



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Dear Applicant,

Head of Performing Arts – MPR/UPR + TLR 2C

Thank you for your interest in this new and exciting post at Soar Valley.

Our middle leaders are the engine room of the school and are pivotal in our success, and so this is a key role for us. Turnover of staff at Soar Valley is low, meaning this is a rare and exciting opportunity, both for the successful candidate and for us as a school.

We recognise that children have strengths in different areas, and at Soar Valley we strongly promote the arts; it is an area where many of our students excel. After some recent staffing changes, we have now decided to amalgamate Drama and Music and seek a specialist in one of these subjects who has the leadership potential to drive forward developments in both from the start of the new academic year. This post provides an excellent opportunity for the right candidate, possibly with some experience of leading one subject, to now step up to the next level and bring that experience and expertise to bear on a wider remit. It represents a great career progression opportunity for the right candidate.

Yes, we are biased, but Soar Valley is a fantastic place to work. We even have staff who have left and then returned to us, a measure of the 'family feel' here (albeit a very large family!). We have a unique ethos, are a very cohesive team, and are genuinely very inclusive as a school. We value effort above all else with students; all can achieve, and they do, achieving excellent outcomes school-wide, of which we are very proud. Even more pleasing though, are the superb relationships we have in the school, between all, which make it a great place to work.

There is plenty of information enclosed and on our website. Should you require anything further please contact Smita Stone, our Personnel Manager, on 0116 2688441 or ssone@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk

If you have the experience, drive, commitment and enthusiasm to play this key role in Soar Valley's continued journey of success, we look forward to receiving your application. Completed forms should be submitted via the relevant platform by 9am Thursday 19 March 2026.

Once again thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving and reading your application.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Robinson
CEO Aspire Learning Partnership

Neetin Pabari
Principal

General Information about Soar Valley



We are justifiably proud of our school, in particular the caring, inclusive ethos, our high standards and our achievements. Our school motto of 'Aspire, Enjoy, Achieve' is more than just words. It really does sum up our ethos; that of working with every individual to ensure they do the best they possibly can in a supportive environment rich with opportunities. More on this can be read in our prospectus, which is available on the school website www.soarvalley.aspirelp.uk

"There is a strong sense of community at the school, where pupils and staff genuinely care for one another.... Relationships are particularly strong. Pupils work hard to live up to the school's motto of 'aspire, enjoy, achieve'. (Ofsted 2025)

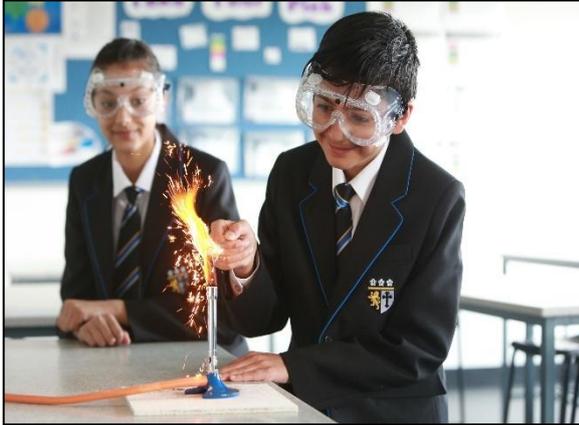
We are an Outstanding 11-16 community, comprehensive school in the city of Leicester with approximately 1560 students on roll currently, and are heavily oversubscribed every year with more first choice applications than places available, despite increasing the number of students per year group from 255 to 312. Students come from very diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, which contributes to our unique ethos, with the vast majority (around 90%) coming from ethnic minority backgrounds. Most of our students have a first language which is not English and approximately a third qualify as Pupil Premium.

Judged as Outstanding back in 2014, we were delighted to again be graded as Outstanding, and in all areas, in our most recent inspection, March 2025. In many ways practice now is even better than it was back in 2014. We are always outward-looking, liaising with other schools both locally and nationally, and welcoming external partners to review aspects of our provision on a regular basis. Please do take a look at the most recent Ofsted report if you have yet to do so – we're very proud of it!

