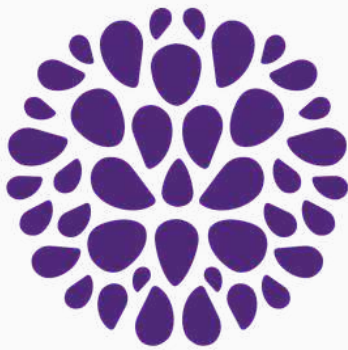




ADVANTAGE
SCHOOLS



THE RUSHMERE
PARK ACADEMY

WHY WORK FOR US?

ABOUT ADVANTAGE SCHOOLS

At Advantage Schools, we aim to provide all children with the highest quality of teaching of an excellent curriculum, which enables them to become highly educated and active participants of society.

You'll be working alongside an expert team of colleagues within a forward thinking, collaborative and supportive trust.

We provide sector-leading professional development offer and extensive networking opportunities, and excellent opportunities to develop and grow in a successful and expanding trust.

ABOUT THE ROLE AND YOUR APPLICATION

This post would suit a highly motivated individual whose values are aligned with ours. You need to want this school to be the best, full stop.

You will be well supported in developing your competencies as a valued member of our team and you'll be working alongside a smart group of friendly and supportive colleagues in order to achieve our ambitions collectively.

To apply, you should include a letter with your application form on no more than two sides of A4, giving your reasons to for applying for the post, addressing information you have read in the pack with particular reference to the person specification and outline any relevant experience you would bring to the trust. Please do not send a generic letter; we really are looking for someone who is prepared to respond to us as an individual trust. You can be sure we will take time and care in reading your letter; we appreciate how much energy goes into it.

Please read the information in this pack. If you are interested in this job opportunity, please apply online today via our career site on: www.advantageschools.co.uk/join-us/work-for-us

SAFEGUARDING

"The safeguarding and welfare of children is paramount and all our staff share this view. Applicants must be willing to undergo safeguarding and child protection checks including with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

ABOUT THE RUSHMERE PARK ACADEMY

At The Rushmere Academy, we put our children at the heart of everything we do, to serve our local community.

We are proud and privileged to work with a dedicated team of talented teachers and support staff. You'll be working alongside a collaborative, forward thinking, friendly and supportive team of around 50 staff.

Together, we create a vibrant and inclusive learning community where every child is supported, challenged, and inspired to thrive.



STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"Working at The Rushmere Park Academy means working alongside a team of caring and committed fellow professionals.

The time and hard work that all members of staff invest into the school generates a significant impact on the progress that the children make. I have gained an immense amount pride and satisfaction thinking about the part I have played in this. I am looking forward with relish to the next chapter in the school's life as it changes into Rushmere Park Academy."

Helen Hoare – Class Teacher

INTEGRITY, AMBITION, EXCELLENCE

Welcome to Advantage Schools; a high-performing family of ten schools.

We unashamedly believe in high attainment. Our schools seek to transform the life-chances of the young people in our care. We do this through very high expectations – of behaviour and conduct, of hard work and of determination and perseverance – alongside the very best knowledge-based curriculum.

At Advantage Schools, we commit to ensuring that pupils will be able to learn in an environment that is free from disruption so that they can chase their dreams and fulfil the aspirations they share with parents and colleagues. A broad curriculum places pupils in a strong position to question and debate the world around them, making them intellectually resilient and prepares them for citizenship in a democratic society. We believe this is a right of all pupils and one which is empowering.

We also pride ourselves on the additional opportunities available to pupils outside of the classroom. Our extensive extra-curricular programmes include residentials, sports and music so that we develop well-rounded young people.

Our schools work together to provide teachers and support staff with the best possible training. In partnership with families, we work hard to ensure that pupils have the widest possible opportunities in their lives.

Our schools' doors are open in every sense:

- we are in the centre of our communities, inviting them in regularly and celebrating the richness of our local area and those we serve;
- we collaborate with other professionals and schools, sharing our work to benefit pupils across the country;
- we celebrate what we do while maintaining humility in accepting feedback so that we can continue to improve.

