



**BEACON  
ACADEMY**

AMBITIOUS FOR EXCELLENCE

# Head of Food Technology

Information for applicants  
May 2026



**MARK**  
Education  
Trust



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# Welcome from the Executive Headteacher and CEO

## Anna Robinson



As the Executive Headteacher (EHT) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **MARK Education Trust**, I am proud to lead three schools in East Sussex: **Beacon Academy** in Crowborough, **Uplands Academy** in Wadhurst, and **Hailsham Academy**, an all-through 2–19 school located in Hailsham and Hellingly.

Together, we are driven by a clear mission:

*To provide the best possible education for our students, preparing them for life so they can stand equally alongside their peers locally, nationally, and globally.*

### Our Journey

I was appointed Headteacher of Beacon Academy in 2015 and became Executive Headteacher of MARK Education Trust in September 2022. Since then, the Trust has grown carefully and responsibly to include Uplands Academy in 2022 and Hailsham Academy in 2025.

During my tenure at **Beacon Academy**, we embarked on a transformational journey. In 2019, we celebrated record-breaking A-Level and GCSE results, with our Progress 8 measure making Beacon the **top-performing school in East Sussex for three consecutive years**. We also ranked **first across Sussex and within the top 1.8% of schools nationally**. Beacon's results continue to reflect academic excellence. Our sixth form students consistently achieve highly, with the vast majority of students securing their first-choice destinations - whether that be university, apprenticeship, or employment.

In 2024, following a rigorous Ofsted inspection, Beacon Academy was judged to be **Outstanding** in all categories.

In September 2022, we welcomed **Uplands Academy** (formerly Uplands Community College) into MARK Education Trust. Located in Wadhurst, East Sussex, Uplands is a good school with vast potential, driven by an inspiring student body and a dedicated team of staff. We are proud of the excellent relationships that have developed between staff and students, underpinned by high expectations and a relentless commitment to ensuring that the focus is on each child as an individual.

Our collective drive and ambition for continuous improvement was recognised and validated in January 2025, when Ofsted confirmed that Uplands is a **Good** school in all categories.

*Continued overleaf...*

## About MARK Education Trust

Together, we make a strong, unified team focused on delivering whole school improvement. Centralised business services support our schools to develop and sustain excellence in every classroom. Our schools remain oversubscribed across year groups - a testament to the dedication and impact of our highly skilled and experienced staff.

Guided by our values, we are growing responsibly and with care. Our growth strategy is implemented thoughtfully to ensure that each of our schools retains its unique identity while remaining connected by our shared vision and continuously striving for excellence through collaboration.

In September 2025, we welcomed Hailsham Community College - now **Hailsham Academy** - into the trust. I spent 16 years at Hailsham, beginning as a PE and English teacher and progressing to Head of School, before moving to Beacon, so Hailsham joining our trust also marks a personally significant milestone in my career. As an all-through 2-19 school, Hailsham Academy strengthens our commitment to inclusive, high-quality education.

## Join Us

If you share our ambition, values, and belief in the potential of every child, I warmly encourage you to consider joining Beacon Academy. You will be part of an exceptional team within both a thriving school and a growing trust, united in our determination to provide the very best education for all of our young people.

To find out more about who we are and what we stand for, we invite you to visit our [MARK Education Trust website](#).



**Anna Robinson**  
Executive Headteacher and CEO

# Welcome to Beacon Academy

## A message from Headteacher Keith Slattery



Thank you for your interest in joining Beacon Academy. I have worked at Beacon for over 20 years and was proud to be appointed Headteacher in 2023. It is a privilege to serve this community and to lead the school on its continuing journey of excellence. In 2024, we were judged **Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted** - recognition of the dedication, professionalism and ambition of our staff and the achievements of our students.

