

Dear Applicant

Thank you for considering Larkmead School as the next step in your career. You would be joining us at a very exciting time. The school has an Ofsted rating of Good in all six of the key performance areas. This was re-confirmed in our recent Ofsted in January 2019. You can read our most recent Ofsted letter using the following link <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/143890>

In January 2017 we became part of the Vale Academy Trust. This trust comprises eight schools in all with six primary schools and two secondary schools of which we are one. Larkmead School therefore works closely with King Alfred's Academy which is a large secondary school with nearly two thousand students. This collaboration provides real opportunities for further professional development.

Larkmead also work in close collaboration with four local primary schools and shares sixth form provision with two secondary schools in Abingdon. There is, as you can see, a vibrant exchange of ideas, cross phase.

This year at GCSE, we again produced a positive Progress Score being one of only thirteen Oxfordshire schools to do so over each of the past two years.

At A-Level we consistently produced results with positive progress and recently we appeared in the list of top five Oxfordshire providers for both progress and attainment.

We believe that everyone can achieve. We value diversity and want every student to realise their potential and to recognise that their potential has no limit. We create positive learning spaces, where students and teachers learn together: each challenging the other to get better and better at what they do; each having a voice and being actively supported in the running and decision making of the school.

It is no coincidence then that our students are proud to be Larkmead students or that our existing parents are happy to recommend us to others. In our recent Kirkland Rowell survey, students felt that the sense of community was outstanding. This was confirmed in the Ofsted letter of January 2019, saying, "parents and carers and pupils speak highly of the school and nearly all parents who responded...would recommend the school to other parents". We have a very firm Behaviour Management Policy and students learn to respect everyone and all property on site

A sense of "community" is essential to the school and our motto "one community, individual minds, creating futures" embodies this concept. Our community is built on responsibility. It has been built with our students who are responsible for such tangible symbols as their own uniform and a school flag. Every student in Key Stage 3 completes a day's community service for the school each year. We have a whole school assembly each term (six weeks) where students perform in front of their peers. We are a visual and performing arts school. Student performance has a significant place in our school life. It was therefore affirming to be told, in the Ofsted letter, that "the stimulating and caring ethos in the school enables pupils to make strong progress and achieve well".

Larkmead is a unique school, run and supported by focused passionate people for students that are engaged, keen and eager to learn. We were awarded "Change School" status and have just been re-awarded the coveted Arts Mark Gold. This is recognition of the creativity and imagination that we believe lies at the heart of a developing ethos and a lively, stimulating learning community. Our key focus is on the quality of Teaching and Learning that will energise each student's love of learning, engaging and encouraging students at every level of ability, nurturing enthusiastic and inquisitive individuals.

We want flexible, enthusiastic people who are as committed as we are. Do you have the skills and abilities we are looking for? In return you can feel confident that you will be given lots of opportunity to improve and progress your career with us.

Good luck with your application, we look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely



Chris Harris
Headteacher

Larkmead School is a member of the Vale Academy Trust. The Trust and its schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. All post holders in regulated activity are subject to appropriate vetting procedures and a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

