



Head of English

January or April 2018

We are looking for an outstanding Head of English to work in our thriving school teaching across Years 3-8. This job would be suitable for either an experienced English Teacher with a secondary teaching qualification in English or a current Head of Department who is seeking to further their teaching career.

A Dolphin education is quite unique and introduces subject specialist teaching right from the Early Years onward. Playing a full part in the life of this busy school is also a pre-requisite and this would include participating in our exciting residential field and walking trips programme around which so much of our curriculum is based. Learning at Dolphin is distinctly thematic and our intention is to break down the barriers between traditional subject disciplines and teach children how to cross-relate ideas between subjects to make learning more real and relevant.

Whilst being aware of the content of the National Curriculum, staff are given significant freedom to explore and teach things that will inspire the children. Dolphin children therefore follow an enriched curriculum which includes a large number of cross-curricular day trips as well as the opportunity to participate in a wide range of whole school events.

Dolphin has an excellent academic record and the girls and boys sit 13+ Common Entrance and Public School Scholarship examinations each year to a wide range of schools, including Wellington College, The Abbey, Reading Blue Coat, Sir William Borlase Grammar School, Abingdon, Queen Anne's and Leighton Park.

THE SCHOOL

Dolphin School has around 230 children from 3 – 13, drawn from within a 25-mile radius. We believe in a broad, enriched curriculum and our programme is an exceptionally busy one, both for staff and children. There is a very large number of day trips and residential trips and all children (from seven) and all staff participate in two trips each year. Although we neither cram for examinations nor narrow our curriculum for scholarship candidates in their final two years, we have had much scholarship success.

The Common Room is an extremely friendly and supportive group who often socialise together. In our successful inspection report this feature was noted in glowing terms, as was the overall corporate sense and the friendliness, happiness, politeness and attitude of the children.

Members of staff need to be energetic, flexible, committed and be able to work well as a team. We are rewarded by teaching bright children in small classes and being able to pursue interesting and exciting courses of study in depth. We have high expectations of our staff, most of whom have a large input in devising the curriculum and in the day to day management of the school. The senior posts in the school have usually been filled internally and there is scope for assuming responsibility by all members of staff. We were the first IAPS school in the area to be awarded the Investors in People standard in recognition of our staff development programme.

We have a programme of walking trips for children from eight upwards. Field trips and walking trips are included in the fees. All children must participate in field trips and about 100% choose to join the optional walking trips too. Most staff members join one of the annual walking trips, and a number are trained mountain leaders. We also train staff for PCV licences, so that they may drive the school minibuses.

All members of staff take clubs. These clubs enrich the curriculum and are based on staff members' interests. Many staff act as form teachers and most staff also act as mentors to about five children who are not in their form.

Teaching staff are paid on The Dolphin Scale, which is above the National Scale, and participate in the teachers pension scheme (TPS).