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Headteacher: Mr D Watson BSC
Deputy Headteacher: Mr M Henderson BA
Senior Assistant Headteacher: Mrs K L Gammack BSc, MEd

DW/CM

January 2020

Dear Applicant

Teacher of Religious Studies (UPR / MPS)

Thank you for your interest in the above post. We are an 11 – 18 mixed, converter academy serving the Catholic community of St Oswin's Deanery (Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle). We have a well-balanced, genuinely comprehensive intake, which is one of our great strengths. The ability profile on entry is above the national average and free school meals uptake is below the national average. We have an excellent reputation locally and nationally for the quality of our ethos, teaching and learning, high achievement, and sustained improvement over time. Ofsted last inspected the school in October 2017, judging it as "Good" - *"Pupils make good progress because of their positive attitudes to learning, and the strong relationships they have with staff... The values of respect, tolerance and humility permeate the school and leaders' active promotion of pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is tangible and exceptional... There is a philosophy of continuous improvement in the school."* The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle also inspected the school in December 2014 under section 48 of the Education Act - *"The Catholic Life of St Thomas More Catholic Academy is outstanding in the way it lives out its mission to the school and wider community."* This is reflected in strong parental support for and confidence in the school. The academy website will give you an insight into our work and ethos: www.stmacademy.org.uk .

Our reputation and practice are excellent with regard to professional development for all staff. Our experience and expertise are especially strong in ITT and NQT work, in leadership development programmes at middle and senior leadership levels, and in providing opportunities for staff to deliver CPD as well as participate. There is a very strong, recognised learning culture across the school. Our collaborative approach extends to working with other schools within North Tyneside, and with other Catholic schools in the Diocese. We have dedicated professional developmental time each Tuesday afternoon and there are many opportunities for staff to deliver CPD activities both within school and at local level.

The RE department consists of a team of eleven specialist teachers and has a suite of classrooms, good resource areas and a workspace for staff. We make extensive use of a wide range of teaching materials from varied sources.

We follow Edexcel syllabus at GCSE and OCR syllabus at Advanced Level. Examination results are excellent at all levels and this subject is very popular in at both KS4 and in the sixth form.

The department has an excellent reputation which is based on excellent leadership and management combined with an outstanding ethos amongst the team. Staff work hard in a positive, collaborative style.

They share expertise, experience, resources, developmental work and administrative responsibilities. They are given opportunities for early responsibility and initiative is encouraged.

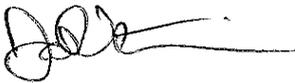
I am enclosing the following:

1. Advertisement details
2. Job Description
3. Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement
4. A copy of the Mission Statement
5. Application Form (inc. Notes to Applicants, Recruitment Monitoring Form, Rehabilitation of Offenders Act).
6. DBS (formerly CRB) Information

The closing date for application forms is at the end of the school day on **Thursday, 23 January 2020**. **Shortlisting** will take place as soon as possible after the closing date. If you have not heard from us by **Monday, 3 February 2020** please assume that you have been unsuccessful.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson
Headteacher

Encs.