

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK



CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY  
**ISLINGTON**  
WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Teaching Assistant

EMBRACING TRADITION • PURSUING EXCELLENCE • LEADING CHANGE

## CEO WELCOME

**Dear Applicant,**

**I am delighted that you have chosen to apply for a post with the City of London Academies Trust.**



COLAT is driven by the ambition to deliver exceptional educational outcomes for the young people we serve, combining the heritage and traditions of the City of London Corporation with a creative and effective approach to teaching and learning.

Our expectations are high for both our students and our staff and as such we work to three core values: integrity, professionalism and care. We demonstrate real care by insisting on the highest expectations of behaviour in every phase and setting. Our curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that every young person is afforded the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. We promote and support excellent classroom pedagogy as well as ensuring we have common approaches to assessment and intervention. This is how we care for our young people and ensure that they achieve the highest possible outcomes and are able to counter the many aspects of disadvantage they, their families and our wider communities experience.

Our 'Foundations of Excellence', which run through all Trust schools, have been the framework for our sector-leading success so far. These core principles led to the City of London and COLAT previously being recognised as the best performing academy chain for progress and attainment of disadvantaged children ('Chain Effects', The Sutton Trust). This fuels our determination to continue to develop the work we do, while remaining focused on the ambitions for our schools and making a significant difference to children's lives.

In striving for excellence in all aspects of our work, we are acutely aware that this will only be achieved through hard-working and motivated staff. Our care for staff means that we invest in our people, allowing them to grow and achieve their career goals within the Trust or beyond. We are committed to providing first-rate training and development opportunities to all our staff, in addition to excellent career advancement opportunities within our growing Trust.

In the classroom, and around school, we expect the kind of exemplary behaviour that allows our staff to generate exceptional learning outcomes for our children. Being sponsored by the City of London Corporation also means our staff benefit by having access to a huge range of resources, events and exciting learning opportunities that other Trusts are simply not able to offer.

We are always looking for like-minded individuals to join us on our journey. Making the choice to work for COLAT means making the choice to be part of an evolving, ambitious and supportive Trust where you are valued, encouraged and can develop your specific talents, whatever they may be. We look forward to receiving your application.

**Yours faithfully,**

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'M. Emmerson', written over a white background.

