



HOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

"Working With The Whole Community"

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Bhu/dhi//HeadDeptEng2012

Dear Applicant

Hope Valley College is an 11-16 Academy with approximately 650 students, set in the heart of the Peak District within easy reach of Sheffield, Chesterfield and Buxton.

Attainment is generally good. Our % A*-C GCSE examination results this year were above the national average (82% 5+ A*- C, 63% 5+ A*-C including Eng & Ma, 97% 5+ A*- G).

About 30% of students received 3 or more A/ A* grades. The last full OfSTED report (July 2008) was highly impressive and is available on www.hopevalley.derbyshire.sch.uk.

However, many students do not make enough progress in English and improving English results is a College priority.

We converted to Academy Status in September 2011. This happened after a genuine debate with both colleagues and the community. Our main aim in doing so was to be able to continue to innovate as we had been doing over previous years. This move enables us to continue our firm commitment to partnership working. We had been successful in gaining both specialist Technology status (third phase) and further specialisms in the Arts (second phase) and Applied Learning (2008) as a High Performing Specialist School. We are also a Lead School for Gifted & Talented provision. We have students studying at Buxton College (University of Derby) and following vocational programmes on site, and we run programmes with partner schools in the Peak 11 Learning Federation (www.peak11.co.uk).

We are a high achieving school, with a close knit, supportive staff. Relationships between staff and students are distinctly different from the norm. A friendly, relaxed atmosphere prevails, in which students feel confident and are able to question and put forward their point of view. This has had to be worked at and you will find a very strong sense of pride amongst staff in what the College has achieved and what it stands for.

We are looking for an energetic, innovative person, who will endeavour to improve the already high standards of teaching and learning in the department. As the Head of a core department you will be expected to have an impact across the College through developing students' wider literacy, which in turn will improve progress in English. We are looking for a candidate who will buy into the department's desire to improve by advancing and adding to the agreed strategy. You must be excited by the challenges which lie ahead and be looking forward to raising both the attainment and progress of all students and developing an exciting English curriculum for all students. You should address this clearly in your letter.

We believe that this post is significant enough a role to warrant consideration of being placed on the Leadership team in due course. However this is not something you need to address in your application. I look forward to receiving your application with covering letter.

Interviews will include a requirement to teach, which will be observed by a senior member of staff.

Yours sincerely

B Hunter
Principal