Beacon Academy is a split-site, semi-rural, mixed 11–18 academy with 1,664 students, including over 320 in our thriving Sixth Form. Situated in Crowborough, on the edge of the Ashdown Forest and within easy reach of Tunbridge Wells, Brighton, Eastbourne and the south coast, we are an oversubscribed school with a diverse, non-selective intake from more than 10 primary schools and beyond.

Our Sixth Form, located on its own dedicated campus just minutes from our main site, attracts not only our own students but also those from local and international schools. We are proud that the vast majority of our students go on to secure places at their first-choice university, apprenticeship or employment.

At Beacon, we are uncompromising in our ambition for every student. We deliver a broad, knowledge-rich curriculum within a calm, safe and purposeful environment. Our culture is built on unapologetically high standards, a relentless focus on teaching and learning, and exceptional pastoral support. Alongside academic excellence, we place equal emphasis on developing happy, responsible and well-rounded young people – equipping them with the knowledge, character and confidence to thrive in life beyond school. This is achieved through our outstanding support networks, high expectations and a wide range of enrichment opportunities.

As part of MARK Education Trust, together with Uplands Academy and Hailsham Academy, we are motivated, ambitious, resourceful and knowledgeable. Our collaboration ensures that we remain outward-facing, innovative and committed to our shared vision of providing the very best education for every child.

If you share our values and our drive to inspire, challenge and support students to achieve their very best, I warmly invite you to consider joining our exceptional team.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Slattery', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Keith Slattery**  
Headteacher

# Why work for MARK Education Trust

At MARK Education Trust, our staff are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to creating a supportive, ambitious and people-centred environment where every colleague feels valued and able to thrive. As part of our dedication to staff wellbeing, professional development and work-life balance, we offer a comprehensive range of employee benefits.

## Flexible Working

We offer a flexible working approach wherever possible, supporting colleagues to balance professional responsibilities with personal commitments.

## Staff Recognition

We celebrate the contributions and achievements of our staff through trust-wide and school level recognition initiatives.

## Pension Schemes

All staff are eligible to join:

- Local Government Pension Scheme (support staff)
- Teachers' Pension Scheme (teaching staff)

## Generous Annual Leave

Support staff benefit from a generous holiday entitlement.

## Wellbeing Support

All colleagues have access to our Employee Assistance Programme, which includes:

- Free, confidential telephone support
- Face-to-face counselling
- Wellbeing resources and guidance

## Staff Voice

We actively seek and value feedback through regular staff surveys and staff forums, to help shape trust policy.

## Discounts and Perks

- Eligibility for the Blue Light Card, offering a wide range of national and local discounts.
- Discounted gym membership and exercise classes at Uplands Academy.
- Free parking on site or within close proximity at all trust schools.

## Join Our Team

At MARK Education Trust, you will be part of a collaborative, forward-thinking community that is motivated, ambitious, resourceful and knowledgeable - united in supporting the success and wellbeing of our students.



## Our Employee Benefits:

- Flexible Working
- Staff Recognition
- Pension Schemes
- Generous Annual Leave
- Wellbeing Support
- Staff Voice
- Discounts
- Free on-site parking

# TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT BEACON ACADEMY

## 1 Routes into teaching

1

School Experience Days  
Teaching Assistant  
Individual Needs Assistant  
Cover Supervisor  
All support roles

## 3 Early Career Training

3

University College London Early  
Career Teacher Training  
Bespoke mentoring  
Flexible training on SharePoint

## 5 Leadership

5

ASCL Training  
National College of Education Level 7  
Apprenticeship  
NPQSL, NPQH, NPQ SEND  
East Sussex Aspiring Leaders

## 2 Initial Teacher Training

2

PGCE (University of Sussex, University  
of Brighton)  
School Direct, University of Brighton,  
Teach Kent and Sussex  
Assessment Only (University of Sussex)  
Apprenticeship (funded route)

## 4 Development for experienced teachers and middle leaders

4

National Professional Qualifications in  
Teacher Development, Leading Literacy,  
Behaviour and Culture, Leading Teaching  
Pedagogy group  
Ongoing curriculum training  
Exam board training  
Behaviour Working Party  
Mental Health First Aider  
Spending time in Student Support  
Supporting quality assurance  
Exam marking  
BAT duties  
INSET days  
Making Our MARK blog  
Research Lead Programme

# Department Information

The Food Technology department plays a vital role in developing students' practical life skills, creativity and understanding of healthy living. Through a well-structured and engaging curriculum, students gain hands-on experience in food preparation while building confidence in the kitchen.