**Mark Emmerson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



## WHO WE ARE

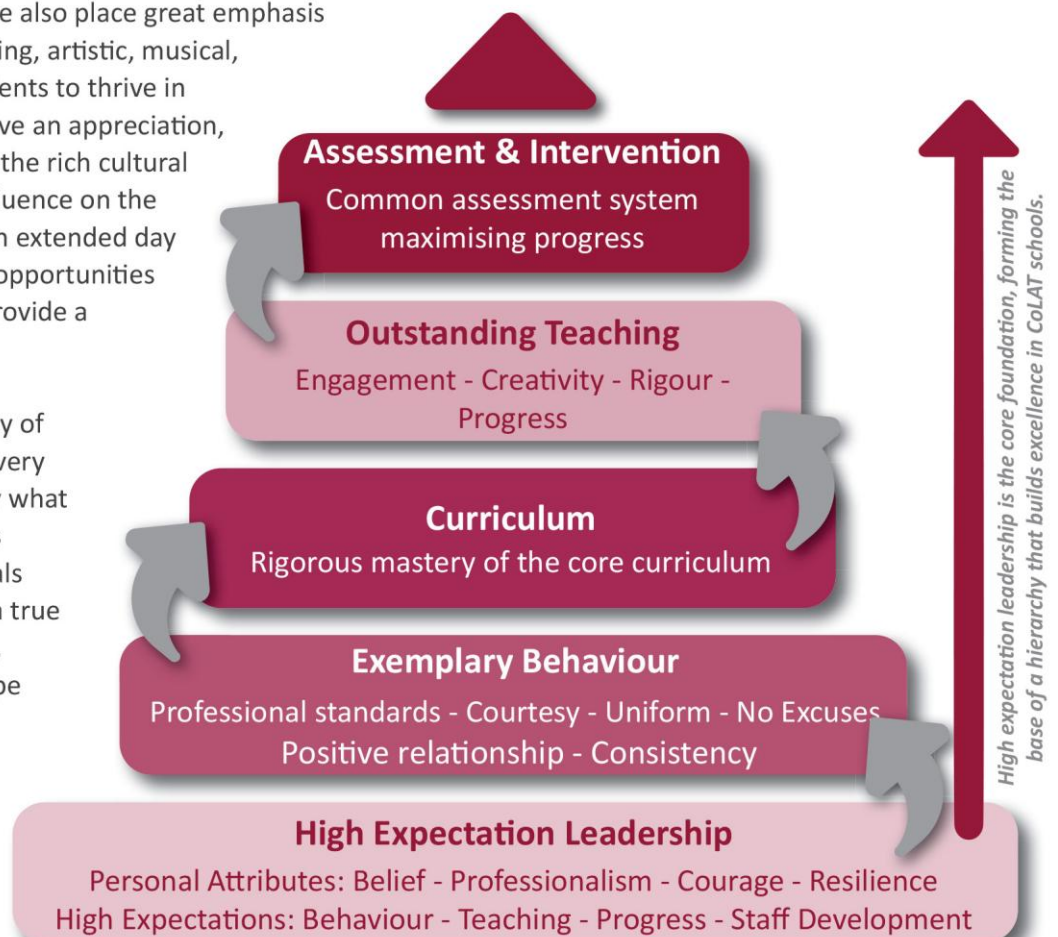
**City of London Academies Trust operates schools in areas of significant disadvantage and believes strongly in the transformational nature of education.**

We are unashamedly academic and unapologetically results driven because we recognise that strong SATs, GCSE and A level outcomes lead to increased life opportunities for our students. All our schools adopt a warm/strict approach, with every one of our School Leaders adhering to and aligning with our COLAT behaviour systems. Our simple, clear, and consistent routines, rituals and norms embed strong habits delivering exceptional student behaviour. In our schools, our teachers can teach, and students can learn, uninterrupted. We take great pride in curating an exceptionally positive learning environment and we obsessively guard against anything which may compromise our strong ethos and culture.

Our curriculum is knowledge rich. We believe in teaching 'powerful knowledge,' and educating our students on the 'best that's been thought and said' is crucial to giving them the best possible chance of success in life. More broadly, we find opportunities to elevate the curriculum to ensure our most able students can compete with their more privileged peers. Our curriculum is coherently and intelligently sequenced, with our Subject Improvement Leads working closely with Heads of Department to drive gains in learning and develop subject specific pedagogy. We are working on creating a standard curriculum in most of our subjects; this will help reduce teacher workload by taking away the production of high-quality resources and assessments, freeing up our expert teachers to grapple with the delivery of the content and focus on the learning.

Our teaching approach is influenced by the works of educationalists such as Doug Lemov. We are confident we know what works for schools in our specific context, and we have spent a long time codifying our approach, whilst also providing sufficient flexibility for our teachers to add their own unique personality and dynamism to their classrooms. Results are important to us, but we also place great emphasis on developing our students' sporting, artistic, musical, and linguistic talents. For our students to thrive in modern Britain, they must also have an appreciation, understanding and attachment to the rich cultural heritage of our country and its influence on the wider world. All our schools run an extended day to deliver an array of enrichment opportunities and super curricular sessions to provide a truly holistic education.

It is an exciting time to join the City of London Academies Trust, and we very much hope you will be inspired by what you learn about us. We are always excited to meet fellow professionals and there is no better way to get a true sense of a school's culture, values, and ethos than by visiting. We hope you take up this opportunity so you can see what life-changing opportunities our schools provide, and how integral our people are to this mission.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to providing **individualised** and **impactful** professional development for every member of our COLAT community, and we offer a menu of talent pathways to support you at every stage in your career.

