

St Andrew's Catholic School



Head of History

Information Pack

Live, Love and Learn in the Light of Christ



A few thoughts

Dear applicant

Welcome to St Andrew's. Thank you for your interest in the position of Head of History at our school. I thought it would be useful if I wrote a few thoughts about the school to help you in your decision as to whether to apply.

St Andrew's is a Catholic School with just over 1000 students. I have been Headteacher here since September 2010 and I have loved every minute of it. The last three years has seen St Andrew's go through a great many changes with significant improvements in performance and results. Between 2010 and 2014 we were one of the fastest improving schools in the country. The whole school community has worked very hard to bring about these improvements and in December 2012 we were graded 'Outstanding' in every area by Ofsted. The school is rightly proud of what has been achieved so far; however, we still have a long way to go to achieve our aim of being the best school in England. We are now entering the next exciting stage in our development and we are seeking to appoint a dynamic, inspirational and ambitious person to lead our History Department.

Staff here are extremely friendly and welcoming. They are really passionate about St Andrew's and want the school to be a great success. They have embraced the many changes implemented since my arrival and the level of care they show for the students is extraordinary. Learning and Teaching and Staff Development are at the core of what we do every day to ensure the very best for students and staff. It is our commitment to every member of staff to provide them with highest quality CPD and opportunities for development to ensure they continue to grow and develop throughout their time at St Andrew's. As a result of this commitment not only has students experience and performance improved but significant numbers of staff have been promoted internally and externally. Since 2013 six staff have been promoted to Head of Department, five to Assistant Head level, two to Deputy Head level and one became a Headteacher at another school.

The students are really delightful, work hard (most of them!) and are very friendly. The school is calm and the children are extremely biddable. The Governors are strong and very supportive of the school. Through their sheer determination and aspirations the school has become outstanding over the past few years. Similarly parents are very positive and pro the school, and along with the students and staff they are our greatest assets.

Numbers on roll are rising and we are again significantly oversubscribed with first choice applicants for next year. Since September 2012 we have been full in all year groups with a waiting list in all years. Results are rapidly improving with 5+A*-C including English and Maths rising from 46% to 83% since 2010 and we are confident of further improvements this year. 100% of the students achieved 5+A*-C, almost every department was above 90% A*-C and the percentage of A/A* was again well over 40%. Similarly, our levels of progress and Value Added have improved year on year. Our VA score of 1064 puts us in the top 1% of school nationally for progress. At A Level our A-C grades are 85% with A and A* grades making up 33% of all grades. We are pleased with the improvements but know there is still a lot of work to do to ensure all the students receive the quality of education they deserve.

The spiritual life of the school is strong and the Catholicity of the school is in evidence through both the liturgical life and the ethos. Our Section 48 Inspection also graded us as 'Outstanding'. We are working hard to develop stronger links with our Catholic Feeder Schools and local parishes to increase the number of Catholic students on roll and to provide all the students with outstanding spiritual development.

We are looking to appoint someone who is ambitious for themselves and for their students. I truly believe St Andrew's Catholic School and the History Department has the potential to become the best in the country in the next few years. If you are up for the challenge of playing a significant role in helping us achieve this, have a core belief that all students no matter what their background or ability can achieve, have a passion for and clear understanding of outstanding learning we would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to telephone my PA, Angela McEnaney, anytime on 01372 221180 if you would like any more information or if you would like to have a tour of the school, "Every day is Open Day". I hope you do apply because it really is a great opportunity and a fantastic place to work. I look forward to hearing from you.

Alan Mitchell
Headteacher



To live - to learn

Information about St Andrew's Catholic School

St Andrew's Catholic School is a Voluntary Aided Secondary co-educational day school operating under the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. It was founded by the Catholic Church for the education of Catholic children and it is the intention of the Governors that the Catholic character of the school will always be maintained. We are committed to academic excellence and work to support all our students to reach their potential. Equally, we ensure that we provide opportunities for all students to develop spiritually, emotionally and creatively.

The school serves primarily the Catholic community of the Epsom Deanery, which comprises the parishes of Ashted, Banstead, Dorking, Effingham, Epsom, Ewell, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Tadworth.

Founded in 1935 by the Sisters of St Andrew's as a day and boarding Convent School, the school was reduced to rubble by a landmine in 1941. Between 1953 and 1955 it was rebuilt as a voluntary aided girl's school and then in 1972 boys joined the school. Successive generations of teachers, parents, governors and benefactors have contributed to St Andrew's becoming what it is today.