As part of the first wave of the BSF programme in Leicester, we moved to a new building in 2009. Our highly impressive school building offers excellent accommodation and facilities for all areas of the curriculum and the local community. Also Soar Valley is the lead school in Leicester's newest multi-academy trust, Aspire Learning Partnership, and the development of relationships with other schools, both secondary and primary, is bringing further benefits. We have our own Training Centre, which is used as our Trust base as well as for a wide range of CPD activities, and has proved to be extremely successful.



“Leaders, including governors and trust leaders, demonstrate a relentless aspiration for excellence. As a result, they are continuously looking for areas to improve. All staff contribute to policy making, leading to staff feeling involved and empowered. As a consequence, there is a commitment to the application of policies both consistently and effectively.” (Challenge Partners 2023)



Achievement is impressive. When students start with their prior attainment is below or at national averages. However, outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 are significantly above national averages. Both attainment and progress measures are very strong. A Progress 8 figure of +0.7 in both 2024 and 2023 puts us amongst the best schools in the country (at least the top 7%). Attainment is similarly strong, for example our disadvantaged students perform well above the standards for all children nationally.

“The school is unfailingly ambitious for the achievement of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils rise to and exceed the school’s high expectations and consistently achieve highly. Pupils are curious and very keen to learn.” (Ofsted 2025).

Attendance is also excellent, in the top 10% of schools nationally, when compared to both similar schools and all schools. The vast majority of our students, around 97%, go on to further education or training, mainly at local sixth form colleges.

“The conduct and manners of the vast majority of pupils are impeccable. This is a significant strength of the school. The school lives and breathes its values. Pupils feel a sense of belonging. They are proud and privileged to be a member of the school.” (External review 2024)

Our most important asset is our staff. We invest in making sure staff are well-developed and supported, with professional development being a key feature of our work. There is a multi-faceted programme for staff at various stages of their career and to meet particular needs. For example, every new member of teaching staff, regardless of experience and responsibility, is allocated a Teaching and Learning Coach, an experienced Soar Valley teacher with whom they can discuss and reflect on teaching strengths and areas for development, a strategy which has proved very popular and developmental.



We have taken several measures to reduce workload for staff, and feedback is always positive. A copy of our Wellbeing Charter compiled by staff is included in this pack.

Many of our staff, both from the teaching and support staff teams, have been promoted internally, often in competition with an external field, and this is both a reflection of the fact they wish to stay and of the development they receive.

“Staff feel well supported and are immensely proud to be part of the school. Leaders have built positive working relationships with staff and carefully consider their workload.” (Ofsted 2025)

Another significant strength of Soar Valley, of which we are very proud, is the range and quality of the extra-curricular activities that staff offer. Opportunities are too numerous to mention here but we have, for example, a thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme, an extensive sports programme and are also very active within performing arts. Trips and visits are numerous. We have also developed very strong links with our feeder primary schools through both curricular and extra-curricular activities.



“The school excels in fostering the personal development of pupils through a wide range of high-quality experiences. It offers exceptional opportunities for talent and interest development, benefiting all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs. Leaders have created a harmonious community where pupils and staff are proud of their school and are exceptionally kind to each other.” (External review 2024)

We also have a wide range of activities on site in the evenings and at weekends that benefit the wider community. The school is open until 10pm most evenings and at the weekends, with the facilities mainly booked for sporting activities. A number of events are also held at the college by various faith communities. Parents are generally very supportive of the school and the benefits that it brings for their children, with students making an outstanding contribution to their community.



In addition, we have been the ‘hub’ school for mathematics development across the whole city for many years, and we hold regular meetings for all heads of department across the city, along with an annual CPD conference. Soar Valley is now also the Hub school for science and art, a reflection of the high-quality leadership across the school and at all levels.

Most secondary and special schools in Leicester belong to the Leicester Education Improvement Partnership (LEIP), an alliance of schools in the city offering support and challenge to each other, and the office for which is situated within our Training Centre. The partnership is very strong and brings a number of distinct benefits to the city and member schools.