We run our schools in the best interests of the pupils, guided by our principle that *"it must be good enough for our own children or those that we care deeply about to be good enough for our pupils"*.

"Educating children, serving the community, achieving exceptional outcomes."

Stuart Lock
Chief Executive



OUR LEADERSHIP



Dear Applicant,

Hello and welcome to The Rushmere Park Academy from Viv Capron, Senior Deputy Headteacher and Tanya Knight, Director of Education.

We are a thriving, friendly lower school and nursery at the heart of Leighton Buzzard, welcoming children from across the town. The school boasts a generously sized site with extensive grounds and two halls.

At The Rushmere Park Academy, you will be joining a friendly, ambitious team, committed to giving our children the very best start to their education.

As an academy within Advantage Schools, our children and staff are supported to strive, achieve and believe as we work closely with families and community partners, offering a positive and nurturing environment in which to work and learn.

Kind regards,
Tanya Knight
Director of Education

Thank you for taking the time to read our information pack and finding out more about Advantage Schools.

I am very proud of our family of schools. Together we are determined to maximise educational provision in this region, ending educational disadvantage.

At Advantage Schools, we 'punch above our weight'. Despite being a medium-sized trust we have been involved in national policy. We are a delivery partner for the National Professional Qualifications, the Early Career Framework. We deliver very large amounts of bespoke training via the Advantage Schools Knowledge Exchange. We share our work with other like-minded schools and trusts, and work towards being an 'outlier' organisation

Our collaborative partnership of schools provide exceptional educational provision inside and outside of the classroom for all of our children. Our schools ensure that pupils are supported, monitored and encouraged, ensuring that their learning experience will be challenging, rewarding and memorable. Pupils enjoy their time at our academies and give back to the wider community.

I am one of the Department for Education's National Behaviour Advisors, and at Advantage Schools, we have a national reputation for excellent behaviour and a focus on strong outcomes. We take behaviour and curriculum really seriously. Our teachers must be able to teach, and pupils able to learn. Our curriculum is an entitlement for all – we do not make exceptions in our high aspirations. But our families, colleagues and trustees are hungry for more. We will, therefore, recruit a colleague who is hungry for the school and trust to be better still; who will not tolerate mediocrity; who will challenge when required and inspire regularly. This will be underpinned by substantial knowledge about education.

We expect hard work, but we support and manage workload so that you can do the job sustainably.

If you are interested in the post but are unsure whether you have the skills and expertise that would make you ready to apply, please do get in touch for an informal, honest conversation. We can arrange tours of our schools and are happy to put you in touch with relevant colleagues. We will ensure that the right candidate is fully supported with training and through our established support network.

I very much hope that we receive your application.

With best wishes, Stuart Lock





ABOUT THE RUSHMERE PARK ACADEMY

Achievement of Pupils: 'GOOD'

The school has adopted well-structured programmes for teaching reading, writing and mathematics in small groups, and this helps pupils to make good progress. Work is well tailored to their needs.

Quality of Teaching: 'GOOD'

No pupil is held back from reaching their potential, as in every group the work is sufficiently demanding for them.

Behavior and Safety of Pupils: 'GOOD'

The behaviour of pupils is good. They have positive attitudes to learning and work hard. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about their educational experiences. They are polite and considerate of one another.

Leadership and Management: 'GOOD'

Much of their success is down to rigorous checks on the quality of teaching, careful tracking of pupils' progress, and high quality training for staff. Effective action is then taken to address any issues that are identified. Teaching staff are very positive about the way their skills are developed and how they are encouraged to take on new responsibilities.



VALUES



INTEGRITY, AMBITION, EXCELLENCE

We are a unique family of schools, sharing our practice and beliefs to enable young people to achieve the very highest standards.

At Advantage Schools, we provide exceptional opportunities for all to be knowledgeable with experiences that broaden horizons. We ensure our children, students and adults cultivate a strong self-belief so that they can flourish and develop into successful, well- rounded, self-respecting people.

Our commitment to this vision can be demonstrated by our values.

INTEGRITY

We provide a caring, nurturing environment where children and young adults feel happy, healthy and supported. Our academies will be places of safety, enabling pupils to develop courage, strong ambition and be the best that they can be.

