



# Valley College Candidate Information Pack



“Preparation for Adulthood, Citizenship and Employment”.

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## Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer



Dear Candidate,

I am delighted that you are interested in our vacancy at Valley College. This post is an exciting opportunity to join a team who are dedicated to driving continual improvement.

We hope that you will share our interest in improving education and our passion for making a difference so that together we can ensure the Trust functions effectively and efficiently.

The entire Trust staff, including the Central Team, are energetic and enthusiastic about our academies and college. We work with many children who are disadvantaged, either through deprivation or because of additional needs causing barriers to learning. We therefore welcome opportunities to work collaboratively together, maximising skills and available resources to make an even greater difference to all our learners and their families.

The Sea View Trust is an inclusive Multi Academy Trust (MAT), currently comprised of three primary academies and two special schools, together with Valley College (a post-16 specialist institution). The Trust supports circa 520 staff and in excess of 2,100 students.

We are ambitious with our plans and we are proud to announce that The Sea View Trust will be opening two custom built free schools within the Blackpool area following the successful bid in the most recent wave announced by the DfE. The new SEMH free school and Medical free school will be well planned and cater to the needs of our children.

I do hope the information contained within this application pack will be useful to you and will inspire you to apply. Meanwhile, I would like to thank you once again for expressing an interest in our vacancy. I very much look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Holdsworth MBE  
CEO Sea View Trust

# Overview of Valley College

## INTRODUCTION

Valley College is a specialist post 16 institution (SPI) owned by and part of the Sea View Trust. As of September 2023, Valley College operates across 2 sites; Valley College at Ewood (in Rossendale), and Valley College at The Oracle (in Blackpool).

Valley College (Ewood, Rossendale) is a four-day provision Tuesday to Friday. Valley College at The Oracle Blackpool is a five-day provision Monday to Friday. The college offers post-18 pathways, which have been designed to meet the needs of specific groups of Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD) on a programme of up to 3 years.

Learners on College roll are aged between 18 and 25 years, they have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) identifying their needs and individual outcomes. The College uses statutory documentation alongside in-house assessment materials to baseline new learners.

Our vision for Valley College learners is to equip them with the skills to be fully included in their own community.

Our pathways are accredited, and we have formed an extensive employment network with local businesses and community organisations.

### Our 3 current pathways are:

- Pathway to Independence
- Pathway to Employability
- Pathway to Employment

## ABOUT OUR PROVISION

Our offer Includes:

- Individualised curriculum
- Support for personal development
- Modified curriculum resources, including multi-sensory approaches
- Speech and Language enhanced staff, including staff skilled in Alternative & Augmentative Communication
- Access to a wide range of specialist tutors including HI/VI/ASD tutors
- Staff trained in Moving and Handling with the ability to implement Physiotherapy Programmes
- Support to develop social skills, including self-regulation
- Appropriate levels of supervision, including support for less structured activities and in the workplace
- Highly trained staff offering a range of targeted strategies to enhance learner progress
- A strategic link to Embrace Teaching School Hub and Outstanding Special Learning Community with access to staff continuing professional development (CPD) and innovative pedagogy
- Structured intervention cycle; precise assessment of prior learning and skills; SMART target setting; targeted teaching; evaluations of individual outcomes
- Learner centred review process involving advocates and social care/health staff. Where relevant, incorporating mental capacity assessments
- Staff trained in a range of medical procedures.



### **Valley College At Ewood Campus Rossendale**

is located at Tor View in Rossendale, has its own building and is separated (in most parts) from the main school. In addition to traditional teaching areas, there is a flat with lounge, kitchen, and bathroom facilities and these are used to support the students with their independent living skills.



### **Valley College At The Oracle Blackpool**

is located The Oracle, South Shore Blackpool, it includes a dedicated training room, office space and meeting room. In addition, the college has access to a fully functioning accessible gym, café area and dance/theatre space.

## **OUR VALUES AND ETHOS**

At Valley College we are committed to providing inspirational education which allows learners to realise their full potential as valued members of our society.