These pathways are research-based, designed for COLAT schools and delivered by experts from across the Trust. They provide Trust-wide training and networking opportunities to support you to achieve your career goals.


The Talent Pathway menu includes:

- **Aspiring to Middle Leadership: Leading a Department**
- **Aspiring to Middle Leadership: Leading a Year Group**
- **Aspiring to Middle Leadership: Leading a Operational Department**
- **Aspiring to Senior Leadership: Curriculum, Teaching and Learning**
- **Aspiring to Senior Leadership: Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour**
- **Aspiring to Senior Leadership: Personal Development, Welfare and Management**
- **Aspiring to SEND Leadership**
- **Aspiring to Operational Functions Leadership**

If you are interested in one of our Talent Pathways, please do ask for more details during your school visit or interview.

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

We invest in and support our staff by keeping their development a priority, and we are proud to have a range of benefits to ensure staff feel valued, including:

- **Teachers' or local government pension scheme with a generous contribution from the Trust**
  - **Occupational maternity and adoption pay following 26 weeks of continuous service**
  - **Generous annual leave entitlement**
  - **Sabbatical leave entitlement for up to one year (unpaid) after five years' continuous service**
  - **Cycle to work scheme**
  - **Corporate gym membership rates**
  - **Travelcard loan scheme**
  - **Annual training and development opportunities in addition to in-house staff development**
  - **Access to City of London housing allocation scheme**
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## Principal's Welcome

City of London Academy Islington is a dynamic and ambitious school that serves a truly diverse student body in the heart of Islington, minutes away from Essex Road, Upper Street and Angel. As a mixed, non-selective, and non-denominational secondary school and sixth form, we focus on delivering an exceptional education aimed at improving the life chances of our students.

The Academy's mission centres around academic excellence, underpinned by our core values of respect, responsibility, and integrity. Alongside a strong academic foundation, In addition to providing an outstanding academic experience to our students, we offer an impressive range of enrichment opportunities designed to extend and enhance students' learning and develop their cultural capital. We hope that all students will graduate from the Academy with excellent qualifications, but also having developed a broad range of passions, interests and skills that extend beyond the confines of the formal curriculum.



Adopting a "warm-strict" approach, routines and systems are in place to support excellent behaviour, built on high expectations for all students. The Academy is dedicated to developing staff, offering a comprehensive continuing professional development (CPD) programme, and the support of an experienced Senior Leadership Team that seeks to maximise staff impact while reducing any unnecessary administrative burden. City of London Academy Islington is part of the City of London Academies Trust, which presents a wealth of opportunities for career progression.

We are actively seeking dedicated and inspirational staff members who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people, regardless of their background or circumstances.

If this sounds like the environment where you want to take the next step in your career, we welcome your application for a position with us.

**Laurie Glees**  
Principal

### Ofsted

In 2019, Ofsted awarded the Academy an outstanding rating, noting that *"the school has been transformed into an exciting environment where pupils and staff thrive. Outcomes are outstanding and pupils' progress is exceptional. This is a school where 'no child is left behind.'"* Following a further inspection in April 2025, the Academy retained its outstanding rating with Ofsted stating that *"The school has established a calm and focused school environment with high expectations. Pupils participate happily in learning and in the wider life of the school. As a result, published academic outcomes for pupils at the end of Year 11 are positive. In the sixth form, students are well-prepared for their next academic steps."*

## Teaching Assistant - Job Description

<b>Post:</b>	Teaching Assistant
<b>Accountable to:</b>	SENCO
<b>Grade / Range:</b>	NJC Scale 4, Points 8 – 11 (Inner London)
<b>Salary:</b>	£28,369 – £29,617 per annum (FTE £32,442 - £33,870 per annum)
<b>Working pattern:</b>	Full-time – 35 hours per week Term-time only (39 weeks) Monday to Friday, 8.15 am to 4.15 pm
<b>Contract:</b>	Fixed-term (ending 31 August 2026)
<b>Location:</b>	City of London Academy Islington
<b>Disclosure level:</b>	Enhanced

