

# *The Knights Templar School*

## **Application Pack 2022**

### **Science Technician**



This is a vibrant and successful school at the heart of the community with high expectations and a reputation for academic excellence.

Central to everything we do is the school's motto 'Courage and Courtesy'. We recognise the importance of developing and providing all our students with the courage, confidence and communication skills they require to flourish and succeed, but also to promote traditional values of courtesy, respect and good discipline.



# An Introduction to the School

“The Academy motto “Courage and Courtesy” is evident in the excellent relationships between all students and with adults.” (Ofsted)

The Knights Templar School is both a successful and happy school. Students’ results are good and behaviour is excellent. The school is highly regarded locally, being regularly oversubscribed. We receive in the region of 600 applications for 210 Year 7 places each year.



Students of all abilities achieve well and make good progress. Young people have an excellent attitude to learning. They enjoy school and want to succeed. Examination results at GCSE and A level are consistently good. In 2019, 73% of students achieved English and Maths at grade 4 or above (National 64%) and 51% achieved English and Maths at grade 5 or above (National 43%). 2019 Progress 8 for the Maths element was +0.26 (2018 +0.20), results across 2020-21 continued this pattern of improvement. The School has a large and strong Sixth form, most progress on to University degree courses, including places at Oxford or Cambridge.



The Knights Templar School offers a very broad range of opportunity beyond the classroom, with nearly 100 extra-curricular clubs running every week. There are a wide range of school sports teams in all years with traditional house matches and a sports day annually. The House System is strong and senior students lead and run a number of house events every year. Some 250 students learn a musical instrument and there are many school concerts. Drama, too is very strong with regular school productions.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is particularly vibrant with 200 young people participating at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. We run a wide range of trips and visits both curriculum-based and of a wider educational nature. Staff are very generous with their time in supporting this wide range of activities.



We provide a disciplined, caring, fair and moral environment in which individuality is encouraged and equality of opportunity promoted, in order to allow students to develop personally and socially. There is a mutual respect and good relationships between students and also between staff and students, with the

students being given responsibility and feeling valued whilst knowing that support and advice will always be available when needed. We have an excellent Pastoral system to support and encourage this.

Pastoral care is a strength of the school. It is based on tutor groups, horizontally organised within Year Teams. Ofsted reported that "Students were particularly positive about the extent to which you encourage them to be independent. They value being asked to take on responsibilities. Students learn to treat others with respect. You promote the school values of 'courage and courtesy' well."

Staff at Knights Templar "go the extra mile". They give their time, effort and commitment to ensure high standards in the classroom and in the wider life of the school. Ofsted also reported that "Students value the extra-curricular activities available to them, and spoke with enthusiasm about the range of trips on offer." The school has high expectations of its staff as well as its pupils.

The school's name often provokes interest. The Knights Templar developed the town of Baldock in the Middle Ages. The school has been an all-ability mixed comprehensive school for over 40 years. In 2011, the school became an academy retaining its status as a community comprehensive school, serving the needs of Baldock and the surrounding villages that form our catchment area. Whilst some of the buildings are certainly showing their age, we have been proactive in the development of our school. We have an excellent modern Sports Centre with a floodlit all-weather pitch. A new purpose-built Sixth Form teaching block opened in 2016, this has been fully integrated together with our new Science and Arts and Design Centre, finished in 2018.

We pride ourselves on giving our students a well-rounded education that prepares them for their future. We know students flourish if they lead rich and varied lives and are immensely proud of our exciting and wide ranging curricular and extra-curricular provision. The school is open to children of all abilities and backgrounds and our outstanding pastoral care ensures that every student receives the nurturing, support and guidance they need. As a central part of our community, we are proud of our excellent relationships with primary schools, local residents, businesses and other organisations. These links provide students with a sense of cohesion within this community and enables them to be active citizens.

This is a great school, staffed with passionate, inspirational teachers, and is a special place for children to learn. If you would like to know more about the school or indeed if you would like to visit us during the day, please do not hesitate to contact us; we will be delighted to hear from you.