Our ethos is to enable learners to:

- Secure the best post-18 outcomes
- Gain supported employment or a voluntary role
- Live independently or in Supported Living
- Become valued employees and members of social groups and communities
- Engage in meaningful work-related learning and develop their enterprise skills
- Control their own lives and develop their ambitions
- Maximise independence in their community
- Achieve their aspirations.

## **LEARNER VOICE**

Learner Voice is respecting the values, opinions, beliefs, perspectives, and culture of our individual learners in college.

How we achieve this:

- Learners elect representatives for the Learner Voice group
- Learner Voice representatives attend half termly meetings with College Leadership to discuss different topics
- Representatives from the college Learner Voice attend the Sea View Trust Learner Voice meetings
- Learner Blogs on the website
- Learner feedback forms are available.

## **CURRICULUM**

The curriculum statement of The Sea View Trust drives the curriculum for all the Trust academies. This places an emphasis on providing a formal developmental and additional curriculum, relevant to each learner's needs.

Learners will have access to a high-quality education that helps them to play a full and active part in society. Valley College learners will be taught how to develop their independence skills in the home and help develop the capacity of learners to navigate life's opportunities and challenges through our varied curriculum.

# The Sea View Trust

In Blackpool in September 2013, Anchorsholme Primary, Devonshire Primary and Park Community School (Special) converted to academy status and formed the Blackpool Multi-Academy Trust (BMAT). The Trust then welcomed Revoe Learning Academy a short time after.

Meanwhile, in Rossendale, Tor View School (Special) converted to academy status in January 2017, to form The View Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust with one school. This status afforded more autonomy and thus enabled the Trust to open a specialist post-16 institution (SPI), a wholly owned subsidiary known as Valley College.

In November 2019, The Sea View Trust was established, borne as a result of a merger between BMAT and the equally successful View Trust. The academies and college now all benefit from a unique relationship that has developed between the schools, and the Trust is particularly proud of its 'Sponsor' status.



Each academy within the Trust currently has a dedicated Academy Business Lead and Finance Lead to manage the day-to-day academy requirements. The Central Team of Trust employees work across all the academies and college, leading on performance, compliance, operational and financial efficiencies, governance, development, and Trust growth. The Central Team also work across the other areas of the organisation.



Embrace Teaching School Hub is led by Tor View School and The Sea View Trust and serves South and West Lancashire. It is a centre of excellence for teacher training and professional development and works closely with schools across Chorley, Fylde, South Ribble, and West Lancashire to implement the DfE's Recruitment and Retention Strategy through the delivery of the 'Golden Thread' of programmes, dedicated to supporting teachers throughout their career.

Embrace SCITT are a school-led consortium of teacher training providers and experts from across Lancashire and the North West, working as one with schools and Trusts across the North West to train exceptional teachers in the Primary, Secondary and Special sectors. We are proud to announce that Embrace SCITT has successfully completed its readiness to deliver checks.

The Sea View Trust is a partnership, working together with a shared ethos, common values and collective goals. There is no 'lead' in our Trust, but instead a collaborative approach that fosters autonomy in each school, whilst being supported by a clear framework. This approach ensures that each school can retain its own unique identity, drawing on support when required, whilst sharing its particular strengths across the wider Trust.

With the support of a strong Board, The Sea View Trust is committed to each entity, providing an inspirational education which allows all pupils and students to realise their full potential, both as learners and as citizens. This is achieved through excellent teaching, learning and development opportunities and it is mirrored in our Trust Vision and Values.

# Our Academies



## Anchorsholme Academy

is a large 3 form entry primary school located in the north of Blackpool. The school currently has over 600 children on roll. Although in an area of less social deprivation than other Trust schools located closer to the centre of Blackpool, the school still has about 19% of its pupils in receipt of free school meals and approximately 12% of children are on the Special Educational Needs Register. English as an additional language numbers (EAL) are very low at less than 2%.

