

11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest in the post of Deputy Headteacher at Whitworth Community High School.

The role of sole Deputy Headteacher is crucial in helping us continue to move the school forward and to achieve our vision of 'Climbing Higher.' We are a successful, ambitious, oversubscribed, 11-16 school, with 630 students on roll. In December 2014 Whitworth Community High School secured a 'Good' judgment from Ofsted, followed by a safeguarding visit in December 2015 where HMI described the work we do to keep students safe as 'exemplary' and students as being 'immensely proud of their school.'

Our students benefit from being part of a small school community where they feel secure and cared for, yet also enjoy all the opportunities to study a wide and varied curriculum and are supported and challenged to achieve their potential. In 2016, our Progress 8 score was +0.16, placing us in the top 25% of Lancashire schools, and in 2017 we achieved our best ever GCSE results, with 71% of students achieving at least grade 4 in both English and maths and 69% achieving at least 5 A\*-C grades including English and maths at 4+. This headline measure meant we were the most improved school in Lancashire this year.

In September 2017, we admitted 135 Y7 students into our school, many who live locally and whose families have long connections with us, but also students from further afield whose families have clear ideas about the kind of school they want and which would best suit their children. Over 40 families went on the waiting list for places and around 30 went to Appeal: a clear indicator of the school's growing reputation in the community, and of our students' pride in their school.

We are determined to become an outstanding school: ensuring the best possible outcomes for all our students in all aspects of school life, and as Deputy Headteacher we expect that you will bring areas of individual expertise and skills from your current and previous roles to complement our strong and dynamic leadership team. These skills may focus for example on teaching and learning, curriculum, data and assessment, SEND, inclusion and pastoral support, student admissions, or raising aspirations. It will be vital that you are able to demonstrate a deep understanding of school improvement, and it is also important, as sole Deputy, that you show understanding of areas of practice in which you may not yet have specialised. The senior team currently consists of Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, four Assistant Headteachers and our Business Manager, and whilst colleagues have their own areas of responsibility we are all very much involved in all aspects of school life – another benefit of a smaller school.

The role of sole Deputy Headteacher is challenging, it will require the successful candidate to show resilience, flexibility, creativity and strong powers of analysis. It will also provide an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to develop as a senior leader, and to prepare for headship if that is their intended path. The role also affords the professional fulfilment that comes from working with our fantastic young people, with passionate staff, with supportive governors, and in an organisation where there is, in the words of one of our governors: 'no complacency, just a drive for stellar achievement' through challenging ourselves and our students to reflect, review and improve our own practice.

We will expect you to show a keen understanding of what good and exceptional standards and outcomes look like in a comprehensive setting, and of how shared vision; excellent systems; and clear lines of accountability and communication underpin the delivery of these outcomes.

Our Prospectus gives you a flavour of what Whitworth Community High School stands for: our vision and values, and is available via our website. I would love you to see our school in action: to be part of the teaching and learning experience; to observe the excellent relationships between staff and students which

characterise the atmosphere in school; to see the impact of our Respect agenda; and to see how we are 'Climbing Higher.' Everyone who visits Whitworth Community High School is impressed by the warmth of the welcome, the behaviour of our young people and the clarity of our aspiration for the future. If you would like to visit the school in advance of the closing date for applications, please contact Yvette Ellis, Headteacher's PA, to arrange a suitable date and time.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G Middlemas".

Mrs G Middlemas  
Headteacher