Sue Welch  
Chair of Trustees

Edward Hutchings  
Headteacher



## **A 'Great school'**

A great school is;

- a school that knows its strengths and communicates these clearly, builds on them and holds fast to them.
- A school that questions its existing systems and constructively challenges what it does.
- A school that keeps it simple and that has clear coherent approaches that are consistently applied.

We are a reflective and self-confident school with teaching and learning at our core. We will continually strive for improvement and will always take opportunities to build the confidence of our students and to provide genuine leadership opportunities.

## **Induction and Teaching and Learning**

Purposeful learning is at the heart of everything we do. Our dedicated and hardworking teaching staff ensure that students are engaged, challenged and able to succeed within a culture that values both tradition and innovation. We encourage a range of approaches to teaching that ensures that students have a rich and varied learning experience.

It is important that teachers have time to reflect, share ideas and develop their own practice. We have a structured programme of Continued Professional Development which provides opportunities for colleagues to work collaboratively and reflect upon the impact of research-based strategies on their own teaching. This is supplemented by external courses and trainers. We are committed to reflective, considered practice and to embed new innovative practice.

The school became an academy in April 2011. The trustees work to ensure that teachers' pay and conditions are in line with national standards. Induction, training and continuing professional development have a very high priority in the school. All staff have an induction programme on joining the school.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding at The Knights Templar School takes precedence over any other activity. It's vitally important to us that students feel safe in school so they can learn and thrive. As part of the recruitment process, we will ask about safeguarding students and obviously questions about candidates' suitability to act as tutor. References will be sought and an enhanced criminal records check will be undertaken for this position.

## **Staff**

The Knights Templar School currently employs 98 teaching staff and 72 support staff, many of whom have positively contributed to the school for a number of years. Many of the staff have children who are currently at the school or have passed through our school system. There are also members of staff who are past students.

## **Community**

The Priority Area for the School consists of Baldock, and surrounding villages. We are fortunate to have good relationships with the primary schools in the area with teachers and students from The Knights Templar

School regularly running events for our primary partners. Our primary schools will often visit for a variety of activities in PE, music, drama, dance, maths and science to name but a few.

## Early Career Teachers (ECTs)

Our ECT package provides an enhanced induction programme for all of Early Career Teachers (ECTs). This programme commences at the beginning of July with our 3-week summer induction programme.

The three weeks gives you the chance for a really comprehensive 'paid' induction programme. You will meet and observe some of your teaching groups and find out about your form. If you are a Year 7 form tutor, you will also take part in the transition day when Year 6 come up to the school. You will get to know the senior leadership team, your head of department and the members of your teaching team.

We also offer the full two-year ECT induction programme, offering a blend of face-to-face and online training for ECTs and their mentors, based on the Education Development Trust's DfE accredited provider materials. This provides training on key aspects of teaching such as assessment and behaviour for learning, as well as providing a local network of support with other ECTs in similar subject areas through the Alban Teaching School Hub.

Knights Templar School's 'coaching culture' ensures that all ECTs are supported by experienced and trained instructional coaches, as well as by their Heads of Department and department colleagues. We provide opportunities to observe other colleagues, both within and across departments, as well as provide opportunities to visit other schools. The Knights Templar school is a great place to start your teaching career.



**TITLE OF JOB: Science Technician**

**LOCATION: Science Prep Room**

**GRADE: H3-H4**

### **JOB OUTLINE**

#### **1. REASON JOB EXISTS**

To provide a technical support service to teaching staff by ensuring that equipment and materials are maintained and set up to enable practical work to be carried out efficiently and safely.

#### **2. MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- The principal responsibility is to ensure that equipment is correctly delivered to the appropriate venue in advance and when ordered by allocated teachers.
- To ensure that all apparatus and equipment is checked and maintained to an appropriate standard, and that all equipment and chemicals are safe for use.
- Preparation of stock solutions for general use and those specifically requested for class practical work.
- Some departmental duplicating for class work, and school examinations.
- Ensuring the general cleanliness and tidiness of laboratories and preparation rooms to maintain efficiency and safety.
- Care and maintenance of livestock (where appropriate).
- To help the work of other technicians where the need arises and it does not impinge on the efficient operation of the principal responsibility.
- Document and collect monies from students for lost/broken resources.
- Where appropriate and as allocated by the Senior technician, to contribute to the issuing, collating and checking of textbooks.
- Monitor and manage stock-check off arrival of items and ensure they are stored in the appropriate way and in the correct area. Cataloguing resources and undertaking audits as required.
- Keep up to date with health and safety requirements and with the developments in practical science.
- Attend and participate in relevant meetings as required/requested by the Senior Technician or HoD.
- Ensure the correct disposal of waste materials in accordance with COSHH and any other relevant regulatory authorities.
- Sharing best practice, expertise and skills with others, including the training of new technicians.
- 