The department benefits from a well-equipped food room that enables all students to participate safely and effectively in practical lessons. High expectations are maintained for behaviour, organisation, and presentation, creating a purposeful learning environment. Health and safety is prioritised at all times, with students receiving regular guidance to ensure correct use of equipment and ingredients.

KS3 students currently have 1 hour a week on a 12-13-week rotation for Food Preparation and Nutrition where students learn, for example, how to use equipment, the processes of food preparation, different cuisines, macronutrients, how to reduce food waste and the analysis of complex recipes.

Throughout KS4 (GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition), students continue to learn about many aspect of food and nutrition including how to become more independent in the kitchen, making informed food choices, studying nutritional analysis, the functional and chemical properties of food, the principles of food safety and food labelling and marketing influences.

The department contributes positively to the wider life of the school through a range of enrichment activities, including food clubs and competitions and transition events, as well as targeted GCSE revision sessions and intervention support. These opportunities enhance student engagement, raise the profile of the subject and promote Food Preparation and Nutrition as a valuable, relevant and enjoyable area of study.

The department is currently supported by one technician, and we believe in a strong culture of close collaboration between staff.

<b>Departmental Teaching Structure</b>	Food Technology Senior Link: Y Abraham Head of Food Technology: TBC Teacher of Food Technology: D Hilder Technician: H Barnes
<b>Curriculum</b>	KS4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition</li></ul>
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Food Preparation and Nutrition room</li><li>• 1 IT room</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All classrooms have access to a teaching PC, whiteboard and projector</li></ul>
<b>Key areas for development</b>	Ongoing development of enrichment opportunities, KS3 curriculum and KS4 coursing

# Job Description

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Head of Department
<b>JOB PURPOSE</b>	To lead the department using data to ensure student progress meets Academy targets. To lead all staff within the department ensuring accountability for student development and providing appropriate CPD opportunities.
<b>ACCOUNTABLE TO</b>	Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher
<b>ACCOUNTABLE FOR</b>	All staff who teach and provide support within the department.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES	KEY TASKS
<p><b>1. THE LEADERSHIP OF LEARNING:</b>  <i>To be accountable for the achievement of designated subject and pupil progress targets to make a measurable contribution to whole school targets.</i></p> <p><i>To provide regular feedback for subject leaders in a way which recognises good practice and supports their progress against performance management objectives, resulting in a tangible impact in student learning across the subject.</i></p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop department policy on teaching and learning in consultation with colleagues; to monitor its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness.</li> <li>contribute to the development of a personalised and sustainable curriculum</li> <li>audit, implement and evaluate the curriculum provision ensuring consistency and effectiveness.</li> <li>plan, implement and monitor the syllabus, programmes of study and schemes of work within the department</li> <li>ensure the effective implementation of the agreed department curriculum.</li> <li>observe classroom practice regularly</li> <li>review student work, progress and achievement in order to improve results.</li> <li>analyse assessment and examination results in subject area and related areas against targets.</li> <li>implement Academy policy on assessment, recording and reporting information to students, parents and senior team, and ensure appropriate interventions.</li> <li>evaluate implementation of assessment policy.</li> <li>undertake specific tasks as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. THE LEADERSHIP OF PEOPLE:</b>  <i>To review and report annually on the standards of leadership, teaching and learning in the designated subject areas consistent with the procedures in the school self evaluation policy.</i></p> <p><i>To consult with designated subject teachers and assist with the formulation, communication and monitoring of the school improvement plan, ensuring concerns and ideas are considered and all staff understand the key school targets and the part they play in achieving these. Accountable for the effective development of the departmental team.</i></p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop the department as a coherent, effective team – within the faculty, create, maintain and enhance effective relationships and provide support where necessary.</li> <li>contribute to the appointment of staff and to efficiently deploy staff and ensure professional development.</li> <li>create, maintain and enhance effective relationships and provide support where necessary and hold people to account.</li> <li>to lead effective department meetings encouraging department improvement.</li> <li>monitor the preparation, planning and marking within the department using robust systems.</li> <li>challenge poor and unacceptable practice and hold staff to account.</li> <li>provide focussed professional development for all staff, especially those that are newly qualified and at an early stage of their careers.</li> <li>understand and make full use of performance management, and lesson observations to encourage, challenge and support improvements in teaching</li> </ul>

