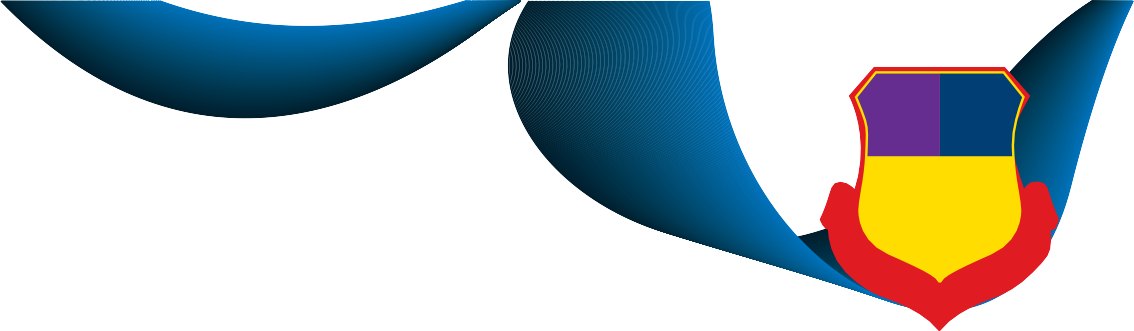
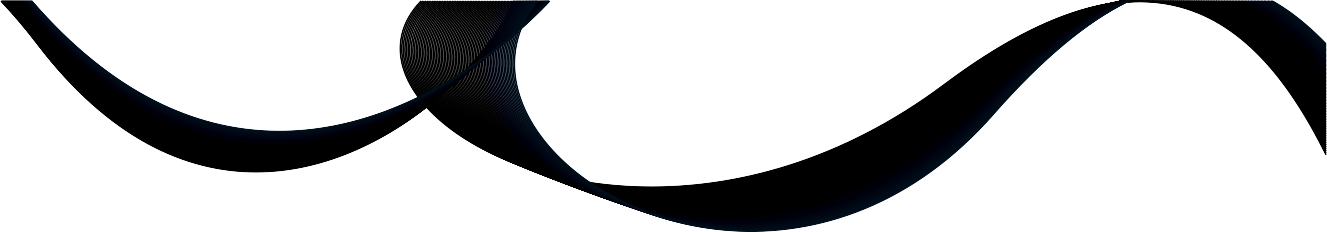
Monday, 26 April 2021

Dear Applicant



Thank you for requesting information for the post of **Teacher of Boys PE and Geography** at Walton-le-Dale High School from 1 September, 2021. I hope that our website [www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk) will give you a good overall “flavour” of the school.

Walton-le-Dale is a relatively small school which gives us a distinctive atmosphere. Many visitors comment on the warmth and friendliness of the school. It is a school where the students and staff know each other well. Our smaller size allows us to see each child as an individual and to cater for them individually. We are proud to be one of only a few secondary schools in Lancashire with the Inclusion Mark, achieved in 2008 and renewed several times since. We currently have Flagship status for the Inclusion Mark and this reflects the importance of this to our ethos.

This is, and will continue to be, a student-centred school. Everything we do must have the interests of our students at the heart of it. The strengths of Walton-le-Dale lie in the relationships within the school. Our challenge is to ensure that we make use of these strong relationships to get the best out of our students in terms of achievement. However, a great education is more than exam results and I believe our success is also reflected in the way our students turn out after 5 years at Walton-le-Dale. Everyone in the school works hard to make this happen.

Our students come from a wide catchment area. Around a third of the students come from the Blackburn area, whilst the rest are local or from the Preston area. We have a large number of feeder schools. We are truly a comprehensive school, with a relatively higher proportion of students from the more deprived areas of the region. It is noticeable that we have a significant number of students who join the school late. These are often vulnerable students with a wide range of educational, social and emotional needs. We believe they are attracted to us because of the quality of care we offer. We also have an excellent reputation for the quality of our learning support. We place a strong emphasis on trying to deliver a curriculum which is relevant and appropriate to our students. The school offers Key Stage 4 students a wide variety of options for a relatively small school. GCSE PE and Cambridge Nationals in Sport are both popular options at KS4, as is GCSE Geography These curriculum developments are matched by a strong focus on teaching and learning with a great deal of work going on to develop brilliant teaching in an inclusive school. Extra-curricular activities in PE are popular and we are seeking someone who is able to contribute to and add to our existing provision. We are seeking a teacher of boys PE because of the need to supervise the male changing area because of the constraints of the timetable and the PE curriculum.

There is a strong team of staff across the school – all staff, not just teachers. They are incredibly supportive of each other, both in a personal and professional sense. Lesson planning is often shared and cross – department sharing of expertise is also common. Our team of pastoral and learning support staff is exceptionally strong. We have a significant team of teaching assistants at various levels and we are extremely proud of the work that we do to support our students based on need. Attendance is a priority for us – we have an attendance officer as well as a family support worker supported by members of the pastoral and learning support teams.

Ofsted found that our school "requires improvement" in 2018 having been "good" for a decade.  As you will see from our website we have taken this judgement to heart and we are absolutely focused on ensuring that consistently brilliant teaching is the cornerstone of our community.  All of us have worked very hard to address issues identified by Ofsted and a recent review of progress was extremely positive.  We care about our school and what we do and we are determined to regain our "good" or better status in the shortest possible timescale. See <https://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/about-us/school-improvement> for an overview of our direction of travel.

The school was 60 years old in 2017 but has good modernised facilities including the relatively recent addition of a full sized astroturf pitch.

You will receive high quality support and encouragement from Governors, myself, the senior leadership team and middle leaders. If you feel you are up to this challenge and believe you have the same educational philosophy as us we would welcome an application. If not, I wish you good luck in your future career.

**Pay range: M1 £25714 – UPS3 £41604**

**Closing date for applications is Friday 14th May 2021. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 25th May 2021**

Yours sincerely

A picture containing linedrawing

Description automatically generated

James Harris

Headteacher