Thank you for your interest in our school. We believe it is a unique place, one where staff and students are proud to belong. Please do look at our website and our X (Twitter) page @soarvalley16 to gain more information and a flavour of what we are about. Visits are welcomed; please just contact us.

Updated January 2026



Music at Soar Valley

Music has two teachers and two specialist classrooms, each with a full suite of keyboards and associated software. There are also various practice rooms and a recording studio, where students record their work over the year. We have a theatre with raked seating and a full lighting rig, which is regularly used for performances and concerts.

In Years 7 and 8 all students have an hour a week for music, one hour each fortnight in Year 9. Schemes of learning cover a broad and balanced range of skills in performing, rehearsal, composing and appraising. There is a comprehensive scheme of learning across Key Stage 3, developing knowledge and skills in line with the National Curriculum and preparing those who choose to do so, for GCSE Music at Key Stage 4.

Topics currently covered include: keyboard skills, reggae, rock n roll, Andean music, music for dance, and music technology. The curriculum intent is to develop student's instrumental skills, enhance their understanding of the elements of music, and to provide enrichment opportunities that inspire musical brilliance.

There are currently two exam classes in Year 11, and students follow the Eduqas GCSE Music specification. There are 6 lessons over the two-week timetable, which enables students to make rapid progress in their learning. Students put on shows and concerts throughout the year to showcase their excellent work which are well supported by parents, staff and students.

We are also lucky to have a fantastic team of peripatetic instrumental tutors. These are in drums, guitar, bass, piano and vocals. Students have the opportunities each year to have lessons free of charge and to follow graded music exams.

Drama at Soar Valley

The Drama Department is currently one member of staff. The department is very well resourced having a theatre space with retractable raked seating and full stage lighting and sound equipment, and two fully equipped studios. There are further extensive resources as well as a flourishing relationship with The Curve theatre education team.

At Key Stage 3 students are taught in mixed ability groups. Students have one hour each week for Drama in Years 7 and 8, an hour a fortnight in Year 9. Current schemes of learning cover a broad range of topics with the emphasis on developing confidence in rehearsing, performing and evaluating drama. Students work creatively, develop performance skills through practical exploration of different elements of performance and production roles and responsibilities, including stage combat, SFX make-up and lighting specific content.

There are currently no Key Stage 4 groups, a situation we would very much like to change, having had significant success in Drama previously at GCSE level.

Extra-curricular activities

All extra-curricular activities focus on producing excellent performances as well as encouraging the participation of as many students as possible. We have various rock and pop bands at Key Stage 3 and 4, drumming groups, singing ensembles, ukulele group and more. The most recent whole school performance of Matilda Jr, with a large number of participants from across the year groups, was performed to packed audiences and received rave reviews!

In addition to concerts, past triumphs have included musical extravaganzas such as 'We Will Rock You', 'Annie' and 'Hairspray'. These have all been great opportunities to showcase the talents of our students.

We offer regular practical drama through our Speak Up Project with the National Theatre, as well as drama competitions as part of the thriving House system and performance evenings.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Head of Performing Arts – MPR/UPR + TLR2C

The following Job Description is a summary of the main points of a Curriculum Leadership Job Description at Soar Valley. It is reviewed and agreed annually and is subject to change with negotiation.

Responsible to: Governors and the Principal

Line Manager: Line manager from SLT

The core role of the Head of Department is to lead and manage the subject area and team in developing standards in the pursuit of excellence. More specifically, to do this through:

