

16 January 2020

Dear Applicant

Head of Humanities

Thank you for your interest in the above vacancy.

I am pleased to enclose:

- An application form
- Application guidelines
- A role profile

Downsend is an innovative, forward-thinking independent school, educating children aged 2 – 13 years. With three separate feeder schools, each with its own Head of School and dedicated staff, overseen by our Head of Pre-Preps,



Downsend is a thriving and vibrant school which provides a refreshingly different education. The school day starts at 8.30am and finishes at 4.20pm. Our Extended Day provision ends at 5.45pm.

With effect from September 2020, we will welcome Year 9 pupils on site for the first time and, in May 2023, our current Year 8 pupils will be the first Downsend pupils to sit the Humanities at GCSE level. This expansion comes with an £8.5m investment which will see the building of a Creative Arts Centre, due for completion by January 2021. The Head of Humanities at Downsend will be key in determining the direction of Geography, History and RS at the school. Due to the strategic involvement of the successful candidate, it is likely to be attractive to an individual seeking a whole-school leadership role as their next career move.

The role profile gives an indication of the tasks and responsibilities involved in this post but can only give a list of duties and cannot fully convey how the school works. Therefore, if you would like further information about the role and responsibilities, please contact Sue Wood on 01372 385419 or sue.wood@downsend.co.uk who will be pleased to discuss it with you.

The Head of Humanities is a crucial role in the school, leading and managing teaching of Science across Key Stages 2-4 and promoting an inquisitive approach to learning. The school's innovative approach to 'Inspiring Young Minds' should be in line with your own educational philosophy, and the expectation is that the successful candidate will be the lead teacher in the department, as well as making a significant contribution to the extra-curricular life of our busy school. All staff at Downsend contribute to the realisation of our STEAM philosophy, creating inspirational opportunities for creativity and critical thinking. We are, therefore, looking to recruit an individual who relishes the practical application of skills in all areas of the curriculum.

The post involves major responsibility for the safeguarding of children. Accordingly this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as 'spent', must be declared. All offers of employment are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Please complete the application form and return to me with a covering letter explaining why you consider yourself suitable for this post. You may also send a CV if you wish, but this must be in addition to the application form, not instead of it.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 3 February 2020**. Candidates will be contacted promptly if they have been selected for first round interviews, which will be held in the week beginning **10 February**. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application.



Please do contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

Ian Thorpe
Headmaster