



The  
Westgate School

#equippedforlife



# CANDIDATE BRIEF

Leader of History  
School information 2023

[www.westgate.slough.sch.uk](http://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk)



# #equippedforlife



The outstanding curriculum is supported by a wide range of exciting and varied additional activities which promote the excellent social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the students.

*Ofsted 2018*

## DEAR CANDIDATE

Thank you for taking the time to look at the opportunities available at The Westgate School. I hope you will find the information and opportunities within this site both useful and exciting.

The Westgate School is an outstanding (Ofsted 2014) and vibrant educational community serving the area of Cippenham to the west of Slough. Our success as a school arises from whole staff commitment to core values and principles which underpin our work. Those aspiring to work at The Westgate School will necessarily believe that, given the right opportunity, every child can succeed. Crucial to creating the ethos from which we at the school benefit is the understanding by professionals that children have a right to be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect.

"Students ... show high levels of respect and courtesy to each other and to adults." and "Relationships between teachers and students are outstanding" (Ofsted 2014).

The positive atmosphere which characterizes the school creates a good climate in which to learn and to work. Unusually favourable attitudes to learning arise from the sense of success which pervades all that we do; high quality teaching; superb accommodation and excellent resources. We are renowned for our partnership working within the community and with international businesses which gives additional substance to the ways in which we teach and learn.

"The outstanding curriculum is supported by a wide range of exciting and varied additional activities." and "Highly effective partnerships ... provide exceptional opportunities for students." (Ofsted 2014)

Working in close partnership with families, teachers and support staff provide high quality comprehensive education for young people, aged 11-19, from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Levels of attainment at the school exceed most similar schools and are significantly above the average for all schools nationally. Achievement data shows that all groups of learners enjoy this success with none being disadvantaged. The success of the school is grounded in concern for, and respect for, the individual. The Westgate is considered a totally inclusive school demonstrating excellence in Care Guidance and Support and Personal Development and Well Being as well as exhibiting a very high degree of racial harmony.

"The school's commitment to equality of opportunity is shown by the high expectations of staff and the inclusive ethos." (Ofsted 2014)

Further success for our community depends entirely upon the quality of staff I am able to recruit now and in the future. I believe we can offer excellent career opportunities to all who share our aspirations and, if this is the case with you, I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully

**Michelle Cooper - Headteacher**





Our vision is to give students an understanding of how past, present and future interact allowing them to become globally, culturally and self-aware Citizens. In the Westgate School Humanities department, we are pupil centric and provide a supportive learning environment in which students are made to feel comfortable as they discover and question the world in which they live.

The Westgate School Humanities department is committed in ensuring that all pupils make excellent progress in History, Geography and RE, through experiencing excellent teaching which informs and enlightens them.

**Mr Hart**

**Curriculum Leader of Humanities**

# Ethos & Values

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As a school our priorities are driven by the needs of our learners. These are identified through the processes of self-evaluation and student-voice which are an embedded feature of our work.

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## Educational Aims

As a place of learning The Westgate School seeks to fulfil aims negotiated with staff, parents and students which require us to:

- Challenge all individuals, regardless of ability, in order that they achieve personal success;
- Motivate all students to enquire and gain knowledge, skills and understanding of enterprise which will secure their future well-being;
- Work together to promote self-confidence and personal development within a safe and secure environment;
- Work with our community to encourage family learning and support the work of our students;
- Create a positive and healthy attitude towards oneself and others in all that we do.



## Educational Values

In addressing these aims the School's Leadership Team will be mindful of the values which have made the school the successful place of learning that it is. Without a clear sense of moral purpose the school would cease to function as a worthwhile institution. In 2014 staff and governors expressed our core values through the following statements. We believe that:

- By treating students with dignity we develop better relationships and thus enable better learning;
- By offering a nurturing environment we help to ensure that every individual can make progress;
- Every student can succeed if we provide the right opportunities through which they can achieve a sense of positive self-worth;
- Children and young people should enjoy their education and we accept that a happy child is more likely to be a productive child;
- We have a moral obligation to stand by and promote what society sees as acceptable behaviour and worthwhile activity.

The Ofsted report of March 2014 endorsed what we do by commenting "The head teacher and senior leaders consistently reinforce the school's very high expectations."



*"Your safeguarding  
approach is  
impressive, effective  
and supports  
students well-being"*

Ofsted 2018



# HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

The Humanities department is one of the largest in the school comprising of History, Geography and Religious Studies. There are currently 9 teaching staff and we are supported by a dedicated admin assistant.

We have seen improvements consistently over the last few years in all three subject and consistently strive to improve the curriculum and our teaching and learning.

