



# Siddal Moor

Newhouse Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 2NT

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*Aspiration | Integrity | Respect*

Dear Headteacher applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Headteacher at Siddal Moor Sport College. I am very pleased that you are considering applying to lead our school through an exciting time of change. The vacancy has arisen as our current Acting Headteacher, Mr Simon White is set to retire.

Siddal Moor is a warm, welcoming, friendly school which values the contribution of all students, whatever their skills, abilities and interests through a strong pastoral support system.

We seek a headteacher who shares our values and ambitions. We want to appoint a person who has the vision, drive, resilience, experience and personality to drive the school forward. This person will need to be commanding and outward-facing to establish strong relationships with our staff and organisations in our local community, whilst ensuring parents feel fully engaged in all aspects of school life. Governors are hoping to appoint a candidate who can take a leading role in this new formed Multi Academy Trust at a later stage.

Siddal Moor is one of 2 Secondary schools in Heywood with just under 1,000 pupils. Heywood sits within the foothills of the Pennines, being situated in the South East corner of Lancashire. It fits within a triangle of roads, the A58, the M60/62 and the M66 giving direct access in turn to the M6 and M1. There are many towns and cities within easy reach in both Lancashire and Yorkshire giving a wide variety of shopping and nightlife.

It has developed from a cotton town into a mixed economy and makes good use of its excellent road access, whilst still sitting in lovely countryside, especially to the north. It is at the start of a 12 mile stretch of steam railway running through the Irwell Valley. Housing comes in a wide variety of options to fit every purse, even for millionaires!

One of its great strengths as a town is the community spirit. This is backed up by some really good community places such as the Sports Village, a cricket club, many local and national associations, sports clubs, library etc. It usually manages to achieve Gold standard in the Britain in Bloom competition making places like the town centre, Memorial Gardens and Queens Park colourful places to visit. Each year there are the popular events, the 1940s Day, Charities Fete and the Christmas Parade and Lights Switch On to entertain residents and visitors alike. Quite a lot for a relatively small town.

On 12th June 2019 Governors voted to join a new Multi Academy Trust to be formed by Hollingworth Academy, an outstanding Teaching School within the Borough of Rochdale. On 30th January 2020 the decision was formalised at the Headteacher Board. This recruitment process is run as partnership between the Governors of Siddal Moor and the Multi Academy Trust.

After a number of years of performance below the level that our children deserve, the school has started to turn a corner. Governors recognise however that there is a significant school improvement task ahead and will fully support the appointed Headteacher in this. As a part of the newly formed MAT, the new Headteacher will also have the support of Hollingworth Academy and the Rochdale Pioneer Trust, the local partnership of secondary schools. Our hard working and dedicated team of staff and governors will offer the right balance of challenge and support to enable our new school leader to continue to move the school forwards.

We are awaiting the publication of our recent Section 5 Inspection, but can confirm that the Headteacher Board decision was taken in full knowledge of the outcome.

Despite the school improvement challenges you will find a positive atmosphere and some good outcomes for children. You will see some of this expressed in the words from children on our website and on the enclosed sheet and in the fact that following a number of years of low NEET figures we are now a school with zero NEETs.

In the application pack we have provided a flavour of the school in order to give you an indication of the scope and range of opportunities and possibilities that the post offers. I hope that you find the information that we have provided of sufficient interest that you decide to apply for the post.

The person specification provides a more comprehensive list of the qualities we are looking for, but in essence we wish to appoint somebody with the wisdom, experience and confidence to take the school forward; someone who can build on the work of our current Headteacher and ensures we continue to improve by embracing the opportunities and challenges here at Siddal Moor.

Staff employed at Siddal Moor will transfer, under TUPE provisions, to the newly formed Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1st April 2020. The newly appointed Headteacher will immediately commence their employment working for Hollingworth Learning Trust (MAT) on the terms and conditions outlined within this recruitment pack.

I warmly encourage you to visit the school to see the pupils and staff at work. Please contact Lynn Thompson, School Based Clerk to Governors, on 01706 369436 to make an appointment.

Mrs Kate Ford  
Chair of Governors