Pupil mobility is low and most children who start at the school complete their primary education at Anchorsholme. Pupil attendance is good and usually above the national attendance average.

Anchorsholme is fortunate to have an ICT suite and extensive IT provision across the school, a Music/Recording Studio, a green screen area for video production and a purpose-built Library and many other spaces that support and extend learning. The school also has extensive grounds which include sports facilities, wildlife areas and planting and growing areas.



## Devonshire Primary Academy

is a two-form academy in central-east Blackpool, located in an area of high deprivation and has its own nursery provision. The percentage of pupils receiving pupil premium funding is 60% (the highest in the Trust) and SEND numbers are above the National average.

Deprivation is well above the national average. Pupil mobility is higher than the national average and whole school attendance is normally just below national.

The school was a new build after the previous Victorian building was destroyed by fire in 2003. The state-of-the-art, innovative building is based on the unique 'beehive school' concept. It was designed to accommodate and support the school's commitment to inclusion and participation and to establish an exemplar school with many sustainable strategies. The school is flexible and adaptable; it is also secure and inclusive. There has been continuous heavy investment in resources, particularly in terms of ICT, and the school has a learning environment that is the envy of many.



## Revoe Learning Academy

is located in central Blackpool, in an area of high deprivation. The school has its own nursery and a specialist SEND unit – The Learning Garden which can accommodate up to 12 children who have an EHCP. In 2023/24, in conjunction with Blackpool Council, a specialist EYFS SEND unit was opened in the school catering for up to 8 children.

Revoe has high levels of pupil mobility. The percentage of children in receipt of free school meals, with SEND support or with English as an additional language are all classed as well above the national average.

Pupil base deprivation and school location deprivation are well above the national average with 95% of the children classed as living in the most deprived area nationally using a range of multiple deprivation measures.

RLA pride themselves on their highly successful, purposeful, multi-disciplinary partnerships with agencies (and Poppy, the Therapy Dog) which have real impact on enhancing the children's life chances and developing staff's knowledge and expertise, so they can be the best that they can be.

# Our Academies



## **Park Community Academy**

is a Special school located in South/Central Blackpool and occupies 2 sites, the main school being on Whitegate Drive and Sixth Form provision located in the Oracle Building in South Shore. Pupils who attend PCA have a wide range of learning needs including moderate to severe learning difficulties, complex learning difficulties associated with Autistic Spectrum

Conditions and speech and language difficulties, sensory impairment, some complex medical needs and varying degrees of social, emotional and behavioural needs associated with their Special Educational Needs and Disability.

All of the children and young people have an Education, Health and Care Plan. PCA caters for pupils aged between 2 and 19. The pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of each individual. In addition to gaining language, mathematical, scientific, technological, artistic, and physical skills, the aim is for children to build confidence, develop self-reliance, learn to make decisions, and develop the ability to express feelings and ideas. The school maintained its Outstanding judgement in its October 2023 Ofsted Inspection.



## **Tor View School**

is located in Rossendale, East Lancashire and is closely located to Valley College and the Trust Central office. Tor View is a Special School which meets the needs of learners with Profound & Multiple, Severe and Moderate Learning Difficulties. Many of our children and young children

and young people have associated cognitive, social-communication and physical difficulties such as Downs Syndrome, Autism and Cerebral Palsy.

Tor View school caters for learners from 4-19 and is comprised of Primary, Secondary and Further Education departments with an additional Intensive Support Centre; a specialised learning environment for students ranging from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 who present with severe challenging conduct and autism, communication difficulties or high-level needs.



# Terms of the Post

## Pre-Employment Checks

All offers of employment are subject to the Trust receiving:

- Proof of identity
- Two satisfactory references
- A pre-employment medical check
- An enhanced DBS disclosure
- Evidence of relevant qualifications
- A signed Code of Conduct

## Working Time

- Please see the advert and Vacancy Information for specific details of this post.