## Religious Studies

Religious Studies is compulsory for all students.

We study for the AQA Religious Studies GCSE which is completed in Year 11.

Students then have the option to continue their studies by taking the Eduquas Religious Studies A-Level.

## History

Uptake at GCSE is large with three classes being taught in most years.

We teach OCR History A-Level and currently focus on The Tudor Rebellions, Britain 1930-1997 and the French Revolution.

## Geography

We study AQA Geography GCSE and each year visit a beach on the south coast and Bristol City Centre.

An A-Level in Geography is to be instigated soon.



# What does The Westgate School and Slough offer you?

## Why work at The Westgate School?

- Full support of all the team
- Support for NQT's with our in-house ITT/NQT consultant
- All departments have dedicated admin support or departmental technician lessening the administration burden on teachers
- Excellent modern facilities
- Excellent support for CPD/training
- Whole staff wellbeing programme
- Non-teaching Pastoral Team support
- First Class ICT facilities
- Health Care Cash Plan included in your contract – you can claim for a wide range of treatments and prescriptions
- On-site gym available
- Complimentary toast, tea and coffee
- Complimentary refreshments provided for Twilight sessions and evening events
- Complimentary influenza vaccinations
- Convenient location
- Free secure parking on site

## Why Slough?

### **Slough named as the 'best place' to work and live - BBC News (22/9/17)**

- Easy access to M4/M25/M40
- Multi-million-pound investment in the area
- Crossrail links to open
- 20 minutes to Heathrow
- Vibrant diverse community
- Close to Windsor and Eton
- Excellent leisure provision
- Country Parks
- Home to one of the largest trading estates in Europe
- Central London easily accessible (25 minutes to Paddington)



# Interview Process

## Shortlisting

Only those candidates meeting the right criteria will be taken forward from application.

## Interview

Those shortlisted will take part in activities designed to gain an impression of your skills and experience that will include teaching a lesson and an interview.

Candidates will be asked to address any discrepancies, anomalies or gaps in their application form.

## 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.

Interviews will take place as soon as possible after the closing date that is identified in our advertisement although we reserve the right to interview suitably qualified candidates on receipt of application. Please do not hesitate to contact our school office on [SV@westgate.slough.sch.uk](mailto:SV@westgate.slough.sch.uk) if you wish to have an informal discussion with me prior to interview.

*\* All staff are expected to be aware and follow the advice and guidance according to*

*'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022'*

*You will be subject to satisfactory enhanced DBS clearance for all positions*

# The Westgate School

The Westgate School is an “outstanding” school with over 1200 students on roll. It is a growing school in Slough. Westgate has a growing intake in Year 7 and a rapidly expanding 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

Year of study	2018	2019	2022
Progress 8	+0.29	+0.25	+0.24

Our Year 11 students attained strong examination results, keeping outcomes in line with the last time formal examinations were taken in 2019. Our progress (P8: +0.24 and A8: 48.7) places us above national average across schools in England. Notably, out of 172 students sitting the GCSE examinations, 75% of students attained a standard pass (grade 4+) in both English and Maths, and 54% of students attained a strong pass (grade 5+) in both English and Maths.

As a school we pride ourselves on nurturing and challenging every child to achieve their personal best. This is why progress really matters to us.

## The school also includes...

- A specialist hub for up to 15 Physically disabled students
- Fantastic careers education with the school having developed strong links with many multi-national companies based on the nearby Trading Estate.
- Large playing fields, a well-equipped gym, dance studio, sports hall and Table Tennis Centre
- Strong community links and a specialist Key Stage 3 Curriculum named ‘Westgate 6’ which helps students to develop key personal skills

## Westgate students raise thousands for charity

Year 8 students at The Westgate School, Slough have **raised over £2000 during lockdown** in their phenomenal effort to support **Cancer Research UK**. They ended the project in the **top 5% of all fundraisers for February, on Just Giving**

At Key Stage 3, students study a bespoke curriculum called **‘The Westgate 6’** that comprises of six essential skills to equip students for the wider world. During these lessons in the Spring Half Term, students were asked to be proactive and think creatively to help support their community through these challenging and unprecedented times.

At the beginning of Lockdown 3.0, Year 8 researched different charities and creative fundraising ideas to help understand the importance of charity fundraising. After sharing their ideas, they voted to fundraise for one charity collectively, Cancer Research UK.





*"Students behave extremely well and exhibit very positive attitudes to learning and are highly focused on achieving as well as they can, so they can be successful in their future careers and lives"*

Ofsted 2018



## **The Westgate School**

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