



The **GALLERY** TRUST



A community of special schools



Northern House
Academy

Teaching Assistant Candidate Information Pack April 2026

Northern House Academy is a special school for primary age children who have been identified as having Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties. We currently have 93 children on roll and all our pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We are passionate about children at Northern House having their abilities recognised and celebrated, whilst receiving an excellent education. The whole staff team is committed to very high standards both professionally and in relation to every aspect of our pupils' education.

The school is currently seeking an inspirational and dynamic Teaching Assistant to assist and support the Headteacher and teaching staff in providing high standards of teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Northern House Academy is a member of The Gallery Trust, an expanding Special Needs Trust which is dedicated to improving outcomes for SEND learners in Oxfordshire. The Trust has a national reputation for excellence, and is influential in the development of SEND strategy in the county.

Please visit our website to find out more about the school, during this current time we are unable to accommodate site visits, however if you would like to talk to someone to inform your application you would be most welcome.

On behalf of the school, thank you again for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Ricky Stevens
Headteacher

Bex Holmes
Head of School

**Teaching Assistant
Grade 6
Actual Salary £18,952 - £20,535 per annum
(FTE Salary £26,824 - £29,065 per annum)
Permanent to start 13/04/2026
31.25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year, term time only**

A Teaching Assistant role at Northern House Academy is rewarding, exciting and challenging.

We have high aspirations and expectations for all of our pupils and in turn this leads to high expectations of our staff. Teaching Assistants at Northern House Academy aid the delivery of creative learning that motivates our pupils and supports them to achieve.

All aspects of the role and responsibilities are focused on having an impact on the children at our school. This involves setting appropriate boundaries for children, supporting with their education and care and liaising with families to get the best possible outcomes.

Some examples of our expectations include:

- Supporting Teachers to deliver highly personalised inclusive lessons
- Having, or willingness to develop, a good understanding of our school curriculum
- Working closely with other professionals and families
- Supporting the creation of a climate for success for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to learn and develop
- Promoting high standards in your class team
- A resilient and instinctive approach in meeting our pupils' needs

If you share our passion for making a real difference to the lives of children and young people with special needs this could be a great role for you. Previous special school experience is not necessary, but it is essential you fully share our values, which can be found on our website.

Application Process

To apply for this post, please email an application form to applications@northernhouseacademy.co.uk. The application form and candidate information pack can be downloaded from our website or from The Gallery Trust website www.thegallerytrust.co.uk. If you are unable to download the application form, please call 01865 557 004 to request one.

Please submit your application form by **Midday Friday 27th February** on My New Term.

Please ensure you detail any gaps in employment and use the selection criteria which is contained in the job pack when you prepare your application, as shortlisting for interview will be based on how closely you demonstrate your ability to fulfil the essential criteria.

We do not accept CVs. If you are shortlisted, we will take up written references before your interview so please provide permission for this and provide accurate phone and email contact details for your referees. One of your referees must be your current or

last employer, and if you are employed in a school, must include your current Head Teacher.

The Gallery Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment with The Gallery Trust is subject to verification of ID and qualifications, satisfactory evidence of the right to work in the UK, health clearance, NCTL and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Check. The Gallery Trust is an equal opportunities employer, and we welcome applications from candidates from all ethnic and community backgrounds.



The Gallery Trust is a Special Multi Academy Trust which is dedicated to improving outcomes for SEND learners in Oxfordshire. We strive to provide the best possible specialist learning experience for all pupils.

Our Strategic Aims

- **Places where innovation drives learning** – our schools have a clear purpose, they educate the whole child and prepare them for adulthood. Everything we do, from our curriculum offer to our pastoral care, is meaningful and driven by the needs of learners.
- **Places where relationships drive engagement and achievement** – our schools are built around exceptional relationships. We provide excellent experiences, growth, and opportunities for pupils and staff, and specialist working environments and resources.
- **Places which provide exceptional knowledge and support** – our schools are supported by a skilled and experienced central team which provides high quality school improvement and central support services.
- **Places which inspire and influence** – our schools are committed to collaborating with our local and national partners and communities to ensure that children and young people with SEND receive the education and opportunities they deserve.

As we enter the next phase of our development and build on our many successes, we want to embrace future challenges and opportunities. The Trust is on a continuing journey of expansion, growing from a Multi Academy Trust based on a single academy in 2013, to its position as the largest Special Trust in Oxfordshire. There are currently six special academies in the Trust located throughout Oxfordshire, with an additional academy opening in January 2024, and a further academy scheduled to open in 2026. The Trust's vision is to continue to expand over the next five years, supporting a community of converter academies, free schools and sponsored academies, and providing outreach and other opportunities. All academies collaborate to share SEND expertise and best practice, and work in partnership with peers who are committed to common aims and goals.