## Performance Appraisal

- The post holder will participate in the Trust's appraisal cycle, following the guidelines established for staff working at an executive level
- Teacher incremental payments are awarded on 1st September each year, following a successful annual review
- Bonus payments are not included in the pay policy and are not awarded by the Trust

## Staff Benefits

The Sea View Trust appreciates that, in achieving its' full potential, it is the staff that make the biggest difference. Therefore, in order to attract the best talent, we offer a competitive reward and benefits package.

## Competitive Salaries

Competitive salaries are offered for both teaching and non-class-based staff, depending on the type and level of role. Pay ranges are reviewed annually and the Trust works closely with recognised Union colleagues to ensure that the pay scales reflect the national picture. Starting salaries are determined by the pay range for the role, the experience of the candidate, as well as external market conditions. The Trust is also proud to be a [Living Wage Foundation employer](#), this helps to ensure that all our staff are treated fairly.

## National Terms and Conditions

The Sea View Trust is committed to offering national terms and conditions in line with the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions document ("STPCD"), the Burgundy Book (for Teachers) or the NJC Green Book (for Support Staff). This commitment is reflected in an agreement between The Sea View Trust and the national Trade Unions and Professional Associations.

## Pension Scheme

All contracted members of staff will be automatically enrolled into the appropriate pension scheme (the [Teachers' Pension Scheme](#) or the [Local Government Pension Scheme](#)). Employees do not pay tax or national insurance on their contributions and the Trust adds a generous employer contribution, which varies depending on the salary. All staff are entitled to opt-out of the pension scheme should they wish to do so.

## **Continual Professional Development**

The Trust values the contribution of its' skilled staff team and is supportive of Continual Professional Development opportunities. Funded opportunities are upon application and subject to business need.

All settings across the Trust have the benefit of an additional Inset day (6 days in total – 189 days pupil facing) Two of these days incorporate Trust wide training sessions as well as training at local level.

## **Holiday**

The Trust recognises the importance of a good work-life balance and provide generous holiday entitlements for support staff (for those staff who are on a full year contract). This entitlement is in addition to any Bank or Public holidays. If you work part-time, your holiday entitlement will be pro-rated. There is a statutory closure period for all staff over the Christmas and New Year period.

## **Wellbeing and Occupational Health Services**

The Trust has an active Wellbeing focus and is continually considering collective opportunities for staff, together with addressing the agenda for 'workload reduction'. For individual staff, colleagues may be referred to our supportive Occupational Health services and be offered access to appropriate services (e.g., physio assessment, counselling services). All staff have access to the Employee Assistance Scheme (EAP). This is a free service for all our employees.

The Trust and each of its settings have signed up to the DfE Education Staff Wellbeing Charter which means that we will:

- Prioritise staff mental health
- Give staff the support they need to take responsibility for their own and others' wellbeing
- Give managers access to the tools and resources they need to support the wellbeing of those they line manage
- Establish a clear communications policy
- Give staff a voice in decision-making
- Drive down unnecessary workload
- Champion and enable flexible working
- Create a good behaviour culture
- Support staff to progress their careers
- Protect leader wellbeing and mental health
- Hold ourselves accountable, including by measuring staff wellbeing

## **Occupational Pay Policies**

Subject to qualifying periods, the Trust has both an occupational maternity pay policy and an occupational sick pay policy.

## **Cycle to Work scheme**

The Trust's Cycle to Work scheme enables employees to purchase brand-new bicycles and cycling equipment via salary sacrifice, making tax and National Insurance savings.

### **Flexible and Family Friendly Policies**

The Trust understands that employment policies need to be flexible and responsive in order to promote diversity and equality, and to attract and retain the highest quality workforce. Our Flexible Working Policy provides an opportunity for employees to request an arrangement such as a job share, a part-time role or flexibility with home working.

Such requests will always be considered fairly, whilst taking account of the needs of the employee, the post and the Trust. The Trust is also very mindful of staff welfare and has policies in place to support staff, wherever possible, with leave for emergencies or for compassionate reasons.