A broad and balanced curriculum, extensive pastoral programme and rich liturgical life; together with opportunities to excel in dance, drama, sport and music demonstrate our commitment to providing a holistic education to over 1000 students.

In recent years we have become an increasingly popular first choice school and again this year we were oversubscribed with first choice applicants. We continually work in partnership with our parents, Parishes and Feeder Schools and are proud of our strong relationships.

A key focus for the school is ensuring that students achieve their best results at each Key Stage. Sixth Form results are very good and we are proud of the fact that 85% of A Levels last year were at A*-C and that for the 3rd consecutive year our VA placed us in the top few schools in Surrey. Similarly our ALPs grade puts us in the top 10% nationally for students progress at KS5. At Key Stage 4 our student's performance has gone through the roof! Last year we were one of the top 5 improving schools in the country. Since 2010 the 5+ A*-C has improved from 62% to 100% and the 5+A*-C (including Maths and English) has improved from 46% to 83%. We consistently perform significantly above FFTD targets. Our Value added score of 1064 puts us in the top 1% nationally for student progress.

All staff at St Andrew's believe that it is a privilege to work with the children entrusted to our care. We are committed to our professional development to ensure that we constantly give our best. This staff development is central to our improvements. We believe that all staff are entitled to first class CPD both in Learning and Teaching and Leadership. We have a comprehensive programme in place to ensure we bring out the very best in every member of staff. Whatever your experience we will have a CPD programme for you to follow with the aim of helping each person maximize their effectiveness and to prepare them for future roles in their careers. This programme of CPD and the opportunities on offer have seen a significant number of staff promoted to Middle Leader and Senior Leader positions both internally and externally over the past 3 years.

Students and staff contribute to our own community, the local community and the international community. We also fundraise for many Charities and have raised many thousands of pounds for local, national and international charities. The school is renowned for being a warm, friendly and supportive community. We are an authentic Catholic school where Gospel values are at the heart of our relationships, policy and practice.

Our aim is to be the best school in the country, where students feel safe and happy and that during their time at St Andrew's they will receive a better educational experience than if they attended any other school. We want all students to leave St Andrew's having fulfilled their potential; gaining the qualifications, skills, confidence and moral courage to contribute to and succeed in the world beyond school.



St Andrew's Catholic School

Head of History MPS + TLR 2b (£4200)

TLR 2c (£5900) may be available for an experienced candidate or someone who has the capacity to take on other responsibilities.

Method of Appointment

- Application is by letter, CV and Application Form
- Closing Date Monday 19th January 2015
- Short-listing Monday 19th January 2015
- Interviews Week beginning Monday 19th January 2015
- Starting Date 1st September 2015

You are very welcome to come and visit the school at any time before or after you apply.

The Governing body of St Andrew's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



To live, to learn

St Andrew's Catholic School

Head of History

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic and ambitious teacher and leader to lead our History Department. The successful applicant will play a pivotal role in raising achievement and supporting colleagues to improve learning and teaching. We are looking for someone with a proven track record who has the drive and passion to raise the profile of this subject further and to ensure that History has a significant impact on the academic and extra-curricular life of St Andrew's.

The History Department is fully staffed with specialist teachers. All the students in Year 10 select either History or Geography as an option with, 60% achieving A*-C, 34% A*-B and 52% achieving A/A* in GCSE History. It is a popular subject at A Level and results at both AS and A Level are strong.

Personal Specification and Qualities

The successful candidate must

- have a degree with Qualified teacher status
- have evidence of being a very good teacher
- have a proven track record of successful teaching and excellent exam results in a secondary school
- be able to teach History at A Level
- have evidence of CPD
- have a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning
- have knowledge of current educational issues
- be able to demonstrate the ability to turn vision into practice
- have good ICT skills
- be an effective and inspirational leader
- be a team player
- be proactive
- have enthusiasm
- enjoy working with young people
- have the capacity to work very hard under pressure
- be a motivator
- be a good communicator
- have personal integrity and the drive to do what is best for the students
- have the ambition and potential to move onto Assistant Headship
- have a sense of humour!

The successful candidate will be provided with excellent CPD and developmental opportunities throughout their time at St Andrew's in preparation for future promotion.