

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the position of **Teacher of English** at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College. The purpose of this letter is to give you some general information about the school and some specifics about the post.

The Post

As an excellent, qualified English teacher you will deliver English in a range of contexts, classes and years including examination groups. You will work closely with the faculty team and other teaching professionals in ensuring that all students have every opportunity to be the best that they can be and to achieve at their highest level. Your work will involve designing, planning and delivering bespoke, engaging and appropriately challenging programmes of learning as well as monitoring and tracking progress and attainment using ongoing assessment information.

The English Faculty

At present The English Faculty comprises 12 teachers who work in a purpose-built suite of rooms with easy access to The School Library/Learning Resource Centre. We also have a Core Intervention Specialist working full- time in English.

The Faculty are always at the forefront of new initiatives, leading on successful whole school programmes such as lesson study and our current drive for promoting literacy across the curriculum and reading for pleasure. Learners in year 7 and 8 are given timetabled reading time in English lessons in addition to the time dedicated to this across the whole school. The Faculty have devised a whole school reading challenge and, for the first time this year, 85 of our most vulnerable learners are registered on The Accelerated Reader Programme. From September 2017, all year 7 learners take part in The Accelerated Reader Programme (in addition to 85 students from across the rest of KS3 and 4).

Our excellent results and outstanding reputation are a result of well-motivated, able students and a talented, very hard-working group of staff. Our ethos is simple and demanding: we believe we must stretch all students of all abilities. Therefore, we do not set work to reflect students' abilities but to develop them. Three OFSTED inspections (and a recent one by the school's Leadership Team) have confirmed our excellent teaching.

In all years, students are taught in mixed ability groupings with one small alternative literacy class in some years where necessary. At KS4, a small group of students sit the entry level qualification in addition to their GCSE in English language/ literature. Candidates, therefore, should be enthusiastic about challenging all students; preferably they should have considered some of the ways in which they can develop individual potential.

Our scheme of work at KS3 is based on the skills and knowledge demanded by the National Curriculum whilst allowing individual staff a degree of freedom and flexibility in meeting those demands. At KS4, we follow the Eduqas specification. At KS5, The Faculty presently offers English literature (Eduqas), English language (AQA Spec B), English language and literature combined (AQA) and media studies (WJEC/Eduqas).

The School

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College is a dynamic, innovative and ambitious Teaching School, National Support School and Academy with a national reputation for excellence. We work closely with the National College for Teaching and Leadership in modelling, promoting and

disseminating best and next practice.

During 2011 Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College became both an Academy and a Teaching School. The future challenges and prospects afforded to all, especially by our Teaching School Status and position in a far-reaching alliance is central to our strategic vision.

The dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk for HCCS shows that attainment and progress remain outstanding and it is our mission to make it world class.

As an outstanding school we are not subject to routine inspections. However at each HMI “interim assessment” our academic performance, student progress and attendance have been judged as ‘*Outstanding*’.

We, like most successful schools, maintain that success by regularly revisiting our values, vision and guiding principles in order to ensure that they remain apposite and relevant in a world that is changing so rapidly.

The ‘rainbow diagram’ below provides an immediate visual representation of “the basics” that contribute so much to the HCCS family and guide us as we strive for ever higher standards of progress and achievement.



We have expressed our core values as a set of key principles which we use as our touchstones in designing our curriculum and in assessing its success and relevance to the needs of our learners.

Key Principles

The Curriculum at HCCS

1. Is about the development of the whole individual.
2. Ensures equality of opportunity in learning.
3. Provides personalised pathways and ways of learning.
4. Inspires drive, passion and commitment.
5. Promotes high standards, success and achievement.
6. Embodies responsibilities, entitlements, Safety & Wellbeing.
7. Develops respect, tolerance and courtesy.

8. Reflects the learners place in their communities.

The school serves a socially mixed, although generally prosperous rural community centered on the village of Holmes Chapel in Cheshire. Currently numbers on roll are 1253, including 207 in the Sixth Form. We have around 82 teaching staff, including myself as Executive Head teacher.

We occupy an attractive site overlooking open countryside but close to modern, private housing estates and with easy access to the M6 at Junction 18. We have just completed building our new Sixth Form and Arts block with purpose built Theatre and our new 3G. AstroTurf pitch.

There are four super faculties within our school including:
iSTEM comprised of ICT, Science, Design & Technology and Mathematics.
Linguistics comprised of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
Performance Studies comprised of Arts and Physical Education.
Human Studies comprised of Humanities and Social Sciences

Teaching groups change as students' progress through the school. In Humanities, all students are taught in mixed-ability groupings.

Year 7

Teaching groups are mixed-ability except in maths, where students are set on entry, and Modern Foreign Languages, which are set in February of Year 7.

Year 8 & 9

Teaching groups are mixed ability in Science.

Years 10 & 11

Our curriculum consists of a core of maths, English, science and PE, together with options which are designed to meet the needs of our learners and which are tailored to provide maximum student satisfaction levels and a range of progression pathways.

In our Sixth Form College we offer a broad set of pathways made up from a choice of 30 Advanced Level subjects.

Learning Support is tailored towards the needs of individuals throughout the school including the sixth form and is very successful in doing so.

The school was awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark and OFSTED commented that at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive "*Care, guidance and support are outstanding*". We are very proud of our support framework which everyone in our school community is committed to and lives by. Care and support for our students is provided by the Student Services Team and delivered across the whole school through our highly effective House System.

The successful candidate will be an inspiring teacher who can motivate students across the ability range.

I hope it is clear, from the skills and competencies required, what will be expected from the successful candidate, and what qualities we will be looking for in the application and selection process. In applying for the post please write a separate, succinct (**no more than 2 sides of A4**), letter of application in which you address the skills and competencies required and also describe your philosophy and style of teaching.

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College
Teacher of English

May 2020

The deadline for the closing date is Noon 27th May 2017

I look forward to reading your application and welcoming a creative, energetic and inspirational teacher to our school community.

Yours sincerely

D Oliver

Executive Headteacher