1. Leading the team effectively to secure improved standards of learning and achievement for all students – through good planning and providing a clear direction for staff and students, especially in relation to:
 - The College Improvement Plan
 - The Team Improvement Plan
 - Available resources
 - School's ethos and vision
2. Developing appropriate curricula at both key stages and ensuring effective assessment procedures are in place to aid student learning and promote achievement.
3. Ensuring the curriculum is sufficiently adapted to challenge all students, including the most able and those with SEN.
4. Setting challenging targets for and having high expectations of all students and supporting team members in upholding these.
5. Formulating policies for good classroom practice.
6. Ensuring teacher expectations are high through guiding, supporting and motivating staff, and developing effective professional learning opportunities for staff.
7. Implementing agreed appraisal policies and using appraisal to help to further raise standards.
8. Having in place an effective monitoring and evaluation procedure to inform decision-making and development, which includes lesson observation, stringent work-sampling, use of value-added data and target setting, and using the outcomes of this monitoring to impact positively on student outcomes.
9. Organising effective team meetings, with clear objectives and outcomes, which develop team members appropriately and have a highly positive impact on teaching and learning.
10. Ensuring a visually stimulating and creative learning environment.
11. Developing cross-curricular links where appropriate throughout the College.
12. Developing a thriving extra-curricular offer for students, including links with outside agencies and the wider community, to maximise opportunities for students and develop their interest in the subject further.
13. Supporting effective transition of and by students at all key stages.

14. Having a commitment to your own development, by keeping abreast of national developments and best practice.
15. Promoting and raising the profile of the relevant subjects throughout the whole of the College and the wider community.

And to carry out any other reasonable duties as requested by the Principal.

Soar Valley College shares a commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Our commitment is underpinned by robust processes and procedures that seek to maximise opportunity, minimise risk and continuously promote a culture that embraces the ethos of safeguarding amongst our workforce.

This post is Exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and subject to a DBS Disclosure check.



Person Specification

Appointment Criteria		Essential/ Desirable
1.	<p>Skills and Knowledge</p> <p>Qualified teacher status.</p> <p>Evidence of commitment to further professional development.</p> <p>Highly effective teaching experience in 11-16 age range.</p> <p>Able to successfully teach the subject to KS3 and KS4 students of all levels of ability and aptitude.</p> <p>Familiar with and willing to develop and use ICT in teaching and learning.</p> <p>Willingness to learn, develop and implement strategies to offer appropriate support and challenge to students of all abilities to raise achievement.</p> <p>Up to date knowledge of subject and National Curriculum requirements.</p> <p>Able to complete assessments, targets and reporting procedures efficiently and to deadlines.</p> <p>Responsibility and accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.</p> <p>Able to contribute to the development and implementation of departmental policies.</p>	<p>E</p>
2.	<p>Experience</p> <p>Successful teaching experience at secondary level.</p> <p>Leading effective professional development activities.</p> <p>Working in a multi-cultural school/college.</p>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>D</p>
3.	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The use of comparative data to establish benchmarks and set targets for improvement.</p> <p>The school's role in the community including an understanding of religious and cultural diversity.</p> <p>How to promote and implement the principles of inclusion and equal opportunities for staff and students so that all are equally valued.</p> <p>Statutory requirements regarding equality and safeguarding, and Child Protection procedures.</p> <p>Responsibility and accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.</p> <p>Latest OFSTED framework.</p> <p>Effective self-review procedures and documentation.</p> <p>Able to plan and monitor budgets.</p>	<p>D</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>D</p>
4.	<p>Leadership Skills</p> <p>Able to lead, develop and manage people to work as individuals and as a member of a team in a way that inspires and maintains motivation and morale.</p> <p>Able to work and contribute extremely effectively as a member of the middle leadership team.</p> <p>Able to plan strategically to support and implement the vision of the college, as well as developing a vision for the subject(s).</p> <p>Able to show ambition, drive and initiative.</p> <p>Able to set an example of high standards in own teaching, relationships with colleagues and in expectations of students.</p>	<p>D</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>
5.	<p>Communication Skills</p> <p>Able to take into account the views of others and to negotiate and consult effectively</p> <p>Able to communicate highly effectively to a range of audiences including students, parents, governors and the wider community.</p> <p>Able to deal sensitively with people and to resolve conflicts</p>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>
6.	<p>Self-Management Skills</p>	