### Main Purpose

- To work under the guidance/instruction of designated teaching/senior staff to undertake work/care/support programmes, to enable access to learning for pupils and to assist the teacher in the management of pupils and the classroom
- Work may be carried out in the classroom or outside the main teaching area under the guidance of teaching staff

### Key Accountabilities

- To provide physical and communication support using modes of communication appropriate to the individual needs of the child
- To provide communication support to enable full access to the curriculum and any extra curricula activities e.g. lessons, assemblies, parents' evenings, reviews and visits
- To work with individuals and groups of students in class with additional needs under the direction of the class teacher and SENCO
- To help plan, organise and deliver learning activities for students being supported, both in the classroom and in withdrawal interventions
- To provide support in a manner which facilitates the child's cognitive development by removing barriers to learning
- To ensure the physical welfare of students and assist students with their physical needs as appropriate and agreed, e.g. assisting with lifting moving and handling, intimate care
- To clarify, modify and adapt materials to an appropriate level according to need
- Under the guidance of the SENCO, contribute to setting individual targets and to the review of those targets. Attend and contribute to meetings to review students' progress, and contribute to written reports
- To monitor the progress of identified students, keep written records consistent with Academy systems and provide the teacher with feedback on students' progress in relation to provision
- To provide support for students' emotional and social development by encouraging and modelling positive behaviour and dealing with disruption as agreed in the Academy's Behaviour Policy. Contribute to programmes of support for identified students
- To liaise with professionals and external agencies where necessary under the direction of the SENCO
- To assist in the production of appropriate teaching materials
- To contribute to the target setting and review process and support pupils in meeting specific targets of their SEN plan.
- To maintain, monitor and promote the optimum use of specialist equipment in all settings
- To liaise with staff, parents and relevant professionals

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- To undertake relevant training as part of continuing professional development
- Attend all staff meetings and supervision sessions
- To maintain appropriate records of work and progress
- To promote the pupil's inclusion within the school
- To promote the pupil's independence skills in communication, learning and social skills

## **Other**

- Following Health and Safety requirements and initiatives as directed
- Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation and confidentiality
- Commitment and contribution to improving standards for pupils as appropriate
- Adopting Customer Care and Quality initiatives
- Fulfilling the role of Student Personal Adviser and/or mentor if required
- Contributing to the maintenance of a caring and stimulating environment for young people
- At all times the postholder must adhere to professional business standards of dress, courtesy and efficiency in line with the ethos and specialism of the Academy

## **Safeguarding Children**

COLAT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks, including enhanced DBS checks.

The above responsibilities are subject to the general duties and responsibilities contained in the Statement of Conditions of Employment. The duties of this post may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

The person undertaking this role is expected to work within the policies, ethos and aims of the Trust and to carry out such other duties as may reasonably be assigned. The post holder will be expected to have an agreed flexible working pattern to ensure that all relevant functions are fulfilled through direct dialogue with employees, contractors and community members.

## **English Duty**

This role is covered under part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016 and therefore the ability to speak fluent spoken English is an essential requirement for this role.

## Teaching Assistant – Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>		
GCSE grade C or above in Maths and English (or equivalent)	✓	
Educated to degree level or equivalent	✓	
<b>Experience, Skills and Knowledge</b>		
Experience of working with young children and their families in a multicultural environment	✓	
Experience of developing and delivering individual education programmes for children with specific needs	✓	
Experience of management and improvement of progress of students with SEND by implementing group and individualised support programmes	✓	
Experience of tracking progress of students with SEND in and out of class		✓
Experience of liaising with multiple agencies in order to provide individualised support packages for students and communicate changes with teachers	✓	
Experience of developing banks of resources for students and teachers		✓
Experience of contributing towards the Assess-Plan-Do-Review cycle		✓
Experience of working with students with physical disabilities and training in moving and handling		✓
Knowledge and understanding of the SEND Code of Practice 2014		✓
<b>Personal Attributes and Qualities</b>		
Good problem-solving skills	✓	
Attention to detail in communication and planning	✓	
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	✓	
Ability to work under pressure whilst maintaining a positive, professional attitude	✓	
Ability to work as part of a team	✓	
Ability to organise and prioritise workload and work on own initiative	✓	
Ability to communicate effectively with staff, students, parents and agencies/ statutory bodies etc and maintain good working relationships	✓	
Ability to accurately input information on a database	✓	
Ability to use email/internet	✓	
Experience of using Microsoft Office Suite	✓	
Experience of using SIMS or other similar databases		✓
Flexible and willing to contribute to the success of the team	✓	
<b>Other</b>		
Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people	✓	
Willingness to undergo appropriate checks, including enhanced DBS Checks	✓	
Motivation to work with children and young people	✓	
Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people	✓	

