



Ribblesdale High School

A foundation for success
since 1932

Dear Colleague

Thank you for showing an interest in this post. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for the right person to have a key role in shaping the future direction of the school.

We are looking for a highly ambitious, well-qualified and experienced senior leader to work closely with myself and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team. As an NLE, part of my time is spent supporting other schools and the successful candidate will gain the full experience of school leadership with the expectation that this places them in a superb position for a future headship.

My passion is simple, to ensure our young people get the very best education they possibly can. This means in their teaching and the subsequent qualifications they obtain, that we afford them a wide variety of opportunities, and ensure we equip them with all the essential skills they need in 21st century life.

Pivotal in delivering this, is a highly skilled, committed, creative and energetic teaching staff who are supported by an extremely professional support team. To achieve this we are seeking to appoint a key member of the Senior Leadership Team to oversee the quality assurance of key systems to the very highest level and ensure the smooth running of the institution on a daily basis. The role cannot be underestimated but with an excellent senior team the focus will be heavily weighted towards strategic leadership. That said, the successful candidate will also have a key role in overseeing the smooth running of the school on a daily basis.

The SLT structure can be seen in the application pack. I began as Headteacher of Ribblesdale in October 2012, after six years as Headteacher at another school. The Senior Leadership Team is resourceful, energetic, and complementary in leadership styles and skills but most importantly, has a jointly held vision of ensuring the school becomes outstanding in all areas. The opportunity arises due to our current Deputy Headteacher gaining a headship. The team is extremely hardworking and highly committed to school improvement. We make no excuses for a fast pace and high expectations of colleagues. However, members of the team do have a sense of humour and an ability to be self-effacing!

The pupils at Ribblesdale come from a diverse selection of backgrounds and there is a huge range of ability. We have great pride in the way in which we work with our young people and the person appointed will join a vibrant, forward thinking and ambitious team.

I believe that high quality teaching can only ever be sustained by continuous professional dialogue and reflective practice across all areas of school. This is at the heart of our mission to make Ribblesdale an outstanding school. A commitment to self-evaluation, sharing with, and learning from others, is a key requirement for anyone considering applying for this post. This approach has to also be balanced with rigorous, focused and structured quality assurance systems.

The school was inspected in June 2015. The school was judged 'Good' in all areas. We are anticipating an inspection in the next year and have evaluated ourselves as currently 'Good' in all areas. With an 'Average' Progress

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8 score (-0.14), there are clear areas we wish to improve.

Later this year we will also see the beginning of a major building programme at the school, improving our current buildings and increasing the capacity of the school.

The local secondary environment is fiercely competitive with our nearest school (CRGS) being an 'Outstanding' selective school and the two other local schools also being 'outstanding'. We are a National Support School as well as a Microsoft Training Academy, which both bring expertise into the school but also involve us supporting other schools and organisations.

Our focus is to become an 'Outstanding' institution and the person appointed to this post will be one of the key players in this journey.

I know all too well the commitment and time required to go through the application process for a new post. If, after reading through the literature, you feel you could give the commitment we require, I would be delighted to receive your application. (Please ensure your application form is accompanied by no more than a 3 side, A4 letter of application in font Times New Roman, size 12).

We will be running informal tours of the school on Thursday 22nd February, 3.30-5.30pm.

If you wish to attend a tour or find out more about the school or the position, please feel free to contact Charlotte Davies: cdavies@ribblesdale.org (Assistant School Business Manager) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Cox
Headteacher