

January 2018

Dear Colleague,

## **Head of Sixth Form / Assistant Headteacher**

Thank you for your interest in this post which has become available because the current Head of Sixth has secured a promotion to Deputy Head at another school. It is a wonderful opportunity for an outstanding person to lead an already excellent sixth form to even higher levels of achievement and performance.

The sixth form has only been in existence since 1998 but has for some time been of an excellent standard. The Ofsted inspection of 2000 said "*Teaching is very well planned and appropriately academic but also stimulating*", followed by the one in 2005 "*The sixth form is outstanding*" and again in 2009 "*In this outstanding sixth form, students flourish both academically and personally*" and yet again in 2014 "*The quality of teaching, leadership and what the sixth form provides is exceptional*".

We do not see the success achieved so far as any sort of limitation upon how we might improve further in the future. Rather, we see it as an ideal platform for development and hope that the new person appointed will take us to new heights!

We are proud of our sixth form and we want it to continue to be regarded as one of the best providers in the country. Having started from scratch in 1998 we have strived from the outset to create the perfect sixth form, with exactly the right curriculum, teaching and facilities. During these last twenty years we believe we have got the big decisions right in terms of our curriculum offer, the range of A levels we provide, and the size of the sixth form. It is crucial that the person appointed has a good grasp of the issues facing post 16 education particularly as regards the curriculum going forward

Academically we have a strong profile. Last year 69% of all grades were awarded at A\* to B and we achieved an ALPS 2 which placed the sixth form in the top 10% of all providers nationally in terms of value added. This year we have four Oxbridge offers, several for medicine and veterinary and a high proportion with Russell Group offers. We want this to continue and we also want to see the great range of extra-curricular and fun activities continuing to thrive, and perhaps expand further, with sixth formers making a strong contribution to the life of the school overall.

There are a great many factors contributing to the success of our sixth form provision but the most important of all is the quality of the teaching. We want the person appointed to be a credible leader of making the teaching better still by setting a good example, instilling high expectations and giving colleagues all the support they need to teach successfully.

The head of sixth form role is unique in its combination of curricular and pastoral leadership. Our pastoral provision is excellent, with a team of 18 tutors led by a leadership group of Head of 6<sup>th</sup> and two heads of year. As well as encouraging inspiring teaching we need a person who can ensure the best possible care and guidance for nearly 400 young people. This is particularly true in a school like ours where such a high proportion of our fully-comprehensive intake gain places in the sixth form.

This is a flavour of the challenges in the role. Balcarras is a great place to work and I can promise that you will be fully supported in this role. There is much more to see on our website and if you would like any further information/clarification then please phone me or any other member of our senior team.

I hope you will decide to apply. In your application, please set out how your abilities and your experience so far will enable you to ensure the best possible sixth form experience, both academically and pastorally, for all of our students. The person appointed will take up post in September 2018. The closing date is **Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon** and the interviews will then take place on Tuesday and Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

I look forward very much to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Headteacher