

JOB DESCRIPTION: HEAD OF SCIENCE

Altrincham College is an over-subscribed secondary school, set in attractive, spacious grounds in the semi-rural Hale/Timperley area of Altrincham. The school currently caters for approximately 960 pupils aged 11-18 and is the ideal size to offer opportunity and expertise in every area of the curriculum, whilst still being able to maintain a caring and secure environment for its pupils. The school is well served by public transport, ensuring easy access to all parts of Altrincham and South Manchester.

Our recent Ofsted inspection (March 2017) confirmed that we are a “good” school, but perhaps more importantly, “a very inclusive school where every pupil is valued”, with an ethos in which all students “are encouraged to reach their potential”. Our good/outstanding rating since 2008, and the high quality provision of our £5.3m Sixth Form Centre, guarantees our popularity and status in the local community and ensures an exciting future for the school.

Although Trafford is a selective Local Authority with a mix of high schools and grammar schools, the school’s popularity ensures a truly comprehensive intake. At Altrincham College we recognise that our greatest resource is the true professionalism and dedication of all the staff, backed up by modern facilities, excellent resources and supportive parents.

The staff at Altrincham College work very much as a team and are now looking ahead to consolidate and build on recent successes in the revised GCSE and A-Level examinations. Our aim is to further improve the outcomes for our pupils and to achieve outstanding status once again in the near future.

We are proud of our Ofsted report and recent history but certainly not complacent and are now looking to the future and the next stage of our exciting development.

This is a key Middle Leader role at our school and we are therefore seeking a candidate with:

- An excellent teaching record and a real passion for teaching and learning in Science
- Evidence of real measurable impact as a teacher and at subject level
- Outstanding leadership potential
- High aspirations for their own future professional development
- Vision to ensure that the department builds on its GCSE success, enabling pupils of all abilities to achieve their potential
- Ability to nurture and develop staff within the team
- Commitment to ensuring an attractive and constructive environment for learning
- A willingness to contribute to the school at all levels
- High standards of professionalism and personal appearance

We can offer:

- A friendly, supportive and hugely talented whole staff team within which to work
- A family-friendly school ethos
- A school with an exciting future and history of continuous improvement
- Outstanding and supportive leadership at all levels
- An inclusive learning ethos and a rich pedagogical environment
- High quality professional development

Science Department

At Altrincham College the Science department consists of twelve teachers supported by three Science Technicians. The department is well equipped with a suite of 7 laboratories and a good variety of practical resources, texts and software. All laboratories are equipped with interactive white boards, supported by the resources on the school's ICT network and through Remote Access. Good use is made of the school's excellent ICT facilities by students and staff.

In Year 7 pupils are taught in mixed ability groups initially, but grouped into broad sets. As pupils progress through Years 8–11 streaming and setting takes place in Science. Pupils with Special Educational Needs are fully integrated into all areas of the curriculum supported by a team of dedicated Learning Support Assistants. A commitment to working with pupils across the full spectrum of ability, enabling all to progress, is vital to the school's success. In the Sixth Form, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are popular A- Level choices.

Staff commitment to improvements in teaching and learning and raising academic standards have ensured that for students studying GCSE Core Science, GCSE Additional Science and GCSE Further Additional Science outcomes have been consistently excellent. GCSEs in Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics were undertaken by all pupils in 2019 and results at Grades 6-9 were excellent.

The achievement of students in the Sixth Form showed improvement in all three sciences, with positive value-added scores in Biology and Chemistry and some outstanding individual results.

The Post

We seek to appoint an outstanding teacher of Science who will be ambitious, passionate and rigorous in leading and supporting the school in driving forward standards of attainment and progress, promoting a positive mind-set in students towards science in all its forms.

The ability to teach Chemistry and/or Physics at A-Level would be particularly valuable.

This is an exciting opportunity for an aspirational teacher and leader with drive, passion and commitment to join our hugely talented team of staff, who work together encouraging and supporting every child to reach their full potential.