

Dear Candidate

Thank you for showing an interest in our vacancy for a full-time, permanent English Curriculum Leader (Middle Leadership Position: TMS/UPS + TLR 2a + 1 SEN) to commence September 2020.

We are seeking a highly driven and creative specialist English teacher to take over and continue the high quality leadership of our English Department. The outgoing English Curriculum Leader is moving across to take on more senior leadership responsibilities and will be able to provide high quality support and guidance, if required, while the new post holder acclimatises to a new school. The department benefits from two specialist English teaching assistants and a number of other teachers, both specialist and non-specialist, who deliver English to our Year 7 and Life Skills classes. Teaching will involve all key stages and the full ability range, up to and including GCSE English Language, and English Literature for our more able students. This leadership post will not involve line management responsibility for other teachers, as we have a robust performance management programme in place involving senior leaders, but it will involve quality assurance of English teaching and learning as part of our whole school improvement agenda.

Attainment on entry to Corley Centre typically covers the full range of academic ability with the majority of students progressing, in Key Stage 4, to GCSE English Language and for the more able, English Literature. We aim for 100% of students to leave with a Functional Skills English qualification, ranging from Entry Level to Level 2.

The English Curriculum Leader post is key within Corley Centre as we continue to raise standards of literacy and develop our students' life skills, citizenship and understanding of the world around them. The person appointed will work collaboratively with staff to deliver high quality provision, which will continue our drive to close attainment gaps, thereby improving Key Stage 4 outcomes, not just in English but across the whole curriculum.

Our English Department contributes significantly to the extra curricular life of the school through our highly successful Debate Mate Team, which fairs very well against mainstream competition and lunchtime activities such as Creative Writing Club. The post holder will be responsible for the school library and ensuring continued active engagement in Accelerated Reader, our whole school reading scheme. Drama is an area requiring further development and the ability to re-introduce this, particularly as a KS4 option subject, would be an advantage.

Teaching at Corley Centre is as much to do with developing our students' personal potential, as it is their academic. These two go hand in hand, as we know that in order to reach their academic potential, our students need to feel safe, valued and confident to take risks and stretch their abilities. They also need to be motivated and challenged in order to maintain their attention, and so an inspiring, creative and progressive curriculum is vital. Our students require consistency and structure in addition to variety of content and delivery; it is this balance that our outstanding teachers are able to master.

We are looking for teachers who are committed to improving outcomes for children by continually striving to adapt provision and delivery to meet need, teachers who are prepared to self-reflect and work collaboratively with others to improve their practice to become an outstanding practitioner and then support others in reaching that standard also.

Our students are a credit to our school and bring with them a wide variety of abilities and aspirations, special educational needs, vulnerabilities, challenges and behaviours. They provide inspiration as well as challenge. Academic potential covers the full National Curriculum and GCSE/vocational range and so even within our very small classes, planning and differentiation are essential elements of every lesson.

The post holder will also be Mentor to a group of approximately 8 students from Years 8 to 11. In addition to morning and afternoon registration sessions, this will involve the teaching of two Mentor lessons following the school's Mentoring Programme. Pastoral Mentors have the overview of each student's personal and academic progress and monitor their behaviour and wellbeing, with support from a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Family Support Workers.

Positive mental wellbeing is a key ingredient to succeeding at school. The student-teacher relationship is integral to the role, allowing students to feel cared for, safe and well, prior to engaging in learning. The post holder will create an effective learning environment for students, in line with our autism strategies, by prioritising their mental wellbeing, communication and interaction needs, and their sensory needs. S/he will also understand that behaviour is an indicator of need and will plan accordingly to meet the specific behavioural needs of individuals. Support is readily available from all staff around managing challenging behaviours, but specifically so from our middle and senior leaders.

We believe that staff development is key to raising standards. We are proud to have been awarded Autism Accreditation by the National Autistic Society and opportunities will be available throughout the year to attend in-house training sessions and to work collaboratively with our staff to continue to develop best practice in autism education. We are not looking to appoint 'experts' in autism education, as we prefer to train staff around the needs of our own students and within our own setting, however, some understanding of autism and how it can impact on children's learning is a useful prerequisite to working at Corley Centre. Teaching and Learning support is provided throughout the year as we aim to ensure our students receive outstanding opportunities in every classroom.

You will find within the application pack, our School Improvement Framework (this public version is an overview, with a more detailed working document for staff and governors), a general Job Description and Person Specification for teachers as well as a specific one for the English Curriculum Leader role. You will also find our teachers' audit against the National Teachers' Standard, completed each year as part of our performance management cycle. If you have questions about any of these documents, they can be answered should you be shortlisted for interview.

If you have no previous experience of a special school environment and have not perhaps considered this move previously, then please do come and visit, as I am sure you will be very pleasantly surprised. Please find additional information about Corley Centre at www.corleycentre.co.uk, including our 2017 Ofsted Inspection Report.

Thank you again for your interest in this post. If you think you may be the person we are looking for and that Corley Centre may be the type of environment in which you wish to develop your career, please do not hesitate to contact me for an informal chat.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours faithfully



Lisa Batch