	<p>Able to plan and organise work effectively. This will include an ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * prioritise and manage time; * work under pressure; * be self-motivating and set challenging personal goals. 	E
7.	<p>School Ethos</p> <p>Able to promote and develop the college as a highly successful, caring and inclusive centre of learning and excellence.</p> <p>Able to support a climate of mutual respect and achievement.</p> <p>Able to encourage the involvement and contribution of parents/carers in the education of their children.</p>	E E E
8	<p>Personal Attributes</p> <p>Adaptability to changing circumstances and ideas.</p> <p>Energy and enthusiasm.</p> <p>Reliability and integrity.</p> <p>Imagination and creativity.</p> <p>Ambitious and forward thinking.</p> <p>Resilience.</p>	E E E E E E

Soar Valley College



Our Staff Wellbeing Charter

Introduction

Our school motto is not just three words, really does mean something, and we believe Soar Valley has a unique ethos.

Aspire – *we aim high and expect everyone to do so, students and staff alike. Our mantra of ‘effort is everything’ means all can succeed, and they do. Each child is encouraged to be the best version of themselves, and the same is true of our staff, who are fantastic!*

Enjoy – *we aim to make the school and work experience as enjoyable as possible. Working in education can be fast-paced and demanding, it is important to have fun too!*

Achieve – *we are a highly successful school, and that is not all about exam results. Our staff turnover is very low, and there are even those who have come back. All are highly valued; without any one person, the school would not be as effective, we are indeed the sum of our parts.*

This means that we take the wellbeing of our staff seriously.

We recognise that staff who are valued are at the heart of the success of the school, and this charter outlines some of the measures in place to support staff wellbeing and health.

BUPA Cash Plan

The most important asset in any school is its staff. One of the ways in which Aspire Learning Partnership supports and values our staff is by investing in a healthcare plan. We have teamed up with Bupa to provide every member of staff and up to 4 child dependents (up to the age of 24) with the facility to claim back money on everyday medical expenses, including optical, dental and more. The scheme also offers online support with medical, legal and financial issues.

This is at no cost to the employee, with the Trust covering all costs. However, as this is classed as a 'benefit in kind' it is taxed via payroll monthly. Therefore it is really important for staff to remember to make those claims. There is the facility to opt out of the scheme for those who wish to do so. Details on this and the benefits of the scheme are issued to all those joining us.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and Umbrella Benefits

This service is available to all staff through an insurance scheme we have. It includes a wellbeing mobile application including engaging features such as:

- A live and on demand digital gym to aid physical wellbeing
- A range of retail discounts to support financial wellbeing (including discounts at supermarkets, cinemas, etc).
- Over 275 healthy recipe videos to encourage improved nutrition
- Curated library of wellbeing content including exclusive podcasts and webinars to improve mental and emotional wellbeing
- Access to a medical helpline, legal support, and much more.

The EAP and wellbeing benefits are integrated across phone, an online platform, and the app. The service can be accessed in the following ways:

- UK Freephone 24-hour telephone helpline: **0800 197 0655**. Callers will be asked to confirm the name of their employer, i.e. Aspire Learning Partnership
- Or text Hi to **+44 800 197 0655**
- To access the online platform, go to legalandgeneral.com/eap and use the access code: **BeWellEAP**
- Download the app by searching **Spectrum.Life** in the IOS or Android app stores. Use access code: **BeWellEAP**

Our employees can also take advantage of discounted Legal & General products. Further details of these 'Umbrella Benefits' can be found [here](#). And includes discounts on insurance, etc.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Duty Line

Through our Health & Safety provider staff can also access a free confidential counselling service by emailing counsellingandwellbeing@leics.gov.uk or calling the duty line on 0116 3055515. Your call will be transferred to a wellbeing adviser.

Support offered covers a variety of issues including:

- Anxiety and depression
- Bereavement
- Bullying and harassment
- Family/relationship issues
- Legal and debt advice
- Mental health
- Physical violence
- Psychological trauma
- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Work stress

In school strategies to support our staff

We recognise that excessive hours of work and unrealistic deadlines can be detrimental to staff wellbeing and their effectiveness and, ultimately, to the outcomes for the children in our care.

