

Dear applicant,

The value of the Arts in any society cannot be underestimated. The Arts enrich, they motivate, they inspire and address a poverty of cultural aspiration and experience. At Falinge Park High School the Arts are an integral, high profile aspect of our identity. We are an Artsmark Gold school and an Arts Award Good Practice Centre in 2015–16. The school is also a BBC 'Get Creative' Champion and a partner with two regional theatres. The majority of our departmental staff are trained as Arts Award advisors at all levels and we deliver Arts Award qualifications across the years. We are extending our Arts provision and, in the expansion of our school to 1350 pupils, are creating a specialist KS4 Arts space. We are seeking to employ a passionate teacher of Art to join our successful Art Department and are looking for an individual with the potential to move to a substantive leadership role as the school develops. Our current Art teachers have specialisms in ceramics, sculpture, digital design, photography and textile and are therefore looking for a teacher who can add further diversity to these specialisms and who can ensure our pupils have a broad experience within the Arts.

Our school

Falinge Park is a large multi-cultural school in the centre of Rochdale. Facilities are excellent and we are fully staffed with specialists in each area. The school is oversubscribed and behaviour is very good both in the classroom and around the school at unstructured times. We are a community school which serves the community and are proud to create a positive environment for our pupils and the future of Rochdale. Inclusivity, equality of opportunity and creativity permeates throughout our school in an open, honest and transparent culture. It is an exciting place, whether you are at the start of your career or an experienced teacher and, if you join us, I hope you recognise that you will be able to develop your practice in a safe, supportive and caring environment.

We are an outward looking school and work with a variety of partners who enrich the experience of the pupils and the members of staff. For example, for the past two years our Art Department has worked alongside a Digital Designer in Residence from Manchester Metropolitan University. In the first year, pupils worked with a piece of computer code and manipulated it into an installation that represented their personal identity; this year pupils have worked with screen printing to explore the history of the textile revolution in the North West of England with Macclesfield Silk Museum and with re-appropriated materials and sculpture to work alongside the Canals and Rivers Trust. There are many opportunities and there is a strong commitment from myself and governors to protecting the Arts and the enrichment opportunities that occur within these areas. We are looking for an individual who has the creativity and passion to grasp these opportunities and develop the pupils' experiences within the curriculum and beyond the classroom.

Why Falinge?

Our objective is simple at Falinge: **to create a compelling learning experience**. We do this by believing in people and positive relationships. This underpins our actions with each other and with the children. We have only one non-negotiable in school and that is our commitment to Safeguarding.

Opening Doors; Unlocking Potential

If you visit the school I would hope you would notice the warm, welcoming environment; the excellent behaviour of the children; strong staff morale; a commitment to professional development of all staff; and a strong sense that this is a place where learning is valued.

An audit of our Professional Development at Falinge Park in 2016 by the Teacher Development Trust highlighted that:

Falinge Park High School have created a developmental and supportive culture for staff, where professional learning is prioritised.....there is genuine enthusiasm amongst staff for the new compelling learning vision and the collaborative learning culture, and there is definitely buy-in. The changes to performance management are hugely developmental and links well with CPD. (It is) genuinely exciting to see such a passion for teaching and learning and CPD.

I include this rather than an excerpt from our Ofsted report and our GCSE data – not because they aren't good – they are! – but because our professional development of staff within the school is an area of which the Senior Leadership team are rightly proud and an area we continue to commit to. We do this through peer to peer collaboration, learning hubs, accredited courses, lesson study and developing a culture where we can take risks and learn from mistakes. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to join our school and the right time for someone who is interested in developing in a supportive environment.

As with any organisation, we don't get it right all of the time – but we make sure that we work in a non-judgemental environment and we focus our actions have to be for the benefit of the children.

Next steps?

If you are interested in applying, please look at the person specification, our website and familiarise yourself with what we are about. If you would like to visit the school please contact my PA Lisa Fitton on fittonl@falingepark.com to arrange a visit and we will make sure we accommodate you. When writing your application, I am interested in understanding why you want to work at our school as well as gathering information about your skills and knowledge that make you suitable for this role.

I am genuinely excited about how this role can develop and how you will play a part in the positive culture we are building at Falinge Park High School.

Yours faithfully,



Janice Allen
Headteacher

Opening Doors; Unlocking Potential