final grade

1. Philosophical Language and Thought- Ancient Philosophical Influences/Soul, mind and body
2. The Existence of God – Arguments based on observation/reason
3. God and the World – Religious experience/The problem of evil
4. Theological and Philosophical Developments – The Nature or attributes of God
5. Religious Language: Negative, Analogical or Symbolic
6. Religious Language: Twentieth Century Perspectives

#### Religion and Ethics 33.3% of the final grade

1. Normative Ethical Theories: Religious Approaches- Natural Law/ Situation Ethics
2. Normative Ethical Theories – Kantian Ethics
3. Applied Ethics- Euthanasia & Business Ethics
4. Ethical Language: Meta- Ethics
5. Significant ideas - Conscience
6. Developments in Ethical Thought – Sexual ethics

#### Developments in Religious thought 33.3% of the Final grade

1. Insight – Augustine's teaching on Human Nature/Death and the Afterlife
2. Foundations – Knowledge of God's existence/The Person of Jesus Christ



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3. Living – Christian moral principles and action
4. Development – Religious Pluralism- theology & society
5. Society – Gender and society /theology
6. Challenges – Secularism/Liberation Theology and Marx

Further information on Religious Education as well as other Humanities subjects taught at the Ferrers is in the Curriculum section of The Ferrers website:

<http://www.theferrers.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=RE+and+Philosophy+and+Ethics&pid=50>





## Job Description

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### General Responsibilities

- To teach Religious Education and Philosophy & Ethics and carry out the specific responsibilities of the role as contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.
- To be a form tutor and to carry out the specific responsibilities of the role.

### Specific Responsibilities Classroom Teacher

To fulfil and maintain the Teaching Standards by:

- Understanding and being fully committed to the duties and responsibilities in relation to child protection and safeguarding young people;
- Demonstrating consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct;
- Setting high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge students;
- Demonstrating good subject and curriculum knowledge;
- Planning and teaching well - structured lessons to a range of age groups and abilities, ensuring that all students make outstanding progress;
- Managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment in which students can learn effectively;
- Making accurate and productive use of assessment to track the progress of each individual student in timetabled groups and intervene to narrow the gap where progress starts to fall behind;
- Fulfilling wider professional responsibilities by contributing to department and whole school improvement;
- Communicating and consulting effectively with relevant stakeholders;
- Attending meetings as set out in the school's meeting cycle.

### Form Tutor

- To lead a tutor group and be responsible for the delivery of tutor time activities in accordance with the published schedule and as directed by the Progress Leader;
- To encourage tutees to comply with the school's values statement;
- To encourage the student voice and develop a form and year group ethos that is in harmony with the school values;
- To monitor student progress, following the school's tracking processes, mentoring tutees and intervening when progress is not as expected;
- To encourage high levels of attendance;
- To provide relevant information, advice and guidance to tutees.

### Other

- To undertake any other reasonable duties as directed by the Head Teacher.



## Person Specification

Qualifications	Essential	Method of Assessment
Qualified Teacher Status (gained or pending) / Degree relevant to the subject	x	Application form
High standard of literacy	x	Application form
<b>Commitment to Safeguarding</b>		
Motivation to work with children and young people	x	Application form / reference / interview
Commitment to, and belief in, the equal value of all students	x	Application form / reference / interview
Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people	x	Application form / reference / interview
Ability to raise the self-esteem and expectations of children and young people	x	reference / interview
Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours and attitudes to the use of authority and maintaining discipline	x	Application form / reference / interview
<b>Teaching and Learning</b>		
Proven track record of outstanding RE and Philosophy & Ethics teaching	x	Application form / interview
Knowledge and understanding of the National Curriculum requirements in RE and Philosophy & Ethics teaching	x	Application form / interview
Awareness of current developments in RE and Philosophy & Ethics teaching	x	Application form / interview
Experience of teaching Religious Education at Key Stage 3 and 4	x	Application form
Experience of teaching Religious Education at Key Stage 5 desirable		Application form
Evidence of securing excellent progress and attainment for all groups of learners.	x	Application form / interview
Proven track record of raising student attainment	x	Application form / interview
Proven track record of strong and effective behaviour management strategies	x	Application form / interview
Excellent ICT skills	x	interview
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>		
Ability to communicate effectively and relate well to all stakeholders	x	Application form / interview
Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities	x	Application form / interview
Ability to work as part of a team	x	Application form / interview
<b>Personal Qualities / Skills</b>		
Creativity, energy and enthusiasm	x	interview
Evidence of working effectively under pressure	x	interview
Good sense of humour	x	Application form / interview



## A Great Place to Work

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We care passionately about our staff, their well-being and their professional development and this is reflected in the fact that we are an enthusiastic team, committed to working collaboratively and sharing the very best practice.

We can offer:

- a strong team environment that takes staff well-being seriously
- a dedicated Senior Leadership Team who want to see their staff progress and flourish in their career
- an active teaching and learning research and development group
- very supportive parents and a high standing in the community
- close and successful working relationships with our partner schools in our shared sixth form



## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS



### About Us

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The Ferrers School is an 11-18 co-educational comprehensive which opened in 1980. Our Applied Learning Centre was opened in 2010 for the teaching of Creative and Media subjects. A new all-weather 3G sports surface was completed in 2015. In September 2017 there were just over 1,000 students on the roll including over 150 in the Sixth Form.

