



Cheney School

Think for yourself; act for others



JOB INFORMATION PACK

Head of History and Politics

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

We are a school: we will educate a new generation to view the world critically, make their own decisions, and act in a way that benefits the wider community, not just themselves.

This is summed up in our motto, "think for yourself; act for others."

Cheney is a genuinely comprehensive school, in the best sense of the term, with a fully inclusive intake, which represents not just our catchment area, but also modern Britain.

The ideals of the comprehensive movement have been met in Cheney, in a way that is very rare.

We value creativity over conformity; education over league tables; the needs of students over data; self-discipline over sanctions; nuance over simplification; curiosity over acceptance; honesty over

reassurance; the judgement of our community over the judgement of the official world.

We value emotional intelligence equally to academic intelligence; well-being equally to success; self-knowledge to factual knowledge; humanity to rigour.

This is not to say that the things we value less are worthless; in their place, and in their time, quite the reverse.

In fact, we believe if we get the first things right, the second will follow.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to visit.

While you are here, you might like to visit the Rumble Museum, the only Arts Council-accredited museum in a state school, and a great example of what creativity and curiosity looks like at Cheney.





GREAT REASONS TO WORK AT CHENEY



Noticeable warmth and friendliness of staff and students



Employee Assistance Programme – free counselling and practical advice



Genuine priority of staff workload in decision making



Comprehensive support programme for ECTs



Positive commitment to the environment (Sustainable Secondary of the Year 2024)



Thoughtful and extensive CPD offer for all teaching and support staff



Cycle to work scheme, E-bike loan scheme and EV charging



Staff social events, sport and other activities

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TESTIMONIALS FROM STAFF

“Everyone is encouraging and wants you to succeed and fulfill your potential.”

“I feel valued and feel part of something beautiful.”

“The staff really make the school, it is because of them that the school is such a nice place to work.”

“The school obviously cares about its pupils, but it cares about its staff just as much.”

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RIVER LEARNING TRUST

Cheney School is part of River Learning Trust (RLT), a multi-academy trust responsible for primary and secondary schools across Oxfordshire and Swindon, and a school-centred initial teacher training provider that serves Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

OUR VISION

Education has the power to change lives, communities and society for the better.

At the River Learning Trust we believe that we can achieve more for our pupils, trainees, staff and communities by working together rather than alone.

All of the schools in the River Learning Trust are united by a common belief in the benefits of working together, and by our commitment to our shared principles. Our vision is for our schools and SCITT to improve rapidly, continuously and sustainably: to be better faster together.

Our 'Why?' is that children and young people 'only get one go' in school and our schools should improve faster and be better as part of RLT to ensure the best possible 'go' for our pupils.

Our 'How' is through the highest possible support and challenge for our schools and each other, underpinned by our three principles. We use the principles of 'aligned autonomy' to empower colleagues in schools to perform well; we rarely direct from the centre but rather support leaders and other colleagues to do their work exceptionally well in their own context.

The schools and SCITT are united by their commitment to the principles of the trust and a common belief in the benefits of everything that is gained by working together.

WHAT MATTERS TO US

The River Learning Trust is a community of children, young people and adults with shared principles.

These principles are:

- Commitment to Excellence; striving for the best educational experience through continuous improvement.
- Everyone Learning; creating and taking opportunities that enhance lives through evidence-based practice supporting adult and pupil learning.
- Respectful Relationships; acting with care, integrity, and fairness in all we do.

THE POWER OF PEOPLE

High-performing organisations have the right organisational culture, effective processes and well-trained, motivated colleagues in the right roles.

We focus a great deal on people and the importance of continuous professional learning and development.

THE TRUST'S SCHOOLS

We currently educate around 16,000 pupils and have around 2,200 colleagues working in the trust. The SCITT (school-centred initial teacher training provider) trains around 110 trainees a year in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Cheney School
Chipping Norton School
Gillotts School
Gosford Hill School
Kingsdown School
The Cherwell School
The Marlborough CofE School
The Oxford Academy
The Swan School
Wheatley Park School

Horspath CofE Primary School
Larkrise Primary School
Madley Brook Primary School
Middle Barton Primary School
New Marston Primary School
Rose Hill Primary School
Sandhills Primary School
Seven Fields Primary School
Tower Hill Primary School
Witney Community Primary School
Windrush CofE Primary School
Wolvercote Primary School

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Barton Park Primary School
Bayards Hill Primary School
Beckley CofE Primary School
Charlbury Primary School
Cutteslowe Primary School
Edith Moorhouse Primary School
Edward Field Primary School
Garsington CofE Primary School

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Meadowbrook College

TEACHER TRAINING

OTT SCITT

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

Oxfordshire Teaching School Hub



JOB DESCRIPTION

Title of Post:

Head of History and Politics

Contract Terms:

Full time

Grade:

MPS - UPS plus TLR 2.2

Accountable to:

Head of History and Politics

Job Purpose:

This job description should be read in conjunction with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and the provisions of that document will apply to the post holder. The performance of all the duties and responsibilities shown below will be under the reasonable direction of the Headteacher.

Principal responsibilities

- Be a role model for exceptional professional practice;
- Lead the professional practice of all colleagues within History and Politics to ensure they make an effective contribution to the overall aims of the department;
- Lead developments in curricular provision and plan for future developments;
- Line manage the Key Stage leads within the faculty;
- Monitor achievement and attainment throughout the faculty to make the best provision for outstanding student achievement.

