



## Teacher of English

### **Working at St Joan of Arc Catholic School**

St Joan of Arc Catholic School is a comprehensive, Catholic, 11-18 co-educational school of approx. 1250 students, including 200 in the Sixth Form. Academic results are consistently high and the school is heavily oversubscribed. At our most recent Ofsted inspection we were rated “a good school” with the behaviour and attitude towards learning of the students identified as “outstanding”. The last Diocesan inspection confirmed that the school is an “outstanding Catholic school”. As a large secondary academy we have many opportunities for both teaching and support staff.

### **An attractive and easily accessible location in south west Hertfordshire**

Situated on a greenbelt site in Rickmansworth, St Joan of Arc Catholic School is a 10 minute drive from the M25 motorway and there is ample parking for cars on site. The school is only a 5 minute walk from Rickmansworth station which is served by the Chiltern overground line (Aylesbury-Marylebone) and the Metropolitan underground line (Amersham - Aldgate). The school site is very attractive and is close to the town centre where there are numerous shops and services.

### **A strong ethos with clear vision and values**

The ethos of St Joan of Arc Catholic School is epitomised by the school’s mission statement – ‘Love Christ- Inspire Others’. Students and staff commit to the acts of love, service, respect, justice and faith. As members of the school community we are committed to serving each other, the pupils and the wider community. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural attitudes are “outstanding”.

### **Committed and friendly staff**

Our dedicated staff work hard, share a positive outlook and enjoy working and engaging with the students. New members of staff are made welcome and settle in quickly. There is a low turnover of staff each year although some move on due to advance their careers or to relocate. We provide in-house training for staff and combine this with access to external training courses as appropriate. Socially, the staff run a ‘Comforts Fund’, staff teas are held every Friday afternoon and there are regular social events. In addition staff are encouraged to support events run by the PFA.

### **Talented, committed and friendly students**

The students are from a diverse range of backgrounds and from a wide catchment area. At our most recent Ofsted inspection behaviour at the school was found to be ‘outstanding’. Students of all abilities make good or better progress throughout the school. Standards are identified as significantly above average because students have outstanding attitudes towards their learning and are keen to make the most of the opportunities that the school gives them. The school aims to develop each student to reach their potential and to develop into caring, active and well-rounded citizens. Students get on very well with each other because of the school’s emphasis on care and respect, they feel safe and pastoral systems are effective.

### **Our commitment to the staff**

The governors, headteacher and senior leadership team remain committed to recruiting high quality staff to the school. They are committed to supporting continuing professional development and to ensuring that St Joan of Arc Catholic School remains a stimulating and pleasant environment in which to work. The success of our students is underpinned by the strong partnership that is nurtured between school, parents, governors, trustees, past students and the local community.

# JOB DESCRIPTION



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**Line Managed by: Curriculum Leader of English**

**Salary: Salary to be discussed at interview and placement on pay scale will depend on qualifications and experience**

### **Purpose of Role:**

- To deliver the taught elements of the various English department courses as directed
- To support the work of the English department staff and students

### **Role & Responsibilities**

- To meet the statutory Teachers' Standards
- To teach English as directed on the English department qualification courses; currently GCSE and A Level English qualifications
- To implement assessment, recording and reporting systems to monitor student progress in accordance with national, school and departmental policy
- To undertake all necessary exam preparation and administration as required by the line manager
- To share in the supervision of English areas including arrangements made for the extended day
- To attend school and departmental meetings and INSET
- To work evenings during open days, English department and whole school events as directed
- To undergo any training required in order to perform duties efficiently
- To engage actively in the Performance Management Review process
- To maintain appropriate records and to provide relevant accurate and up-to-date information for Management Information Systems (MIS), registers etc
- To complete the relevant documentation to assist in the tracking of students
- To track student progress and use information to inform teaching and learning
- To communicate effectively with the parents of students as appropriate
- To be a form tutor to an assigned group of students
- To promote the general progress and well-being of individual students and of the form tutor group as a whole
- To register students, accompany them to assemblies, encourage their full attendance at all lessons and their participation in other aspects of school life
- To promote and safeguard the welfare of students in line with School safeguarding procedures

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- To alert the appropriate staff to issues experienced by students
- To contribute to PSHEE and Citizenship according to school policy
- To apply the Behaviour Management systems so that effective learning can take place
- To teach students according to their educational needs, including the setting and marking of work
- To mark, assess and give written verbal and diagnostic feedback as required
- To promote the distinctive nature of a Catholic School
- To engage actively in the performance management process
- To continue personal development as identified
- To undertake any other duty as specified by School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Body (STPCB) not mentioned in the above
- To comply with the school's Health & Safety policy and undertake risk assessments as appropriate
- To show a record of excellent attendance and punctuality
- To adhere to the School's Dress Code
- To exercise a commitment to the school's mission statement and stated ethos including the equal opportunities policy, health and safety policy and all other current school policies
- To undertake any other duties or one-off tasks at the reasonable request of the Headteacher / SLT

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**It is expected that the person appointed will have the following qualifications, experience, knowledge / skills and personal qualities and / or special requirements for the post**

### **1. Qualifications**

- A good Honours degree or higher qualification
- Qualified Teacher Status or currently completing a course of professional training leading to QTS
- Any other relevant qualifications specific to this post

### **2. Experience**

- A proven record of successful classroom teaching
- Experience of teaching across the full age and ability range
- School experiences which have provided a thorough preparation for this post
- Experience of monitoring and evaluating students' progress
- Experience of initiating, implementing and managing developments within the subject area would be desirable
- Form tutor experience would be desirable

### **3. Knowledge / Skills**

- Knowledge of current educational issues
- Ability to teach up to Advanced Level is desirable, but not essential
- Administrative skills to support the work of the department
- Excellent classroom management skills
- The ability to communicate effectively with students and adults
- Secure knowledge of current curriculum developments
- Understanding of the learning process

### **4. Personal Qualities**

- Commitment to the best interests of the students
- Willingness to take responsibility
- Enthusiasm and sense of humour
- An ability to co-operate with colleagues
- Reliability and resilience
- Ability to use a variety of teaching strategies
- Ability to monitor and evaluate students' progress
- Excellent written oral and communication skills
- Excellent presentation skills and smart appearance
- Excellent organisation, prioritisation and time management skills
- Excellent classroom behaviour management skills
- Ability to use ICT to enhance teaching and learning

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## 5. Special Requirements

- Sympathy with the aims of a Catholic School
- Commitment to raising standards
- Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people
- An enthusiastic and effective team player

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## English

The English department is well established within the school and has a proven record of exam success.

There are currently nine members of staff in the department. The English department works as a team and is keen to promote innovative approaches and a range of teaching and learning styles, enabling all pupils to enjoy English and achieve their full potential.

Students are taught in their form groups in Year 7, before being placed in mixed ability sets in Year 8, and learning in a variety of settings – individually, in pairs, as part of a small group and as a whole class. The English department delivers a KS3 curriculum in line with the expectations of GCSE English. This ensures that our schemes of work are challenging and engaging, as well as fun. In years 10 and 11, we follow the AQA syllabus for both English Language and English Literature, with virtually all pupils being entered for both subjects. The English department consistently achieves grades that are well above the national average at GCSE and GCE.

### **Development Priorities**

The department aims to keep abreast of developments in English and its teaching. Members of the department will have every opportunity to contribute to the formation of policy and practice. We place collaboration, collegiality, and support for one another at the forefront of our approach.

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