



**THE BICESTER
SCHOOL**

Aspire and Achieve

Application pack



Queens Avenue
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 2NS



Dear colleague,

I am keen to encourage you to apply for this exciting post at the Bicester School. This is an excellent career opportunity for the right person.

The Bicester School is an 11-18 school, graded as Good in all categories by Ofsted in June 2018 and again in March 2024. Our GCSE results are usually at or above the national average and our Progress 8 score is solid. On the 1 August 2015, we became an Academy, joining the Activate Learning group, a well- respected provider of specialist UTC and sixth form education in the Oxfordshire region.

We have very good teaching facilities, including state of the art facilities for 6th form at our Hinksey site, an excellent programme of CPD and offer candidates the opportunity to teach across the 11-18 age range in a disciplined, orderly and supportive environment. Our staff are committed and passionate about their work. A number of them are new to the school and many have given great service over a number of years. We share a common philosophy of education: the core belief that every student is of equal value and has the right to learn in a calm, disciplined, purposeful and safe environment so that all can achieve to their maximum potential. Teaching and learning is at the heart of this. Good and great teaching in every classroom on every day of the week: developing students' passion, interest and curiosity for all subjects, not just the ones they naturally like or shine in. A love of core subjects such as English, maths and science but also foundation subjects such as art, music, history, computing and geography. If we can develop this interest and love for learning, then exam success will certainly follow and students will achieve beyond their target grades.

We take professional pride in all we do. We recognise the importance of exams but at the same time we wish to educate 'the whole child' and are keen to equip our students for the future world. Our young people are living in a competitive society where both qualifications, values and personal qualities matter. Our school is a school committed to shaping our students as young people with integrity, courage, confidence and respect for others so that they become outstanding citizens who make good decisions and build positive relationships with all around them whilst at the same time having the courage to confront unfairness and social injustices such as prejudice, intolerance and even bullying. As well as being a school to shape values we also wish our students to develop strong interests, being willing to participate in extra-curricular activities, school productions and trips to explore and appreciate other cultures. Universities and employers are increasingly looking for young people with integrity and ambition who are superb team players and have leadership potential. It is a world of incredible opportunity, not least in the fields of science and technology where there are still huge skills gaps across our country and beyond.

Bicester is a dynamic and growing town, an ideal location for families to put down roots. Property prices in the area are reasonable for the county and somewhat lower than the London average. Commuting links to London, Oxford, Birmingham and the rest of the UK are excellent, as we are served by two mainline railway stations. We are also located only a few minutes from the M40 and A34.

If you are interested in joining our staff team and making a difference to young people then we would love to hear from you. Potential candidates are welcome to visit us at any point. Please contact HR@thebicester.org.uk , who can organise a tour. Alternatively, if you have any questions about the post, feel free to contact me at the school on 01869 243331.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Rushworth - Headteacher

Early Career Teachers

- We are a Partner School of the OTSA group who provide and award the ECT Qualification
- Continued Professional Development is seen as an integral part of being an ECT with initial training run by OTSA prior to the September start
- ECTs may be given the opportunity to start their contract in July, once their PGCE course is completed – they will have the opportunity to plan schemes of work for September and integrate with their new department.
- A full induction will be given to the school systems
- We have supportive staff to nurture and develop our ECTs
- All ECTs have a designated mentor, who have been OTSA trained. Fortnightly meetings are timetabled with a clear focus and are aimed at developing and supporting the ECT



School centered - Initial teacher training

Quotes from previous SCITT's; Miss Walden (History)

I worked at The Bicester School as a Learning Support Assistant between 2016 and 2017 which gave me the confidence to pursue a career in teaching. I embarked on a SCITT course in 2017, training to be a history teacher, where my main placement was at The Bicester School. I loved it. The training was an incredible, and invaluable, journey. I am now entering the second term of my ECT year and wouldn't change a thing. I have received lots of support throughout my journey so far and I know this will continue. I am constantly being pushed and challenged which is helping me to improve my practice. Working at TBS has inspired me to further my career and aim high.