# Job Description Cont...

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES	KEY TASKS
<p><b>3. THE LEADERSHIP OF POLICY:</b>  <i>To support, facilitate and monitor the progress of the designated subject development plans to ensure they make a significant contribution to the school improvement plan.</i></p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generate, disseminate, discuss, implement and evaluate the policies within the department.</li> <li>• monitor and evaluate implementation of Academy policies.</li> <li>• provide advice to the Leadership Team link in relation to the two points above.</li> <li>• undertake specific task(s) as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. LEADERSHIP OF INCLUSION POLICY</b>  <i>To support and assist subject leaders to ensure they understand, and are actively implementing, the key aspects of the school's behaviour and inclusion policies.</i></p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actively promote the learning and well-being of all students.</li> <li>• monitor student behaviour.</li> <li>• ensure SIMS records are kept and analysed</li> <li>• ensure sanctions and rewards are used effectively</li> <li>• keep parents informed and involved where there are concerns</li> <li>• liaise with pastoral teams to ensure that the needs of individual students are met</li> <li>• Understanding equal access and how this is a key role in student development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNICATIONS:</b>  <i>To provide regular progress updates to SLT in designated subject areas to ensure the LT are fully aware of all successes, issues and concerns of the subject area.</i></p> <p>Communication between department and Leadership Team, Learning Sets, Heads of Department.</p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide information to the Leadership Team link on department success and areas for development.</li> <li>• advise the Leadership Team link on relevant professional development needs and other opportunities.</li> <li>• keep abreast with developments in the subject area.</li> <li>• attend relevant courses and disseminate the information to the department.</li> <li>• co-ordinate the production of the department handbook and ensure that it communicates the correct information linked to the subject area.</li> <li>• to work with the Leadership Team link to maintain a high profile of the department within the Academy and the community</li> <li>• undertake specific task(s) as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. LEADERSHIP OF RESOURCES</b>  <i>To oversee and evaluate the subject budget allocation to ensure the budget is spent in line with subject learning priorities and best value principles</i></p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manage effectively the resources used by the department.</li> </ul>

Beacon's teachers are also accountable for promoting a positive image of the value of education within the student body of the Academy and in the wider community. Other whole Academy responsibilities include tutoring, or a commitment to the Academy pastoral system, attendance at INSET and other reasonable duties as directed by the Headteacher.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. The post holder may be required from time to time to undertake other duties within the school as may be reasonably expected, without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. This is a common occurrence and would not justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

