

4th March 2019

Dear colleague

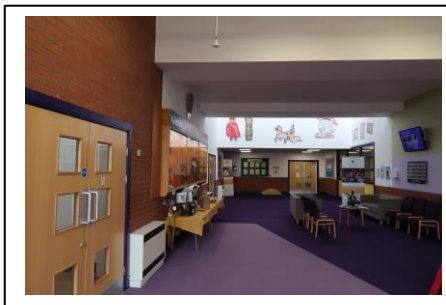
Thank you for your interest in the Head of School position at Glenleigh Park Primary Academy. I hope that you find the following information useful. The decision to apply for any senior leadership position is a big one and we know that recruitment is a two-way process. The school and organisation must be a good fit for the candidate. With this in mind, if there is any further information you require about the school, the trust or the role please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would strongly recommend a visit to the school so that you can see first-hand what a great opportunity there is on offer.

The school

Glenleigh Park Primary Academy opened in September 2012 when it joined Aurora Academies Trust and relocated from its old site in the centre of Sidley. There are currently just over four hundred pupils on roll and another thirty in the nursery class. The school serves a diverse catchment area although pupils are predominantly white British. Levels of deprivation are above national averages.



Like all Aurora's academies, Glenleigh Park teaches Aurora's *Paragon* curriculum which is a cutting edge, humanities-based program of study that follows a cyclical pattern and immerses pupils in rich and meaningful learning opportunities. *Paragon* also provides parents with frequent opportunities to join in with their children's learning which results in high levels of support and parental engagement. All staff are trained in *Talk for Writing* and this approach forms the bedrock of our English lessons. *Accelerated Reader* is used effectively to motivate pupils to read and books are located in the heart of the school.



The school is situated in large grounds and benefits from plenty of internal space which is used effectively to provide great learning opportunities. A program of refurbishment is underway and there is scope for the successful candidate to really make their mark on the fabric of the school.

The staff team is committed, enthusiastic and hard working. They are keen for their next Head of School to share these values and also provide them with strong and clear leadership. The Executive Head has been in post since September 2018 following his promotion as Headteacher of King Offa Academy, another one of the Trust schools. He has a proven

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track record in transforming outcomes for pupils and is focused on making Glenleigh Park the most successful school it can be.

The Trust

Aurora Academies Trust was established in June 2012. It was tasked by the Department for Education with turning around the fortunes of four of the most challenging primary schools both in East Sussex and nationally. One of the schools was in 'special measures' and the others, Glenleigh Park included, were in a very vulnerable position. Since 2012 the schools have transformed and are now all in much stronger positions. As a result of this success the Trust has grown and we now have six schools, including an all through primary/secondary school, across three local authorities with plans for a seventh school to open in September 2020.

The Trust works in partnership with a global education company, Pansophic Learning. Pansophic operate many schools internationally, in the US, UAE, Switzerland and in Uganda. This international dimension gives a unique perspective for Aurora and the Trust benefits from these in many ways, including the sharing of best practice on a global level.

Glenleigh Park has been judged to be good in both of its inspections since opening. There is no secret to the success of the Trust. It is down to the hard work and skill of the leadership teams and school staff. However, there are some unique features to the trust that have contributed to the success of our schools. We are incredibly proud and passionate about our leadership development model. There are numerous examples of staff who have secured promotion as a result of the carefully planned and expertly delivered Global Leadership Institute training that all leaders benefit from. As well as this our schools collaborate very closely together. There are frequent senior team meetings which are attended by Heads of Schools and members of the Executive Team. These meetings provide the opportunity for leaders in the trust to support and challenge each other as part of our continuous cycle of improvement.



As well as leadership development, the Trust provides a number of 'central' services including a Director of Early Years, a Safeguarding and Attendance lead and a Behaviour, Wellbeing and Mental Health lead. These resources are deployed across Aurora schools as required and provide a valuable resource for school leaders to call upon.

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The Trust has an overarching Board of Trustees but each school has local governance exercised through a Local Academy Board (LAB). Glenleigh Park and King Offa have a shared LAB and this ensures that each Head of School receives the very best support and challenge from the Chair and other LAB members. The other Trust Executives are also frequent visitors to every school and there is very much a 'can do' culture within the Trust.

These are exciting times for Aurora Academies Trust and the education sector as a whole. Schools are facing many challenges but these also present many opportunities. This role will be hugely rewarding for the right candidate and really can be considered as a career-defining opportunity.

We look forward to receiving your application

Yours faithfully

Jon Hodson
Trustee and Chair of the LAB

James Freeston
Executive Headteacher

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