### Our Values and Vision

The City of London Academies Trust, sponsored by the City of London Corporation, aims to provide high-quality education for students and pioneer educational innovation. We are driven by the ambition to provide world-class experiences and deliver exceptional educational outcomes for the young people we serve.

All City of London schools and academies draw upon the traditions, institutions, heritage and historical successes of London to furnish each of their diverse communities with life-transforming learning experiences. In doing so, we believe that the young people we serve develop into successful, compassionate young adults, who make a positive contribution to their local, national and global communities.



Our schools are characterised by a common understanding of what makes outstanding schools, based on five key principles which are known as our 'Foundations of Excellence'.

## **Our Staff**

Our staff have high expectations, are consistent and driven to provide the best teaching and opportunities for our students. Teachers work in a well-disciplined environment where they are able to teach creative and engaging lessons, and all staff are given exciting opportunities to develop and learn from exceptional practitioners.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The postholder will be expected to carry out all duties in the context of and in compliance with the academy Equalities policies.

# HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

**Title:** Teaching Assistant

**Vacancy Description:** Fixed-term, Term time only

It is essential that a fully completed application form is submitted. City of London Academies Trust cannot accept CVs alone. It is recommended that you retain a copy of your application form, so you can refer to it if you are invited for interview.

The main sections of the application form ask for various information relating to your work, educational and personal history. This information allows your application to be fully assessed against the criteria/competencies required for the job. When completing the application, you should provide your entire work history, including a description of any gaps in employment. In addition, outline your skills, qualifications and any notable awards. These can be selective, and you only need to provide those you consider relevant to the job you are applying for.

Your letter of application/supporting statements is the most significant element of the application form. Using no more than 1,000 words please provide an accompanying letter explaining why you are applying for this post and how your experience, skills, training and personal qualities match the requirements of the role as set out in the job description and person specification.

As part of your letter of application/supporting statement we are interested in knowing your impact so please provide relevant evidence. For instance, if you are seeking a pastoral role provide relevant data on the reduction of exclusions. If seeking a teacher role provide progress and attainment data of classes taught. If you do not meet all the essential criteria, it is unlikely that you will be shortlisted.

City of London Academies Trust asks that all potential employees highlight any relationships to school governors or employees to ensure all applicants are treated fairly.

For example, it may be inappropriate to offer someone a position within an organisation where they work for a family member or asking someone to take a position where they manage grants for voluntary services when their family works for a relevant voluntary organisation.

City of London Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, including enhanced DBS checks and a willingness to demonstrate commitment to the standards which flows from City of London Academies Trust vision and values.

Please provide details of two referees, one of whom should be your present/most recent employer. References will not be accepted from relatives or friends. References are requested for all shortlisted candidates unless you specifically request us not to do so. Open references will not be accepted.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. If you are appointed, you will be required to complete a DBS check. Any information received from the DBS will be treated in the strictest confidence. Having a criminal record will not exclude you from appointment, unless it is considered that the conviction renders you unsuitable to work with children.

Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, it is a criminal offence if an individual who is disqualified from working with children knowingly applies for, offers to do, accepts or does any work with children.

The role is covered by part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016 and therefore the ability to speak fluent spoken English is an essential requirement for this role.



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