

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this role, and I am delighted that you have requested an application pack.

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of The Ropemakers' Academy. Construction of this school has just been completed, and will set the standard in East Sussex for SEND provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs. Combining the substantial investment of East Sussex County Council and The Beckmead Trust's very successful model of provision, we will offer some of our most vulnerable children in the county the opportunity to thrive and grow in an environment that values them as individuals and allows them to feel safe and secure in themselves.

The school site itself is in a fantastic setting, and has been carefully designed specifically with the needs of our cohort in mind. Our school will have a mixture of primary and secondary age children, who will be taught in class sizes of six to eight. Each of classrooms will be equipped with up to date technology, as well as a kitchenette and a calm room to allow a nurturing 'family' approach to supporting our pupils. We will deliver a curriculum that caters for each of our pupils' individual needs in a way that allows them to enjoy success and thrive. In addition, we have specialist teaching spaces for the delivery of science, cookery, music, drama and art, as well as sensory spaces and indoor and outdoor play and sports areas.

Our relationships with our pupils are built around our core principles of showing children love, allowing them to flourish, modelling and embedding social justice, and building a strong community. Relationships will be at the heart of everything we do at The Ropemakers' Academy. However, that is not to say that developing these relationships will always be easy. Some of our pupils can be challenging, and their vulnerabilities will at times show through displays of aggressive or demanding behaviour. However, by seeing beyond these emotional responses, we will be able to allow them to see the very best in themselves, and recognise their achievements and potential.

So, with all this in mind, I am looking to build a staff team who hold the very same high expectations of themselves that I hold myself to, and who are absolutely committed to these children and their needs. It takes energy, resilience and a 'can do' attitude to support them. You will need to be able to maintain compassion and be adaptive in the face of adversity.

If you are able to offer this, and feel that this is a role that you are passionate about, then in return I can provide you with a fantastic opportunity to work in a wonderful, brand new school. I recognise the benefits of a collaborative approach to leadership, and so I will value, trust and support your professional expertise and judgement, and you will have the unique chance to have an influence in and contribute to the growth and development of our provision. With the additional support and expertise accessible across the Beckmead Trust, along with a comprehensive programme of professional development, you will have access to everything you need to further your career with us, whilst knowing you are supporting children who need it the most.

Please take the time to read through the materials in this application pack, and feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. If you do decide to apply, then I look forward very much to hearing from you, and wish you every success with your application.

Kindest regards



Simon Hawthorne, Headteacher
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