We act honestly and transparently, advocating for pupils even when this causes difficulties.

We work together to share innovative practice and to provide a wealth of opportunities for all pupils and staff.

We focus on the development of all our colleagues through quality recruitment and retention, with excellent opportunities for clear and dynamic career progression.

AMBITION

We provide exceptional lessons enabling our pupils to be highly successful.

We share the most impactful approaches to teaching, curriculum and assessment, ensuring an interesting, inclusive and challenging education is on offer in each of our schools.

Our aim is to guarantee excellent 2-19 provision, with clear progression routes for all. You can expect excellent behaviour and conduct at all times, allowing all to make progress and achieve.

EXCELLENCE

We enable all of our pupils to develop and flourish, through close working and regular communication with our families and local community.

Our Cross-Trust focus is to ensure children are supported to meet ambitious targets and to provide exciting opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom.

STAFF BENEFITS

We offer a fantastic range of benefits across our trust, supporting our staff in a variety of ways. Ranging from an extensive **Wellbeing package**, to free tea and coffee, you can be reassured that we have your best interests at heart.



Whole trust training events



Free eye test vouchers



Refer a friend £500 bonus scheme



Staff recognition with reward shopping vouchers



Enhanced pension employer's contribution & death in service payment



We are in the process of a big benefit review. Watch this space!



Support for all staff with an experienced licensed counsellor



Cycle to work scheme

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



CAREER PROGRESSION

At Advantage Schools, we are committed to helping every colleague grow, thrive, and achieve their full potential. Supporting career progression is at the heart of what we do.

To empower our staff, we provide fully funded opportunities to study for NPQs, along with tailored middle leader training for eligible colleagues.

Additionally, we offer a wide range of CPD training through various partnerships and platforms, giving all staff access to an extensive selection of professional development courses.

Join us and take your career to the next level with our exceptional development opportunities!



All colleagues have access to Perkbox, our Employee Benefits Programme, offering them a huge range of perks from vouchers, hot drinks, cinema tickets, gym classes and so much more. It also offers a substantial **wellbeing package**.