# **Application Procedure**

Applicants are advised that, following shortlisting, successful candidates will be contacted with further details about the interview process.

### **Safer Recruitment**

The Sea View Trust is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community. We are committed to protecting our students and staff and therefore have a rigorous recruitment process that includes assessing candidates' suitability to work with children.

The settings within our Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff will be required to hold an enhanced DBS Disclosure. To ensure compliance with Safer Recruitment Guidelines, CVs will not be accepted.

### **Equal Opportunities**

At our Trust we believe that all individuals are of equal value and we are committed to equal opportunities for all.

All people who work and study in the Trust have the right to be respected and valued within a safe and secure environment and not to be discriminated against on the grounds of age, class, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

**For a confidential discussion about The Sea View Trust and the advertised post, please do contact:**

Trust Central Team

Telephone: 01706 214640 (option 3)

Email: [trustoffice@theseaviewtrust.org.uk](mailto:trustoffice@theseaviewtrust.org.uk)

**For a confidential discussion about Valley College and the advertised post, please do contact:**

Mrs Kelly Swindells (Principal)

Telephone: 01706 214640

Email: [office@torview.svt.org.uk](mailto:office@torview.svt.org.uk)

**For general enquiries about the post, please contact:**

Sue Johnson (Business Lead)

Telephone: 01706 214640

Email: [office@torview.svt.org.uk](mailto:office@torview.svt.org.uk)

Your Application and Supporting Information must be completed using the FACE-Ed application process.

When completing your application, please refer to:

- The *Job Description* which gives an outline of the duties of the post.
- This *Information Pack* for details about Valley College and the Trust.

**Supporting Information**

This section on the application form is particularly important, as this is where you will demonstrate your suitability for the post. Read the advertisement and the job description to get a clear view of what the job involves as these describe the necessary skills, experience, and qualifications we are looking for.

When completing this section, refer to the job description and make sure that you tell us how you match the requirements of the job. Therefore, give examples of any relevant ability, experience and qualifications. This may be from your current or previous job, or from community or voluntary work, or from skills transferable from other life experience, particularly if you have been out of paid employment for some time. For example, you may have considerable domestic responsibilities, or may organise social or community activities in your spare time.

Pay particular attention to those areas on the person specification described as essential.

You will be required to complete a number of declarations during the application process, please ensure all declarations are completed and accurate.

# Privacy Notice

## Job Applicant Privacy Notice

**Data Controller: The Sea View Trust T/A Valley College**

**Data Protection Officer: Forbes Solicitors**

As part of any recruitment process, the Trust collects and processes personal data relating to job applicants. The Trust is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations.

### What information does the Trust collect?

The Trust collects a range of information about you. This may include:

- your name, address and contact details, including email address and telephone number, date of birth and gender;
- the terms and conditions of your employment;
- details of your qualifications, skills, experience, and employment history, including start and end dates, with previous employers and with the Trust;
- information about your remuneration, including entitlement to benefits such as pensions or insurance cover;
- details of your bank account and national insurance number;
- information about your marital status, next of kin, dependents, and emergency contacts;
- information about your nationality and entitlement to work in the UK;
- information about your criminal record;
- details of your schedule (days of work and working hours) and attendance at work and details of periods of leave taken by you, including holiday, sickness absence, family leave, sabbaticals, and the reasons for the leave;
- details of any disciplinary or grievance procedures in which you have been involved, including any warnings issued to you and related correspondence;
- assessments of your performance, including appraisals, performance reviews and ratings, performance improvement plans and related correspondence;
- information about medical or health conditions, including whether or not you have a disability for which the Trust needs to make reasonable adjustments;
- equal opportunities monitoring information including information about your ethnic origin, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

The Trust may collect this information in a variety of ways. For example, data might be contained in application forms, obtained from your passport or other identity documents, or collected through interviews or other forms of assessment.

