

February 2020

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for taking the time to consider applying for the position of Headteacher at Siddal Moor Sports College. This is an opportunity to make a generational shift in improving the education of children in the Heywood township of Rochdale. As CEO of Hollingworth Learning Trust I am delighted that this will be the first appointment we make for our newly created MAT. We will ensure that the successful candidate has significant resources and support in order to achieve this ambitious goal.

Our MAT has grown out of the support which has been put in place from Hollingworth Academy for Siddal Moor following a request from the governing body of Siddal Moor. During the past two years we have provided a seconded Headteacher, worked to ensure that the budget is in a healthy state, re-structured the teaching staff, supported CPD and the school's QA measures and deployed SLEs to support key subjects. We have made significant progress, but there is still much to do. We believe that formalising our relationship within a MAT will enable us to accelerate impact and progress.

My current position is that of Headteacher at Hollingworth Academy. Hollingworth is an outstanding school and since 2016, Teaching School with consistently excellent outcomes. We are committed to not 'allowing the inevitable to happen' and improving the educational provision and outcomes of all, but in particular, disadvantaged pupils. Of all of the data concerning schools, I am most proud of the fact that for two of the last three years the P8 of our disadvantaged pupils exceeded that of 'other' pupils nationally. Our MAT is about securing this future for Siddal Moor and the children of Heywood. I am pleased to confirm that our MAT was confirmed at the RSC Headteacher Board on 30th January 2020 and we are currently undertaking the remaining elements of the process of academisation. We expect that this will be completed in time for a conversion date of 1st April 2020.

This vacancy has arisen due to the retirement, in August 2020, of the seconded Headteacher. During the recruitment process there will be an opportunity to meet the seconded Headteacher and senior leaders from both schools.

We enjoy a close working relationship between the Governors and senior leaders of Siddal Moor and Hollingworth and Rochdale Local Authority. To that end, the recruitment process is being conducted as a partnership between the Governors of Siddal Moor and Trustees of Hollingworth Learning Trust. Both confirm the appointment of the new Headteacher in writing. If the appointment is made after 1st April 2020 then appointment will be directly to the MAT. I can confirm that the terms and conditions outlined with the advert will be adopted. Hollingworth Learning Trust employs staff under national teachers' terms and conditions.

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I am pleased to confirm that the appointment is for a full Headteacher, not simply a 'Head of School'. We wish to appoint someone with the skills, experience and drive to further improve the school to 'good' and beyond. As MAT CEO it will be my job to ensure that you will have the support you need to achieve this. Indeed, the MAT would be very pleased to appoint someone who might prove themselves to have the capacity to take over the leading Headteacher position of the MAT within the next few years.

This is an exciting, challenging opportunity. I am confident that the appointment of an excellent Headteacher, combined with the significant levels of support we can provide will enable us to make a real difference to the lives of children in Heywood. I hope that you are inspired to join us and lead this change. If I can be of any assistance, or if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Hollingworth Academy.

Yours faithfully



Darren Randle
Headteacher of Hollingworth Academy & CEO Hollingworth Learning Trust

RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



RESILIENCE



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