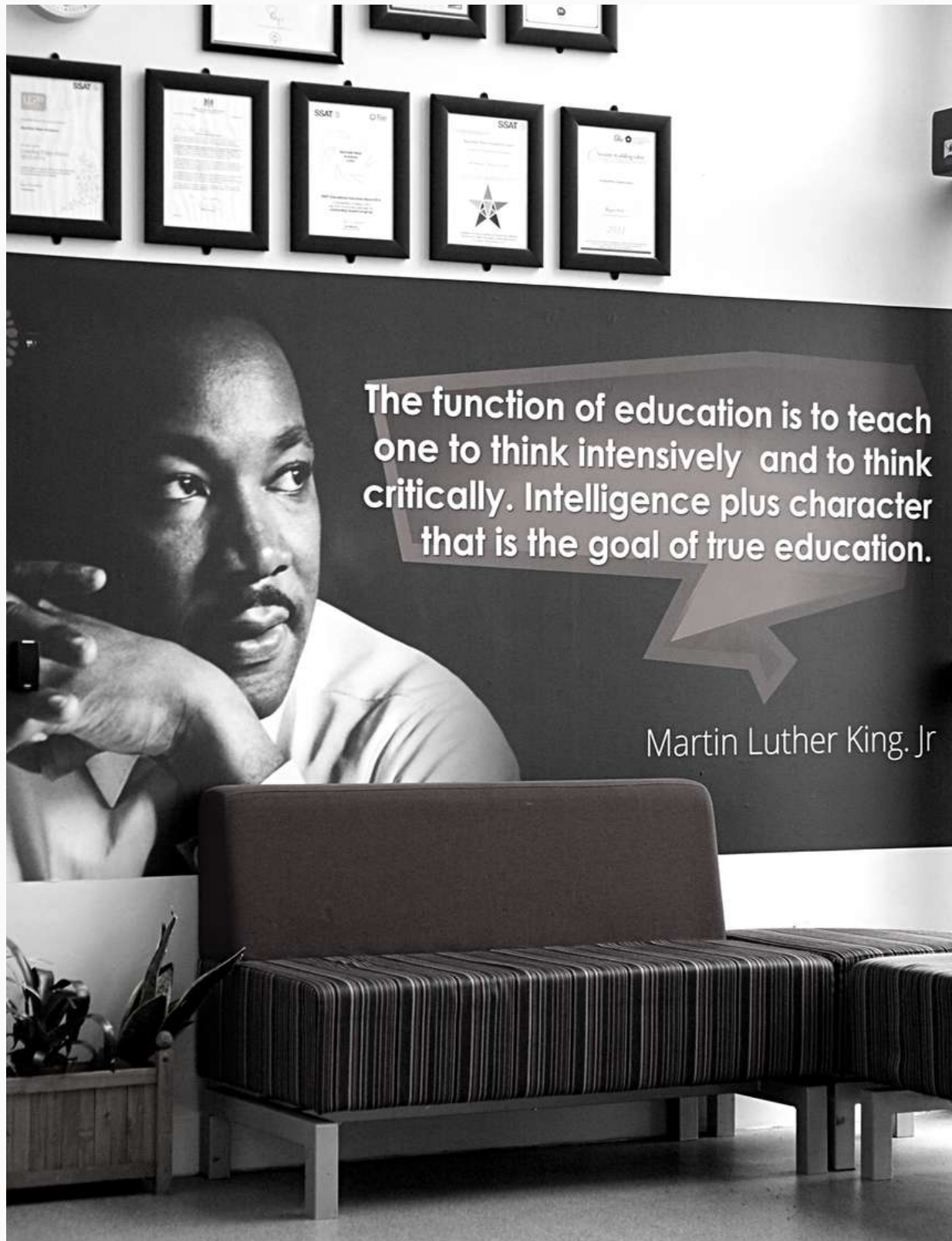


MEDICAL

Perkbox also provides 24/7 access to GP appointments, confidential support and guidance through the Employee Assistance Programme.

Colleagues have access to a team of fully qualified counsellors and advisors, with support for a range of emotional, legal and financial issues, along with a wellbeing portal, full of resources and videos

RECRUITMENT BOOKLET



The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King. Jr

SEE MORE AT

WWW.ADVANTAGESCHOOLS.CO.UK



SEN Learning Support Assistant

The Rushmere Park Academy is looking for a caring, patient and enthusiastic member of staff to provide direct classroom support for pupils, particularly for some of our SEN learners.

We are committed to supporting the range of individual needs within our nursery, mainstream school and specialist resource provision and we therefore seek out adults who value equity and education for all children. This is an ideal opportunity for a candidate who's passionate about supporting the learning and development of our fantastic young pupils and would like to increase their experience of working in an OFSTED rated 'good' school environment that supports pupils with a variety of needs.

Key Duties:

- Develop nurturing and professional relationships with pupils
- Support pupils to engage in both class and lunch time activities
- Work as part of the wider staff team across the lunch period
- Support pupils with activities outlined in their Individual Education Plan
- Show an active understanding of the safeguarding issues associated with working in schools

The successful candidate will:

- Have previous experience of working with children in an educational setting.
- Be friendly, energetic, and an enthusiastic team player.
- Be able to work effectively under instructions from class teacher and senior leaders.
- Have an understanding of safeguarding and its implications within an educational setting.
- Have a TA qualification (desirable)
- Have an understanding of Autistic Spectrum Condition (desirable)
- Be responsible and able to use initiative

Job specifics:

Start date: With immediate effect or following a notice period

Salary: AS 1-3

Contract: Full time, Fixed term, Term time + inset days, 39 weeks per year, 35 hours per week, Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm with 30 minutes for lunch

The Trust reserves the right to interview and appoint a suitable candidate before the deadline date.

Job Description

Main Functions:

To assist in promoting the learning and personal development of the pupil to whom you are assigned, to enable him/her to make best use of the educational opportunities available to them.

