



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

14 February 2020

Dear Applicant

Teacher of PE & Games

Thank you for your interest in the above vacancy. I am pleased to enclose an application form and a role profile.

Downsend is a co-educational day, providing education 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 Y9 pupils on site for the first time and, in May 2023, our current Y8 pupils will be the first Downsend pupils to sit GCSE exams. This expansion comes with an £8.5m

investment which will see the building of a Creative Arts Centre, containing a theatre, Practice Rooms and a Recording Studio, to be completed in January 2021.

Sport is an area of great strength at Downsend and, in 2019, the school celebrated the award of Finalist for Sporting Achievement at the Independent School of the Year Ceremony. Our facilities are outstanding: extensive playing fields, an Astroturf pitch, full-sized Sports Hall, 25m indoor heated pool, Sports Pavilion and two hard courts for netball and tennis allow for a full range of sports to be offered. The major sports are hockey and netball for girls and football and rugby for boys, Cricket is the major sport for all pupils in the Summer Term. In addition, swimming, athletics, tennis, gymnastics, basketball and badminton are covered in the PE syllabus and as part of the rich extra-curricular provision. Many of our pupils represent local clubs outside school and some go on to county or regional honours. In recent years, swimming at Downsend School has received widespread recognition at national level, securing a number of national titles.

PE and Games at Downsend are taught by a team of specialist teachers who teach all pupils in the school and are responsible for running teams across the age ranges, supported by other members of the teaching staff. Junior School pupils (Years 2-6) have between 2 hours 20 minutes and 3 hours of PE and Games teaching per week, whilst Senior School pupils (Year 6-Year 9) have 3 hours 30 minutes per week.

The role profile gives an indication of the tasks and responsibilities involved in this role 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 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 a key addition to the department, as well as making a significant contribution to the extra-curricular life of our busy school. 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 **Wednesday 26 February 2020**. Candidates will be contacted promptly if they have been selected for first round interviews, which will be held in the week beginning **2 March**. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application.

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

Yours sincerely



Ian Thorpe
Headmaster

