

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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*A Church of England School
providing a Values-based Education*

April 2026

Dear Colleague,

Subject Leader – English

Thank you for your interest in the above role at our school.

We are looking for a creative, enthusiastic and passionate English teacher to lead our English team.



This is an exciting time to join our school as we start our transition from being a well-established Middle School into a community-focussed, values-led Church of England Secondary School. As a school, we are caring, loving and supportive with high aspirations for all. We promote inclusion, we are proud to belong and we value each individual. Our vision is to 'Live life in all its fullness'. For both students and staff, we choose to live our values, being the best we can be in community.

We are a popular and oversubscribed school of 720 students. We are situated in Cranfield – a village in the Local Authority of Central Bedfordshire. We have links with Cranfield University – a Science and Aerospace University with many world-class, large-scale and national facilities. We also work closely with the University of Bedfordshire which has a strong tradition of teacher-training.

Students are largely drawn from the village of Cranfield and our neighbouring parishes of Wootton and Marston Moretaine.

This is our last year as a Middle School and our transition to evolve into an 11-16 secondary school starts in September 2026 so this post will be ideal for secondary practitioners. We have already done lots of planning ahead and we are going to use AQA as our English GCSE courses for Language and Literature. We will still have Year 6 students next academic year and we will have one more year of KS2 SATs so any KS2 and SATs experience would be beneficial.



We already have a secondary approach to our curriculum delivery with specialist teachers providing engaging, challenging and inspiring lessons across all year groups. Our English curriculum vision is to build a love of language and literature in our students through inspirational teaching based around memorable and challenging texts. We aim to develop students' vocabulary through challenging reading texts and through developing their writing expertise; allowing them to express themselves

clearly and creatively regardless of their starting points. We take learning out into the local area – for example, Year 6 go to Wrest Park in Silsoe which was used as a field hospital for soldiers injured in World War One – the students use this experiential visit to inspire a creative narrative – the old Bath House provided a reference point for what it might be like for recovering soldiers.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Stewart-McAlpine – Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Craddock

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs A Stewart-McAlpine & Mrs J Johnson

Senior Leaders: Mr M Eames & Mrs J French – SENDC: Mrs S Davidson

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In our OFSTED inspection in July 2023, the Lead Inspector commented: **“Pupils at Holywell School attend a school with values rooted in its Christian ethos. They are welcoming and friendly. They take on responsibilities that make their environment and community richer and more rewarding.”** (Ofsted 2023). We have also just had our SIAMS inspection and we were delighted to have our school described by the inspector as follows: **“The impact of the vision is felt throughout the school, particularly in warm relationships and unity of purpose. Pupils and adults flourish as they are helped to live out the vision through the school’s values. There is a culture of aspiration, of being the best one can be, in all aspects of personal and communal life. Pupils and adults often refer to Holywell as a team, emphasising the tangible sense of togetherness.”** (SIAMS January 2024).

Our English curriculum is carefully crafted to ensure:

- students build and develop their skills in writing
- students know, understand and can effectively use technical English (grammar and punctuation)
- students have access to a wide range of texts and authors
- students are effective communicators
- students are inspired by what they read, hear and experience

This is a wonderful opportunity for an ambitious and creative colleague to develop our curriculum further through Years 9 to 11 and we are looking for a talented member of staff to lead our students to being successful at GCSE Level. This would be a perfect opportunity for an experienced Subject Leader or for a teacher looking to take on the role of Subject Leader. We currently have four full-time members of the English team and other team members also teach in the department (including myself as Headteacher). Full details of the schemes of work can be accessed on the school website – Learning -> Subjects -> English. There is a significant teaching commitment attached to this post and the postholder will also look after a tutor group.

The start date for the position is September 2026. If you need any additional information or clarification about the post, or should you wish/be able to visit the school ahead of submitting your applications, please contact either Ms Romana Tomei (Business & Operations Manager) by email (rtomei@holywellschool.co.uk) or myself: (mgsimpson@holywellschool.co.uk). Completed applications should be received on or before noon on Monday 4th May 2026. Please explain in your letter of application why you are passionate about teaching English, what your pedagogical approach for English is and how you could support us in developing our KS4 curriculum. Interviews will take place week commencing 11th May 2026. We would highly recommend a visit to the school to see our ethos in action. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Michael G Simpson
Headteacher