- 1 To aid the pupil to learn as effectively as possible both in group situations and on his/her own by, for example:
 - Clarifying and explaining instructions
 - Ensuring the pupil is able to use equipment and materials provided
 - Motivating and encouraging the pupil(s) as required by providing levels of individual attention, reassurance and help with learning tasks as appropriate to pupils' needs
 - Assisting in weaker areas, e.g. speech and language, reading, spelling, numeracy, handwriting/presentation etc.
 - Using praise, commentary and assistance to encourage the pupil to concentrate and stay on task
 - Liaising with class teacher, SENCO and other professionals about individual education plans contributing to the planning and delivery as appropriate
 - Providing additional nurture to individuals when requested by the class teacher or SENDCO
 - Consistently and effectively implementing agreed behaviour management strategies
 - Helping to make appropriate resources to support the pupil
- 2 To establish supportive relationships with the pupil concerned
- 3 To promote the acceptance and inclusion of the pupil with SEND, encouraging pupils to interact with each other in an appropriate and acceptable manner
- 4 Monitor the pupil's response to the learning activities and, where appropriate, modify or adapt the activities as agreed with the teacher to achieve the intended learning outcomes.
- 5 To give positive encouragement, feedback and praise to reinforce and sustain the pupil's efforts and develop self-reliance and self-esteem.
- 6 To mark pupils' work under the direction of the class teacher
- 7 To support the pupil in developing social skills both in and out of the classroom
- 8 To provide regular feedback on the pupil's learning and behaviour to the teacher/SENDCO, including feedback on the effectiveness of the behaviour strategies adopted
- 9 Under the direction of the teacher, carry out and report on systematic observations of pupils to gather evidence of their knowledge, understanding and skills upon which the teacher makes judgements about their stage of development
- 10 When working with a group of pupils, understand and use group dynamics to promote group effectiveness and support group and individual performance.

- 11 To know and apply school policies on Child Protection, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Teaching and Learning, Equal Opportunities etc.
- 12 Where appropriate to develop a relationship to foster links between home and school, and to keep the school informed of relevant information
- 13 To be aware of confidential issues linked to home/pupil/teacher/school
- 14 To contribute towards reviews of the pupil's progress as appropriate
- 15 To comply with legal and organisational requirements for maintaining the health, safety and security of yourself and others in the learning environment
- 16 To take part in training activities offered by the school to further knowledge and skills of working with a child with specific learning difficulties
- 17 To be willing to support playground/break time supervision e.g. educational games, homework clubs etc.
- 18 To accompany teacher and pupils on educational visits
- 19 To provide individual support, as required, during examination sessions
- 20 To carry out the above duties in accordance with the Education Department's Equal Opportunities Policy.

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 reasonable 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

Candidates will be assessed on the following:	Essential	Desirable
EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS		
A good standard of Numeracy and both written and oral English	✓	
GCSE/O Level or equivalency in basic Maths and English		✓
Qualifications or prior training linked to education, child development, counselling and/or special educational needs (e.g. Cache, NVQ, Autism training etc.)		✓
EXPERIENCE		
Previous employment in an educational setting	✓	
Previous experience of working with children with special educational needs	✓	
Experience of working with a range of ages of child (4 – 12 year olds)	✓	
Experience of supporting or leading other adults		✓
Demonstrable experience of effective record keeping		✓
SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES		
Ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with children and adults	✓	
Knowledge of how/when best to intervene in children's learning in order to help them progress	✓	
Patience and resilience	✓	
Team working experience and attitude	✓	
Ability to prioritise tasks and to set and meet deadlines	✓	
Passion for and commitment to the educational needs and the development of happy and competent children	✓	
Creativity; the ability to engage children both inside and outside of learning times	✓	
Ability to forge relationships based on mutual respect and understanding	✓	



Working knowledge of effective strategies for behaviour management for children within the Primary phase	✓	
Practical knowledge of a variety of conditions that <i>may</i> affect children's learning and development		✓
Ability to demonstrate knowledge and commitment to Equality and Diversity and how this has been applied in previous roles	✓	
A knowledge and understanding of the requirements of Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults in the education sector as applicable to this role	✓	
A knowledge and understanding of health and safety standards and best practice	✓	

We will consider any reasonable adjustments under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), to enable an applicant with a disability (as defined under the Act) to meet the requirements of the post.