At Post-16 level we work in partnership with neighbouring secondary schools - Huxlow and Rushden - within the context of the East Northamptonshire Sixth Form Consortium (TENC). In a competitive local context, The Ferrers is regularly over-subscribed. Our standard admission number is 180 in each year group.





## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS



Higham Ferrers, is a small town of 5,500, and lies on the edge of the Nene Valley close to the Cambridge-Northamptonshire border. Higham Ferrers itself has a long and interesting history. It was one of the first towns in England to receive a Charter and still retains its own Mayor. It has a beautiful main street of stone built houses and a large parish church which has the Bede House and a tiny 15th century grammar school building in its close. Also in Higham Ferrers are to be found the ruins of a college founded in the 15th century and the site of a castle.

Higham Ferrers and its neighbouring town of Rushden are served by two comprehensive schools which share the common “catchment area” of the two towns. The two comprehensive schools draw students from six primary schools in Higham Ferrers and Rushden, with almost all students in Higham Ferrers Junior School and Henry Chichele transferring to The Ferrers, in addition to large numbers from the Rushden primary schools. A number of students also attend The Ferrers from villages outside of the immediate area.

The area has good transport links to other local towns, for example, Bedford and Leicester from nearby Wellingborough and also fast train services to London St Pancras Intl. The average journey time between London St Pancras Intl and Wellingborough is 47 minutes. On an average weekday, there are 48 trains per day travelling from London St Pancras Intl to Wellingborough. It is ideally located close to major trunk routes enabling easy access into and out of the county. There are excellent leisure and shopping facilities in the form of the recently opened ‘Rushden Lakes’, where everyday essentials meet fashion favourites, and all of this is combined with the great outdoors and lots of great places to eat, drink and relax.



## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS



### The Application

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Applicants should download the application form and send the completed form along with a covering letter of application to Alison Davies, PA to the Head Teacher at [mail@theferrers.org](mailto:mail@theferrers.org) or to The Ferrers School, Queensway, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8LF.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact us prior to applying and arrange a visit to find out more about our school.

Please contact Alison Davies to make an appointment.

Closing date for applications is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 9.00am

Interviews will be held week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

We reserve the right to close the advert early if a suitable candidate is found. Early applications are encouraged.

## Aspire, Achieve, Acclaim



## Safeguarding

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Please note that we do not accept CVs – any received will not be taken into consideration during the shortlisting process. The Ferrers School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. In order to meet this responsibility, the school follows a rigorous selection process to discourage unsuitable applicants. This process is outlined below.

### **Disclosure:**

All applicants for employment are required to disclose any previous 'unspent' criminal convictions and any cautions which have not expired, or any pending prosecutions. In addition, the job you are applying for is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (exceptions order 1975) which requires you to disclose all spent convictions and cautions. Except those which are 'protected' under Police Act 1997 – Part V and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) and are not subject to disclosure to employers on DBS certificates and cannot be taken into account. Guidance on the filtering of "protected" cautions and convictions which do not need to be disclosed by a job applicant can be found on the Disclosure and Barring Service website. The information you give will be treated as strictly confidential. Disclosure of a conviction, caution, warning or reprimand will not automatically disqualify you from consideration. Any offence will only be taken into consideration if it is one which would make you unsuitable for the type of work you are applying for. However, offences relating to children are likely to make you unsuitable since this is a "regulated position" under the Criminal Justice & Courts Services Act 2000. The school's policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is available on the school website. If you fail to disclose any relevant offences or give false information then it will disqualify any offer of employment, or result in summary dismissal if you are in post, with possible referral to the police. Confirmation of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Certificate.

### **Shortlisting:**



## THE FERRERS SCHOOL TEACHER OF RE AND PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Only those candidates meeting the person specification criteria will be taken forward to interview.  
NB: CVs are not accepted.

### **Interview:**

Those shortlisted will take part in an in-depth interview process – candidates for teaching posts will be required to teach a lesson as part of the interview process.

Candidates will be asked to address any discrepancies, anomalies or gaps in their application form. We reserve the right not to take a candidate forward to formal interview if they are deemed unsuitable for the post.

### **Reference checking:**

References from the previous and current employer will be taken up for shortlisted candidates, and where necessary, employers may be contacted to gather further information.

### **Probation:**

All non-teaching staff will be subject to a probation period of six months. The probation period is a trial period to enable the assessment of an employee's suitability for the job for which they have been employed. It provides the School with the opportunity to monitor and review the performance of new staff in relation to various areas, but also in terms of their commitment to safeguarding and relationships with students. The information collected on the application form will be used in compliance with Data Protection regulations. By supplying information, you are giving your consent, if appointed, to the information being processed for all employment purposes as defined by statute. The information may be disclosed, as appropriate, to the governors, to Occupational Health, to the Teachers Pensions Agency, to the Department for Education, to pension, payroll and personnel providers and relevant statutory bodies. This form will be kept strictly confidential but may be photocopied and may be transmitted electronically for use by those entitled to see the information as part of the recruitment process.

When the recruitment process is completed, the application form will be stored securely for a maximum of six months then securely destroyed, unless you are employed as a result of this recruitment process, in which case this application form will be retained as part of your personnel record.