The Board of Trustees believes that by providing the support of highly experienced and specialised school improvement and business teams, school leaders are empowered to focus on the standards of teaching and learning, and in meeting the operational and strategic demands of running their schools.

Teaching Assistant

Job Description

Introduction

This job description describes in general terms the normal duties which the postholder will be expected to undertake. However, the job or duties described may vary or be amended from time to time without changing the level of responsibility associated with the post.

The performance of all the duties and responsibilities shown below will be under the reasonable direction of the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher, or other Senior Manager if appropriate, will be mindful of her/his duty to ensure that the employee has a reasonable workload and sufficient support to carry out the duties of the post.

The job description will be reviewed at least annually and any changes will be subject to consultation. The academy's grievance procedure will be used to resolve any disagreement arising out of the job description. Other relevant policies may be the Stress at work policy and Dignity at work policy.

Job Purpose:

To assist and support the Head Teacher and teaching staff in providing high standards of teaching and learning across the curriculum and to promote the academy's vision and ethos.

The job description involves:

Teaching and Learning

- Assist in the educational and social development of pupils under the direction and guidance of the Head Teacher, SENCO and class teachers
- Assist in the implementation of Individual Education Plans and Individual Behaviour Plans for students and help monitor their progress
- Provide support for individual students inside and outside the classroom to enable them to fully participate in activities
- Work with other professionals, such as speech therapists and occupational therapists, as necessary
- Assist class teachers with maintaining student records
- Support students with emotional or behavioural problems and help develop their social and independence skills
- Maintain good discipline following the Academy's Behaviour policy
- Contribute, wherever appropriate, to the display, presentation and celebration of pupils' work

Administrative duties:

- Support class teachers in photocopying, proof reading and other administrative tasks in order to support teaching
- Undertake other duties from time to time as the Head Teacher requires

Standards and quality assurance:

- Support the aims and ethos of the academy
- Set a good example in terms of dress, punctuality and attendance
- Attend team and staff meetings
- Be proactive in matters relating to health and safety
- Participate positively in training and professional development
- Taking a share of supervisory duties as part of the weekly routine and as necessary
- Take part in Performance Management and appraisal
- Meet deadlines

Specific responsibilities agreed between the Head Teacher and the Teaching Assistant

In addition to the duties outlined, you may be responsible for the following:

- Support in the delivery of specific key stage interventions
- One to one support for a student with specific medical needs
- Meeting the medical and first aid needs of pupils including the administration of medicines by mouth or other medical procedures providing appropriate training has been received
- Help with feeding of students at lunch time
- Supporting students with their personal hygiene and personal care
- The physical management (restrictive physical interventions) of pupils, following appropriate training
- Driving and supporting pupils in school vehicles
- Supporting pupils on a range of offsite educational visits

General Responsibilities:

- Taking appropriate responsibility for one's own health, safety and welfare and the health, safety and welfare of pupils, visitors and work colleagues in accordance with the requirements of legislation and locally-adopted policies; including taking responsibility for raising any concerns with an appropriate manager and for reporting accidents and incidents appropriately
- To carry out other duties as may be reasonably assigned by the Head Teacher

Selection Criteria
Teaching Assistant, Northern House Academy

	Essential	Desirable
Professional Qualifications	Grade 4 at GCSE in Maths and English (Grade C on old scaling) or equivalent in mathematics and English, or suitable equivalent experience	NVQ 2 for Teaching Assistants or equivalent
Experience		<p>Previous experience working in a school environment</p> <p>Previous experience working with SEN</p> <p>Experience of working with or caring for children of relevant age</p>
Professional Knowledge & Skills	<p>Understanding of child development and learning</p> <p>Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities</p> <p>Ability to work flexibly, throughout the whole school, meeting the needs of pupils in a range of contexts</p> <p>Willingness and ability to undertake physical management of pupils, following appropriate training</p> <p>Willingness to undertake First Aid training and to attend to the medical, first aid and personal needs of pupils.</p> <p>Ability to take an active role in the support of PE lessons</p> <p>Effective use of ICT to support learning</p>	<p>Team Teach trained</p> <p>Understanding of relevant policies/codes of practice and awareness of relevant legislation</p> <p>General understanding of National Curriculum</p> <p>First aid trained</p>
Personal Skills and Qualities	<p>Ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with pupils, colleagues and parents</p> <p>Good organisational skills</p> <p>Good communication skills</p> <p>Ability to remain positive and enthusiastic, including when under pressure</p> <p>Strong commitment to raising standards</p>	Full driving license