

Welcome to Fred Longworth High School

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in our school and in the post of Religious Studies teacher. Fred Longworth High School is an outstanding “converter” academy, specialising in the Arts and Applied Learning. Our aim is for **all** our students to achieve their best and we have a strong tradition of achieving excellent examination success, regularly “outperforming” our targets to give students a strong head start in life. We are heavily over subscribed, with an enviable reputation for excellence within our local community. Our intake is very comprehensive and very local and we have very strong links with our associated primary schools. We have high standards of behaviour and academic achievement, alongside flexible and positive approaches to make learning and teaching engaging and enjoyable. Excellent teaching is at the heart of our success, with a committed and enthusiastic staff delivering high quality, enjoyable lessons that really engage the students and encourage a lifelong love of learning. We believe in treating each student as an individual; our curriculum is designed to give them choice and to nurture their talents and abilities, whatever they may be. Outside the classroom, a wide range of extra curricular activities gives students even more opportunity to enjoy their school life and develop as confident, talented and creative young people.

In short, our aim is to be our B.E.S.T., by belonging, engaging, succeeding together.

We have a firm commitment to the professional development of our staff and, should you be successful in your application, you will find that this is an excellent place in which to develop your career. You will also become a part of what we like to call the Fred Longworth family and will benefit from the supportive but challenging environment within the school.

Visitors to Fred Longworth frequently comment upon the happy, purposeful atmosphere and the excellent behaviour of our students. In designating Fred Longworth as an Outstanding School in 2010, Ofsted were particularly impressed with the outstanding progress of our students and noted that “their determination to learn is palpable”. They also commented upon the respect that students have for one another and for adults.

We believe this to be the result of our emphasis on high standards, our strong commitment to building good working relationships between staff and students, and the excellent support we receive from parents. We constantly seek ways to foster a real sense of community spirit for students, parents and staff and our students thrive within this supportive environment.

If you would like to see for yourself what makes us so successful, please feel free to contact us to arrange a pre interview visit. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your application and, hopefully, to meeting you at interview.

Yours sincerely
Janet Garretts
Headteacher

Ofsted (2010) said:

“The relationship between students and their teachers is a major contribution to students securing outstanding learning and progress”

“Students come to school wanting to learn, often displaying high levels of engagement and enjoyment leading to their outstanding achievement. They believe all teachers to be inspiring and there to help them get the most from their education

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER (CPS) – Required from 1st May 2012 to cover
Maternity Leave
(A TLR may be available for a candidate who is suitable to take on the Head of
Department role)**

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post. To help you decide if the job would suit you, we offer some details and thoughts which we hope will give you a flavour of the school.

You can find out even more about us from our website (www.flhs.wigan.sch.uk).

We are seeking an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher to join our Humanities Faculty of 14 staff. The person appointed will teach Religious Studies at both Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four.

The school is a very positive institution with a 'can do' approach amongst staff and students – we are all learners, we can all improve. The successful candidate will embrace this approach and have a real passion for education together with drive to keep the Faculty performing at the highest level.

To be successful you will be able to demonstrate: -

1. Excellent classroom teaching skills.
2. A real empathy with children.
3. A high degree of organisational ability.
4. A good knowledge of the major world religions.
5. The ability to command the respect of staff and students.
6. The ability to work as a member of a team.

Specifically you will: -

1. Be willing to teach RS at KS3 (Y7-8) and GCSE (Y9-Y10)
2. Have an understanding of the place of Religious Studies in the curriculum.
3. Have experience of or interest in the philosophy of religion.
4. Be confident in your ability to teach the major world religions.
5. Be innovative in your approach to the teaching of Religious Studies.
6. Have knowledge of the current AQA GCSE Religious Studies B short course.
7. Be flexible and able to contribute to the raising of achievement in Humanities.
8. Be able to utilise ICT in your teaching.

The Humanities Faculty: -

1. An excellent department in terms of academic success – 70% of Humanities students gained A*-C grades in last years GCSE examinations. 77% of students sitting the GCSE short course in Religious Studies gained grades A*-C. 240 students will be sitting the short course in 2012.
2. Has a suite of 12 rooms.
3. Has access to over 70 PC's
4. Has 14 motivated and talented humanities staff, who work closely as a team.
5. Is popular with students, staff and parents.
6. Received an excellent report from the Ofsted inspection.

Belonging, Engaging, Succeeding Together

Our aim is for every student to achieve at the very best levels possible. High expectations, together with excellent relationships between staff and students based on mutual respect, lead to an atmosphere in which students enjoy their learning.

A relentless focus on high quality teaching and learning ensures that students have the best possible learning experiences in the classroom, and our emphasis on homework helps them to extend their learning beyond the school day and to develop important independent learning skills.

Our students are encouraged to work hard so that they take full advantage of the excellent learning opportunities open to them. We make sure that they are rewarded for their hard work through praise and also through a comprehensive system of rewards and merits.

“Students come to school wanting to learn, often displaying high levels of engagement and enjoyment leading to their outstanding achievement. They believe all teachers to be inspiring and there to help them get the most from their education.”
Ofsted 2010

Creative Achievement - Arts and Applied Learning

Our Arts specialism helps us to develop our students as confident and imaginative young people. They are encouraged to find and develop their talents, whatever they may be, and a wide range of opportunities means that high numbers of students are involved. Performance skills are nurtured, through activities including ambitious drama productions and many musical activities including Rock School, choir, brass bands and orchestra.

When our musicians are not entertaining audiences within the school and local community, they frequently make their mark in competitions, winning titles such as North West Youth Brass Band championship.

We believe in giving our students the best possible experiences of working with professionals within the Arts and are particularly proud of our official partnership with the Halle Orchestra, especially as we are the first school to be granted this honour. We regularly welcome their musicians into the school to work alongside our students, with a positive impact on all areas of the curriculum.

Drama and dance have also forged important links with Arts organisations, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, and we have an extensive programme of activities in the community, including disability dance festivals. Our artist in residence – currently a sculptor – works across the curriculum to develop students' talents in the visual arts.

Our second specialism of Applied Learning enables us to enhance experiences of the world of work across our whole curriculum through a range of vocational opportunities that provide students with the knowledge and experience to apply their skills in the real world of work, giving them a real advantage in moving on to further education, training or employment.

For these reasons, we certainly intend to keep the focus on our specialisms!

Ofsted: The school's specialisms have impacted very positively on students' achievement...students speak well of the varied subjects provided within the specialisms

Method of Application

Please download and complete our application form. You should attach a letter of application outlining your educational philosophy, how you have prepared yourself for this post, your strengths and interests, what you have to offer. In particular your views on raising and maintaining levels of achievement would be most welcome.

Should you wish to discuss the post before making an application, please telephone Mr Rydings (Head of Humanities) at the school.

The closing date for applications is 16th February 2012. Interviews will be held as soon as possible. We look forward to receiving your application.

J Garretts

Headteacher