In light of this, leaders will:

- Be mindful of and encourage a healthy work-life balance for all staff.
- Actively look to develop and adopt efficient and effective working strategies.
- Acknowledge that the needs of the school and its staff are not static but change over time.
- Seek the views of staff on their working life on a regular basis, through both formal and informal methods.
- Respond sensitively to external pressures which affect the lives of staff members.
- Consider all new developments and filter those which will impact positively on our school and implement them in a measured way.
- Consider the effects of any new initiative on workload, considering and balancing impact on workload carefully.
- Regularly review and if an initiative/change is not having a reasonable impact, it will be removed.
- Make staff members aware of the channels which can be used to manage and deal with stress or work related health and wellbeing issues.
- Ensure an effective professional development programme for all, to ensure staff are developed in their roles and achieve a sense of satisfaction.
- Be open and receptive to feedback about policies and developments and their impact on staff wellbeing and workload.

All staff will:

- Assist in the development of good practice and ensure they do not, through their actions or omissions, create unnecessary work for themselves or colleagues.
- Ask for support as and when required.
- Identify opportunities for development and take advantage of those offered by the school.
- Apply for any requests for absence in advance and be open about sickness absence.
- Share their views, ideas and feelings in both formal and informal settings.
- Make sure that all feel supported and welcome, offering support as appropriate for each other.

Some of the strategic measures to support staff wellbeing

The focus on staff wellbeing and workload is not a new one for Soar Valley. There are a number of strategic measures which have been taken to support all staff over the past few years. The list below is not an exhaustive one but illustrates the approach.

- All teachers have a minimum of 14% non-contact time, with additional time for those with leadership responsibilities.
- Those new to the profession receive more than the nationally recommended amount of time for planning, preparation and assessment.
- There have been no written reports at Soar Valley since 2005. A review was undertaken and a simple data collection system implemented.
- There are three formal data collection points and reports home to parents during the year, one per term.
- A structured CPD programme is in place, being reviewed and revised each year to meet the needs of both the school and individuals.
- There is also a strong induction programme for all new staff and specific development programmes for Early Career Teachers. All teachers new to the school are allocated a Teaching and Learning Coach, providing a superb opportunity to reflect on pedagogy and to refine and develop approaches.
- An extensive CPD library is available for staff, another opportunity to supplement professional development of staff.
- There are regular briefings for staff, both teaching and support staff, so all can remain informed and involved in developments and news in the school.
- Meetings are carefully planned to meet professional development and college improvement priorities, with only one meeting a week for most members of staff. Every effort is made to start them promptly and ensure they do not overrun.

- Considerable investment in the pastoral and student support teams has led to strong support in these areas with high quality staff and effective structures.
- The high quality SEND team, with well-qualified and trained teaching assistants, means detailed and supportive strategies and information are always available.
- Investment in a small but high quality EAL team means those students with the highest level of need can receive targeted intervention until they are able to access the curriculum.
- Policies and procedures which have been introduced for behaviour management are clear and effective. The Support system (4 stages of support, triggered by student behaviours) means that any student behaving inappropriately is removed from the lesson.
- Centralised detention systems support staff in ensuring high standards of behaviour.
- Much of our policy is written by staff, either through working parties or middle leader groups. Examples are the assessment policy, homework policy, feedback policy, all of which have been written by staff and for staff. Where not directly written by staff, they are fully consulted in any new/amended policy through our meeting structure.
- Subject teams have a high level of autonomy to teach and structure in the way they think best. There will always be challenge to improve, and indeed often teams challenge themselves!
- Staffing levels are high, with additional groups in many subject areas, especially at key stage 4, with extra classes in English, mathematics, science, RE and options groups. Class sizes at Key Stage 3 have been kept to an average of 26 or lower, and no more than 20 in Design & Technology.
- There is administrative support for each department in school, as well as a full complement of technical support staff.
- All teachers and many members of support staff are issued with laptops.
- The rarely cover policy means that teachers will only provide cover for absent colleagues if they are timetabled for a 'support lesson'. We employ three Cover Supervisors so that students have known cover staff, which also leads to calmer lessons.
- We have created a culture of mutual respect amongst the staff, and there are positive working relationships across the school. Support and teaching staff are all vital in the success of the school.
- Communication is open and transparent. We ensure emails are useful and endeavour to make the number sent and received manageable.