Miss McKaig (Science/Psychology)

I have aspired to become a teacher since a young age however, I felt it was paramount to experience the world of work first. I have worked in various jobs and environments including working as a Private Investigator which enabled me develop invaluable skills.

I applied for School Direct after working as a Teaching Assistant at The Bicester School. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a TA and this put me in great stead for my training year. The School Direct route was able to provide me with a fuller, immersive and hands-on experience where I had daily access to a wealth of inspirational and knowledgeable practitioners. I was able to appreciate the passion and creativity that teachers have for making a mundane learning objective into an exciting and engaging learning experience. Even better than that, I was able to see the impact of those brilliant learning experiences on the students by being part of the school community.

Teaching Science is a role that demands a lot from you, as every student studies it at Key Stages 3 and 4, and therefore there is a lot of planning involved. However, it is also a brilliantly broad subject that allows you to teach different skills, meaning that every day is different and more often than not, there is an element of Science that most students enjoy!

The other side of this course involved attending Universitytaught days, once a week, throughout the academic year. The course is varied and offers valuable advice and information, informing your teaching practice and developing your techniques as the year progresses. In school, my mentor was incredibly supportive throughout the year and encouraged me to implement the practices that I had the opportunity to observe in school quickly and effectively.

I have since secured a position as teacher of Science and Psychology at The Bicester School, where I trained. I feel fully prepared to start my ECT year, as I have learnt so much from this course and I know that the SCITT team will continue to support me next year, with ECT courses and seminars.

Georgiana Ristea (SCITT Course)

I worked at The Bicester School as a Cover Supervisor for one year before embarking in 2019 on the SCITT course, training to become a Mathematics teacher whilst continuing employment. Having previously worked at The Bicester School meant that I had come to know the policies and all staff and students. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to continue my professional development at the school that I had come to hold dear.

The journey was intense, I often wished there were more than 24 hours in a day but equally, the support and encouragement received was tremendous. I have the personal conviction that practice can always be improved, and I have been challenged and stimulated accordingly. Special thanks go to my mentor who taught me, amongst others, how to reflect and refine my teaching skills. I have grown on both a personal and professional level and I know that this is only the beginning. Looking forward to the future!

- We are a Partner School of both OTSA and the Buckingham Partnership for their SCITT Schemes who provide and award the ECT Qualification.
- Continued Professional Development is seen as an integral part of being an ECT with initial training run by OTSA prior to the September start
- A full induction will be given to the school systems
- We have supportive staff to nurture and develop our SCITTs
- During each placement, trainees work alongside their mentors in the classroom, establishing solid relationships which enhance the quality of support and progress. Professional development is well founded in a nurturing environment underpinned by an ethos of coaching.
- All SCITTs have a designated mentor, who have been OTSA/Bucks Partnership trained. Weekly meetings are timetabled with a clear focus and are aimed at developing and supporting the SCITTs
- Calendared Half Termly support meetings with the Leading Practitioner/ Senior Links Teacher give the opportunity to share experiences and support other SCITTs.
- Additional support is available from the Leading Practitioner/Senior Links Teacher who oversees the mentors to ensure consistency

Location and travel

The Bicester School is located in the heart of the historic market town of Bicester, one of the fastest growing towns in Oxfordshire.

The town has good transport links, particularly to London via rail, and regular buses to Oxford via Stagecoach and the local area by smaller operators.

How to find us

By car

We are easily accessible from the M40 and A34 taking the directions signposted Bicester, the Bicester School is next to the Bicester Leisure Centre on Queens Avenue. Our access road is between the Fire Station and the Police Station. Our postal code for Sat Navs is OX26 2NS

By train

The School is a 10 minute walk from Bicester North or Bicester Village stations (taxis are also available here).

By Bus

Many bus routes go past the School on Queens Avenue. The Bus Stops at Pioneer Square are a five minute walk

Contact

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