#### **3. POTENTIAL EXTRA AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES / SKILLS ACQUIRED**

- Research and trial practical activities-provide exemplar results when required. Offer support and guidance to teachers ahead of a practical being used in the classroom.
- Be an extra adult in classrooms by providing support for either students or the teacher during practical activities.
- Provide cover for senior technician during periods of absence – placing orders to ensure appropriate stocks are maintained, completing any other administrative tasks required by HoD.
- Provide support for extra-curricular Science activities / events – Science Club / Science week etc
- RPS trained – Attend RPS training and liaise with the RPS to ensure correct protocols are followed when dealing with the storing, handling and disposal of radioactive substances.
- Source and purchase resources from local retailers
- Designing, constructing and modifying of apparatus.

#### **4. EQUALITIES**

Be aware of and support difference and ensure that the school's equalities and diversity policies are followed.

#### **5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection; health and safety; confidentiality; and data protection and report all concerns to an appropriate person.

#### **6. CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU**

This post is classified as having a high degree of contact with children or vulnerable adults and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. An enhanced disclosure will be sought through the Criminal Records Bureau as part of Hertfordshire County Council's pre-employment checks. Please note that additional information referring to the Criminal Records Bureau is in the guidance notes to the application form. If you are invited to an interview you will receive more information.

#### **7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The postholder is required to contribute to and support the overall aims and ethos of the school. All staff are required to participate in training and other learning activities, and in performance management and development as required by the schools' policies and practices.

*\*\* The duties and responsibilities listed above describe the post as it is at present. The post holder is expected to accept any reasonable alterations that may from time to time be necessary.*

#### **8. SUPERVISION**

Daily informal contact with the Senior Technician, and where appropriate, with members of the teaching staff to discuss work priorities for that day and ensure the efficient operation of the technician's principal responsibility. Planning for future practical assessments etc will need to be organised.

#### **9. JOB CONTEXT**

The job holder is one of a team Technicians who provide a technical support service to teaching staff.

#### **10. CONTACTS**

All members of staff, particularly teachers and students.

#### **11. KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING**

- A background that provides knowledge and understanding that allows the post holder on occasions to work on their own initiative.
- Qualification to 'A' Level standard (preferably in 'science') are an advantage, but not a necessity. As would experience in a school laboratories so the requirements of teaching staff can be anticipated and a safe environment maintained.
- Be prepared to take additional training, if and when necessary.

## 12. PROBLEMS AND DECISIONS

The jobholder must use his/her own initiative and negotiate with teaching staff in order to ensure that demands for equipment and resources do not conflict, whilst at the same time ensuring that curriculum delivery is not disrupted.

## How to apply

Please make your application using the [support staff application forms](#) on the school website. Please send your application to [froper@kts.school](mailto:froper@kts.school), along with a covering letter.

### Further notes for applicants

#### Visits

If you wish to visit the school, you will be made welcome, though this is not a requirement at this stage. Please telephone to make an appointment; your chances of getting the post will not be affected by whether or not you make such a visit. Those invited for interview will, of course, be given plenty of chance to see the school.

#### Moving house

If you would need to move nearer, consider investigating property prices before deciding whether to apply: information is readily available via the web. The school may be able to support with advice and information regarding relocation. You might also be interested to look at the website of North Hertfordshire District Council ([www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)).

#### The Knights Templar

The school is named to commemorate the connection between Baldock and this ancient Order, which founded the town in the twelfth century. Readers of *The DaVinci Code* and similar works may be disappointed to find that we have no other connection with Templar organisations!