And some of the 'nice to haves'

Sometimes the little things really matter, and whilst not strategic in nature, these are examples of some such things at Soar Valley:

- The Fitness Suite is available for staff to use before and after school each day, and staff sport is a regular feature on a Friday, allowing the more energetic amongst us to work off the week.
- There are outdoor areas where staff can relax in summer months which are not accessible to students, such as the memorial garden.
- There are occasional staff workshops (such as making pottery decorations at Christmas).
- Lunch is always provided on training days and food is available prior to parents' evenings.
- Samosas – we love our samosas, which appear for birthdays, other celebrations and thank yous.
- Our Christmas lunch at the end of the autumn term is an annual event.
- Tea and coffee are always freely available for staff and visitors in the main staffroom.
- We party impressively at the end of terms, and there are various other social events.

Useful contacts:

www.educationsupportpartnership.org.uk/helping-you/telephone-support-counselling

<https://www.headspace.com/educators>

www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk

www.Mindfulteachers.org

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/

<https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/get-help/help-for-your-staff/wellbeing-services/school-leaders-service/>

Guidance Notes for Applicants

These guidance notes are designed to provide you with information on completing your application form and on our recruitment process and associated policies. You should read all the guidance notes prior to completion of the application form. If you would like any further advice regarding the vacancy or the recruitment process, please contact the College directly.

When completing the application form, please refer to the following information:

- **Job Description** – this describes the main duties and requirements for the post and provides an understanding of the role.
- **Person Specification** – this describes the skills, knowledge and experience required for the post
- **Advertisement** – this will give you brief details of the job and key dates of the recruitment process.

Please ensure you complete all parts of the application form. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) are not accepted. The application form will be used to assess your skills, knowledge, and suitability for the job against the criteria on the person specification, so please ensure it is accurate and complete. Late applications will not normally be considered. We reserve the right to contact any of your previous employers/educational establishments to verify the information provided.

Personal Details

Only personal information required for processing your application is requested in the main body of the application form, other personal details are not required until after shortlisting.

Disabled Applicants

As an equal opportunities employer we welcome applications from disabled people. Disabled applicants meeting all the essential criteria will be shortlisted for interview or test.

If you consider yourself disabled, **please indicate this on your application form**. This will be removed by a member of staff not involved in the recruitment process, prior to shortlisting, and will not be given to the recruitment panel at any stage of the process.

Where it is necessary to reduce the shortlist of candidates using desirable criteria, the equality monitoring section will be checked by a member of staff not involved in the recruitment process to ensure if you have declared yourself as disabled, and met all the essential criteria, you have been shortlisted for interview or test.

All candidates called for interview will be asked if they require any adjustments and/or adaptations in order to attend for interview or test, and we will, as far as possible, provide the adjustments and/or adaptations required.

For successful candidates, we will make reasonable adjustments to working conditions or physical environments and will provide aids, adaptations, equipment, and support where possible.

Job Sharing

We regard all posts as potentially open to job share. Pay will be pro rata to that which would apply if you filled the post on a full time basis. If you wish to be considered for job share, please indicate this on the application form. Should you be offered the post your request will then be considered.

Relationships/Canvassing

Canvassing of any employee, Governor or Trustee in relation to your application will disqualify you, or if discovered after appointment may result in dismissal without notice.

Data Protection & GDPR

The information you provide on your application form and any subsequent information gathered in respect of your application will be held securely, in confidence and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information you provide will be used in the following ways:

- To assess your suitability for the post
- To confirm information you have supplied, with third parties, as considered appropriate.
- To promote, monitor, and take action to ensure our recruitment policies, procedures and processes comply with legislation, our Employment Equality Policy and associated strategies and plans.
- To answer requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or related legislation.
- It will only be disclosed where lawful obligation applies.