The Trust may also collect personal data about you from third parties, such as references supplied by former employers, information from employment background check providers and information from criminal records checks. The Trust may seek information e.g., references from third parties before a job offer to you has been made.

Data will be stored in a range of various places, including on your application record, in HR management systems and on other IT systems including the Trust's email system.

### **Why does the Trust process personal data?**

The Trust needs to process data to take steps at your request prior to entering into a contract with you. It may also need to process your data to enter into a contract with you. In some cases, the Trust needs to process data to ensure that it is complying with its legal obligations. For example, it is required to check a successful applicant's eligibility to work in the UK before employment starts.

The Trust has a legitimate interest in processing personal data during the recruitment process and for keeping records of the process. Processing data from job applicants allows the Trust to manage the recruitment process, assess and confirm a candidate's suitability for employment and decide to whom to offer a job. The Trust may also need to process data from job applicants to respond to and defend against legal claims.

The Trust may process special categories of data, such as information about ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religion or belief, to monitor recruitment statistics. It may also collect information about whether or not applicants are disabled to make reasonable adjustments for candidates who have a disability. The Trust processes such information to carry out its obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

As you will be working with children if successfully appointed, the Trust is obliged to seek information about criminal convictions and offences. Where the Trust seeks this information, it does so because it is necessary for it to carry out its obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

The Trust will not use your data for any purpose other than recruitment exercise for which you have applied.

If your application is unsuccessful, the Trust will keep your personal data on file for six months from the application closing date in case there are future employment opportunities for which you may be suited. You are free to withdraw your consent for The Trust to keep your data for this purpose at any time and should do so in writing directly to The Sea View Trust.

### **Who has access to data?**

Your information may be shared internally for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes members of the recruitment team, interviewers involved in the recruitment process and managers in the area with a vacancy.

The Trust may collect personal data about you from third parties, such as references supplied by former employers, information from employment background check providers and information from criminal records checks. The Trust may seek information e.g., references from third parties before a job offer to you has been made.

Once offered a conditional job offer, The Trust will share your data with other third parties for the purpose of running necessary background checks, as well as with the Disclosure and Barring Service to obtain necessary criminal records checks. The Trust will not transfer your data outside the European Economic Area.

#### **How does the Trust protect data?**

The Trust takes the security of your data seriously. It has internal policies and controls in place to ensure that your data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused, or disclosed, and is not accessed except by our employees in the proper performance of their duties.

#### **For how long does the Trust keep data?**

If your application for employment is unsuccessful, the Trust will hold your data on file for 6 months after the end of the relevant recruitment process. At the end of that period, or once you withdraw your consent, your data is deleted or destroyed.

If your application for employment is successful, personal data gathered during the recruitment process will be transferred to your personnel file and retained during your employment, this will be in accordance with the records retention policy.

#### **Your Rights**

As a data subject, you have several rights. You can:

- access and obtain a copy of your data on request;
- require the Trust to change incorrect or incomplete data;
- require the Trust to delete or stop processing your data, for example where the data is no longer necessary for the purposes of processing;
- object to the processing of your data where the Trust is relying on its legitimate interests as the legal ground for processing.

If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please contact the Trust Chief Operating Officer (COO), at [trustoffice@theviewtrust.org](mailto:trustoffice@theviewtrust.org)

If you believe that the Trust has not complied with your data protection rights, you can complain to the Information Commissioner.

#### **What if you do not provide personal data?**

You are under no statutory or contractual obligation to provide data to the Trust during the recruitment process. However, if you do not provide the information, the Trust may not be able to process your application properly, or at all.

#### **Declaration Confirmation**

In line with the **Data Protection Act 1998**, in confirming the declaration you agree to us disclosing information such as your name to the Job Centre and New Deal participants for statistical purposes, this information will not be retained or processed for any other purpose.

Once the recruitment process is completed the hard copy data will be kept for 6 months. We have a duty to protect public funds and may use this information to prevent and detect fraud. We may also share this information, for the same purposes, with other organisations that handle public funds.