Teaching and Learning

- Lead, support and develop the teaching practice and professional development of all colleagues within History and Politics;
- Work with TLR holders within the department to promote the effective management of each Key Stage;

- Work with TLR holders within the department to promote developments in subject knowledge, curriculum planning, and teaching pedagogy across the curriculum;
- Monitor and evaluate each of the above key stages to ensure appropriate provision for all students.

Assessing and Reporting

- Ensure that assessments with the department are regular and accurate;
- Ensure that students receive feedback that develops their skills/knowledges and enables them to progress;
- Work with the TLR holders within the department to analyse relevant subject data and use that analysis to improve student progress, through targeted professional development for colleagues and appropriate interventions for relevant students – and monitor the impact of those interventions;
- Ensure that all teachers in the faculty meet the standards and deadlines for report writing as laid out in school policy.

Leadership and Management

- Lead a culture of high professional standards so all staff are effective in their role;
- Oversee the decision making and policy development across the curriculum;

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Accountable to:

Head of History and Politics

- Instil a culture of sharing and learning from good and outstanding practice so that staff continually develop professionally and are impactful in their role;
- Work with school leaders both within Cheney School and RLT to develop and implement school and trust policy and practice;
- Work with school leaders in local and national partnerships to further improve on faculty and school practice;
- Use educational research to help inform professional practice of staff.

Standards and Quality Assurance

- Monitor and report on student progress and ensure effective recording systems are in place within the faculty;
- Work with school teams to provide and use student information to support progress;
- Monitor, assess and develop classroom teaching and good practice, including monitoring the quality of planning, preparation and assessment;
- Make sure there are records of contacts with parents/carers on issues relating to student progress and behaviour;
- Monitor the analysis and evaluation of student and staff performance data to improve performance of both students and staff across the faculty.

Other Duties and Responsibilities

- Be involved in making appointments within the subject as appropriate;
- Contribute to and lead INSET and CPD in Teaching and Learning at Cheney School and beyond;
- Participate in the school's Appraisal system and to lead performance reviews as appropriate;
- Contribute to a positive and orderly learning environment in the subject accommodation;
- Contribute to guidance and information to parents and students about curriculum and syllabus;
- Be responsible for the well-being and safety of students, and to support the school Respect for Learning policy; to be familiar with relevant school policies and Health and Safety requirements;
- Contribute as appropriate to school-wide curriculum enrichment programme;
- Present to the Senior Leadership Team and governing body where appropriate;
- To be a member of the Extended Leadership Team and contribute to the improvement and progress of Cheney School;
- Such other duties may be required from time to time.

Main Teaching Responsibilities in Addition to The Role Above:

- To carry out the professional duties of a main grade teacher under the teacher's contract;

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Accountable to:

Head of Humanities

- (as defined in the most recent school teachers' pay and conditions document) ensuring the education and welfare of a class/group of pupils having due regard to the school's aims, values and curriculum.
- To be an excellent role model for the school community.
- To help promote and safeguard the welfare of all children
- To promote self-discipline, high standards of behaviour and positive attitudes on the part of all children and to implement policies and procedures to foster them.
- Ensure that a high standard of care for all children is maintained.
- To develop and implement equality of opportunity effectively throughout the school.
- To fully support the life and work of the school.
- To develop and maintain positive and effective professional relationships with colleagues, parents/carers, the local community and Governors.
- To provide information to the Governing Body to enable it to meet its responsibilities.
- To ensure that parents/carers and children are well informed about the curriculum, attainment and progress and are able to understand and contribute to targets for improvement.
- Take appropriate responsibility for one's own health, safety and welfare and the health and safety of children, visitors and work colleagues...

- ...in accordance with the requirements of legislation and locally-adopted policies; including taking responsibility for raising concerns with an appropriate manager.
- To share in the corporate responsibility for the wellbeing and discipline of all pupils.

General Responsibilities:

- At all times act in accordance with agreed local and national policies and procedures;
- Contribute to the overall ethos of Cheney School and the River Learning Trust;
- Appreciate and support the role of other professionals;
- Attend and participate in relevant meetings as required;
- Participate in training and other learning activities and performance development as required;
- Carry out other duties as required from time to time by line manager;
- Follow the Trust's Health and Safety rules and procedures and adhere to safeguarding principles.
- Whilst every effort has been made to explain the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified.
- Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications & Training

- UK recognised Qualified Teacher Status
- Current DBS
- Evidence of participation in professional learning
- Excellent classroom behaviour management

Skills and Knowledge

- Excellent subject knowledge
- Experience of successful coordination of a curriculum subject area
- Proven record of raising achievement
- Experience of working with children with SEND
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to support parents and carers to improve outcomes for their children
- Appropriate ICT skills to support learning
- Good organisational and time management skills
- Proactive in approaching the resolution of problems

Safeguarding

- Understanding of current statutory processes, procedures and associated documentation.

Personal attributes

- Ability to be flexible
- Resilience
- Aspirational

Safeguarding Statement

Cheney School and The River Learning Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and preventing extremism; all staff must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations to safeguard children and young people.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and obtain any other statutorily required clearance. Employment will also be conditional on the receipt of at least two acceptable references (1 from current/latest employer) and evidence of the formal qualifications required for the role.



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