Applications and related information in respect of successful candidates will be held securely on computerised and/or manual filing systems in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Applications and related information in respect of unsuccessful candidates will be held securely for 12 months in line with our recruitment and retention policy, after which time they will be confidentially destroyed.

Feedback/Complaints

If you are not appointed to the post following interview, you may request feedback from the Principal, or the recruiting manager, as appropriate. You should contact the College directly who will arrange to provide helpful and constructive feedback.

If you wish to make a recruitment complaint, you should write to the Principal or recruiting manager as appropriate, at the College. If you are unsatisfied with the response, you may then write to the Chair of Governors, care of the College.

Safer Recruitment Applicant Information

The College has a commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and/or young people. We have robust processes and procedures to reduce risk and continuously promote a positive culture of safeguarding amongst our workforce.

The post you are applying for involves working with children and/or young people and you will be subject to The College safer recruitment process.

Pre- Employment Vetting

As part of its safer recruitment and selection process, The College operates a strict pre-employment vetting procedure. All applicants will be required to undergo the checks outlined below.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Successful applicants seeking to work with children and/or young people will be required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure; this will include a check against the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) List and List 99. For posts working with vulnerable adults, this will include a check against the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) List.

We will also retain, with the permission of the applicant, the DBS Disclosure documents of any 'hold' candidates. These documents will be destroyed once a decision (offer and acceptance) has been reached.

Where an applicant is not normally resident in the United Kingdom or has been resident outside the United Kingdom for more than 6 months, an additional police check will be carried out with the normal or most recent country of residence.

Rehabilitation of Offenders & Safeguarding Children and Young People

We are committed to keeping children and young people safe from harm and abuse and to promoting their welfare, and we expect that everyone who comes to work for us will share the same commitment. Fulfilling this responsibility includes making sure that our recruitment process includes a range of measures to identify those who may be unsuitable to work with children and young people.

All roles within the College are covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (formerly Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)) check. These posts may also be subject to further DBS re-checks at appropriate intervals. Further information about what the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 means for applicants is provided on the Application Form.

Declaration of Previous Convictions

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended makes certain regulated activity (i.e. work with children and/or young people) exempt from the Act and therefore, requires individuals seeking to work with these groups to be subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure checks amongst others.

This post is classed as exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offender Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended. Therefore, you are required to reveal all convictions, both spent and unspent in your application. Please note that having a criminal record is not an automatic bar from working with us: whether or not your criminal record has a bearing on the post you have applied for will be carefully considered as part of the recruitment process. This may involve a discussion with yourself about the circumstances and background to your offences.

Supporting Documents

We **will not** be able to confirm an offer of employment until we have confirmed the following:

- Identity
- Enhanced DBS
- Right to work in the UK
- Qualifications if applicable
- 2 references
- Satisfactory Medical
- Qualified Teacher Status if applicable
- Confirmation of National Insurance Number
- Overseas reference if applicable

References

All applicants are expected to provide two referees, one of which must be your most recent or current employer. 'Open' references e.g. those addressed "To Whom It May Concern", will **not** be accepted.

If you have just completed full-time education the College will seek references from educational establishments. You will need to provide the name of your Principal or other professional as a reference. If you are self-employed you will need to provide details of individuals/businesses that can provide you with a professional reference.

If you have undertaken voluntary work with children and/or young people you should use the voluntary organisation as a referee.

If you have not previously worked with children or young people, you must provide a character reference from someone who is able to confirm your suitability to work with children. This would normally be someone in authority e.g. a lecturer, doctor, or community leader. Please note, character references are normally only accepted as a supplement to an employer's reference.

In all cases, The College will contact the referee prior to the interview, except if you have specifically indicated that you would prefer us to contact them only if you are made an offer of appointment.

Employment History & Gaps in Employment

To ensure our responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people are met you must ensure your employment history and reasons for any gaps are clearly detailed.