Dear applicant,

I’d like to welcome you to Falinge Park and for your interest in this post. The post, Teacher of Dance (with PE), arises due to the professional development of our Dance teacher who is a Lead Practitioner in the school and applying for SLE designation.

Dance is taught throughout the school at Key Stage 3 for 1 hour a fortnight in mixed gender classes. As an Arts practitioner myself, we are fully committed to the Arts at Falinge Park High School and it is invested in in terms of resources, time and support from all Senior Leaders. Dance is taught as a discreet subject alongside Drama, Music and Art. There is a GCSE class in each year at Key Stage 4. We promote Dance through engaging with professional companies and practitioners and an annual Dance show. We also work closely annually with our local primary schools on an Arts project where Dance is taught to pupils from Year 2-Year 6.

We would be expecting our successful applicant to teach a small proportion of PE which is taught in mixed and single gender classes at Key Stage 3 and single gender at Key Stage 4.

Our curriculum is strong but there are opportunities for the successful applicant to build on the Dance curriculum so that it brings the skills and expertise of the teacher into the heart of the lessons. Our curriculum focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and the application of subject specific skills as well as encouraging habits of learning which encourage pupils to develop as: learners, team players, communicators, role models, thinkers, researchers, experts and leaders. If you are a NQT we will ensure that you complete your induction year successfully and professionally develop you to take on your next role whether that be here at Falinge or elsewhere; if you are an experienced member of staff we hope to build on your skills and provide you with opportunities to develop further through our professional development programme. What is key is that during your time with us, you will have the opportunity to develop your practice in a supportive, caring environment and learn alongside excellent practitioners within the school.

**Our school**

Falinge Park is a large multi-cultural school in the centre of Rochdale. Facilities are excellent and we are fully staffed with specialists in each area. We have our own Dance studio with a sprung floor and their own changing rooms.The school is oversubscribed and behaviour is very good both in the classroom and around the school at unstructured times. We are a community school which serves the community and are proud to create a positive environment for our pupils and the future of Rochdale. Inclusivity, equality of opportunity and creativity permeates throughout our school in an open, honest and transparent culture. It is an exciting place, whether you are at the start of your career or an experienced teacher.

We are an outward looking school and work with a variety of partners who enrich the experience of the pupils and the members of staff. We are currently in the process of building further collaboration within our locality which will benefit our staff. We have strong relationships with the two teaching schools in our borough and are a strategic partner with the Alliance for Teaching at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.

We work closely with Assessment Academy, SSAT and Teacher Development Trust and have a unique approach to professional development and performance development which is based in successful research. In our last audit by the Teacher Development Trust, they noted that “Collaborative planning and enquiry is a key aspect of professional development and learning at FPHS” and “There is a strong culture of disciplined risk taking and innovation at FPHS. Interviews were consistently positive regarding the level of trust that exists within the school and how this has impacted on staff development. Staff were consistent in their views that they “don’t have to be perfect all the time ….Significantly, a majority of teaching staff are also evaluating the risks and practice they have taken.”

We had a short Ofsted inspection in February 2018 which stated that the school continues to be good. As the Headteacher, I don’t chase the outstanding grade, and instead have been very clear that we should aim to be consistently good and to focus on Key Stage 3 as well as Key Stage 4. We were pleased that the Ofsted report recognised this and stated:

“The response to Ofsted’s questionnaire from staff was overwhelmingly positive. Staff are proud to work at the school and are confident in your leadership. This culture, where staff feel valued and their work and life balance is considered important, is appreciated by those who work at the school. The promotion of this culture has proven to be successful, as the outcomes for most pupils are strong.”

“You and your leaders have been cautious in not adopting quick-fix solutions and have preferred to take a more considered approach to school improvement. In the circumstances of Falinge Park High School, this approach has been appropriate.”

**Why Falinge?**

Our objective is simple at Falinge: **to create a compelling learning experience.** We do this by believing in people and positive relationships. This underpins our actions with each other and with the children. We have only one non-negotiable in school and that is our commitment to Safeguarding.

If you visit the school I would hope you would notice the warm, welcoming environment; the excellent behaviour of the children; strong staff morale; a commitment to professional development of all staff; and a strong sense that this is a place where learning is valued. We do this through peer to peer collaboration, learning hubs, accredited courses, lesson study and developing a culture where we can take risks and learn from mistakes. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to join our school and the right time for someone who is interested in developing in a supportive environment.

As with any organisation, we don’t get it right all of the time – but we make sure that we work in a non-judgemental environment and we focus our actions have to be for the benefit of the children.

**Next steps?**

If you are interested in applying, please look at the person specification, our website and familiarise yourself with what we are about. If you would like to visit the school please contact my PA Lisa Fitton on [fittonl@falingepark.com](mailto:fittonl@falingepark.com) to arrange a visit and we will make sure we accommodate you. I appreciate this is a quick turnaround therefore when writing your application, I am interested in understanding why you want to work at our school, your educational vision for Dance as well as gathering the information about your skills and knowledge that make you suitable for this role.

Yours faithfully,



**Janice Allen**

**Headteacher**