# Person Specification

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate &amp; Qualified teacher</li> <li>Strong academic background</li> </ul>	<p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of commitment to professional development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary teaching experience</li> <li>A confident practitioner with the drive and ambition to develop further</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of your subject and assessment strategies and their effective implementation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching students at all levels of prior attainment</li> <li>Experience of working in an impact led culture</li> <li>Experience of teaching at Key Stage 4 and/or 5</li> <li>Leadership experience</li> </ul>
<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working in an environment that is ambitious, has high standards and expectations of the staff and students to enable teachers to teach and students to learn</li> <li>Working collaboratively with other team members to lead and develop pedagogy</li> <li>Equality of opportunity</li> <li>The responsibility of contributing to whole team effort to ensure the Academy is an exceptional school</li> <li>Consistently good teaching with examples of developing outstanding practise</li> <li>Committed, ambitious for excellence in all you do, aspirational for our students to achieve the best they can and succeed in</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be an effective teacher</li> <li>Be an effective communicator</li> <li>Strong ICT skills (with a commitment to develop further through the utilisation of the 'Creative Learning Centre')</li> <li>Ability to lead a team</li> <li>Ability to motivate, support and inspire trust in others</li> <li>Ability to innovate and manage change</li> <li>Ability to confront and resolve problems</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Personal Qualities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflective and adaptable</li> <li>Enthusiastic, tenacious with a positive attitude</li> <li>Self motivated and a team player</li> <li>Resilient and solution focused.</li> </ul>	

Beacon Academy is committed to providing the best possible care and education to its students and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Academy is also committed to providing a supportive and flexible working environment to all its members of staff.



## A centre of excellence

Our high expectations and inclusive culture ensure that all students are inspired, challenged and supported to make excellent progress.

Judged by Ofsted to be *Outstanding* in all five inspection categories.  
April 2024

## Staff Testimonials

Beacon Academy is a friendly, supportive and inclusive place to work. The staff here show a positive commitment to the students who attend Beacon Academy and also to each other in the roles we do. Each member of the team is made to feel as though they fit in at Beacon Academy, with opportunities given to progress in their professional development and in remits they wish to pursue.

I recommend this school to anyone who wishes to work in an open and inclusive environment and who really values their time as a teacher. It will not be wasted at this outstanding school with high values and dedication to the profession.

### Teacher of English



*Joining Beacon Academy back in September was and will always be a focal point of my career. I have found our colleagues here at Team Beacon to be extremely kind and welcoming which in turn has helped me to feel comfortable and safe here in my new role. I feel like no question is a silly question and I am genuinely valued for my contributions to the community. It is an honour to work here. People are kind to students and students are often kind in return. It is a feeling here like no other and I feel privileged to be a part of this fantastic school.*

**ECT – Teacher of History**

Beacon Academy is like one big family, all staff are supportive not only to the students but also to all of their colleagues whether they be teaching or support staff. The Trust encourages and supports staff in continuing their own educational studies which improves the knowledge of individuals and their departments.

### Support Staff

# How to Apply

Once again, thank you for your interest in the post of Head of Food Technology.

Please note that applications will be considered as they are received and you are therefore advised to submit your application as early as possible, as some interviews may take place, and an appointment may be made, before the closing date is reached for this position.

If, like us, you are passionate about providing the best possible education for all students in an outstanding school with a culture of high expectations and ambition, please ensure you:

1. Complete the statutory application form. Applications for this post should be made through [My New Term](#)
2. Provide Information to support your application, paying particular attention to the Person Specification. Please include any achievement data that is applicable to the role you are applying for.
3. Provide two references, one of whom must be the Headteacher from your current school or most recent significant employer.

The Academy recognises that, in order to achieve these aims, it is of fundamental importance to attract, recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre who share this commitment. Please refer to our Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedures which supports our statutory obligation to comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.

If you wish to arrange a visit or have an opportunity to discuss this post informally, please contact our HR department on:

01892 603000, or email [hr@beacon-academy.org](mailto:hr@beacon-academy.org)



# Our Values:

How will **you**  
make your **MARK?**

-  **Manners**
-  **Acceptance**
-  **Respect**
-  **Kindness**



How will **you**  
make your **MARK?**

-  **Motivated**
-  **Articulate**
-  **Resilient**
-  **Knowledgeable**



**MARK**  
Education  
Trust

