



# Birchwood High School



## Caretaker Recruitment Pack



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## Letter to applicants

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for showing interest in our Caretaker vacancy. Birchwood High School is a fantastic place to work and I have great privilege to lead an inspired team of staff who are dedicated to the education of our 1400 students. It is a school where we get the balance right between academic progress, pastoral support & welfare and curriculum enrichment. This was reflected in our Ofsted Inspection (June 2019) where we were judged to be Good in all areas.

We are very proud of our inclusive and non-selective ethos, with some students progressing on to the very best universities in the country whilst other students needing significant support to help them progress. It is a 'comprehensive' mix of keen and enthusiastic students who make the days and weeks fly by.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced Caretaker to join our site team. The post holder will ensure that the school grounds and buildings are clean and will be responsible for repairs and maintenance to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all users of the school. You will make a significant contribution to the maintenance of the buildings, fixture and fittings.

This role is a full time, 52 week per year position with a salary from £24,790 plus £706 fringe allowance per annum.

To apply, please ensure that when completing the online application form you include in your statement the reason for your interest in the role, what relevant skills and experience you have that will assist you in fulfilling the expectations of the role, your values and why you want to be part of the Birchwood Community.

Applications should be submitted using the [mynewterm](#) platform no later than **9am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. Interviews will be held soon after.

If you would like to find out more about the role and/or arrange an informal visit to the school, please contact Sarah Wilkinson directly on [swilkinson@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:swilkinson@birchwoodhigh.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr Sam Griffin  
Principal



## About Bishop's Stortford and Birchwood High School

Bordering the county of Essex, Bishop's Stortford is a thriving, historic and picturesque market town situated in Hertfordshire. The town is served by direct train links into London Liverpool Street, Cambridge and Stansted Airport and the M11, M25, A120, A10 and A414 making Bishop's Stortford easily accessible to Cambridgeshire, London, Hertfordshire, Essex, and Stansted Airport. With such great transport links, easy access to beautiful countryside and a wide range of excellent local primary and secondary schools, it is easy to see why this is a favoured commuter area.

Our School is located in the north-east of Bishop's Stortford, close to the town centre and the train station. It is situated in an attractive open setting within a residential area backing onto mature woodland. Converted to a Single Academy Trust in 2011, Birchwood is a well-established, attractive, all round inclusive, co-educational secondary school and sixth form.

We have a PAN of 240, and a current sixth form of 227, making us one of the biggest schools in the local area. Most students enter our school at Year 7 from primary schools within the town and surrounding area. We work hard to foster good relationships with our local primary schools and a particular emphasis is put on transition to Year 7.

We have great pride in being an inclusive school with an all-ability ethos that respects and responds to the different backgrounds and situations of all our students. We offer a broad curriculum choice and an extra-curricular programme that encompasses the National Curriculum and beyond. It is central to our ethos that the curriculum is accessible to all students and Birchwood has a strong local reputation for SEND provision.

Investment has been made in initiatives to facilitate recovery from the pandemic, these include a whole school literacy programme, now in its second year, and the development of an intervention centre to provide targeted support where it is most needed. Students, staff, and trustees have worked together on recent initiatives to champion equality, diversity, and inclusion, with a particular focus on gender equality as well as LGBTQ+, race and ethnicity, to foster a whole school culture where everyone feels welcome and safe to bring their whole selves to school.

Our school buildings and facilities are modern and well maintained. They include a light and welcoming library, dedicated sixth form centre, cafeteria and kitchens, and a full range of equipment and rooms to support our wide curriculum offer. We also have a modern sports hall and gym, a dance studio, and a dedicated drama studio. Staff have access to a large staff room and shared work area. In addition to the indoor facilities, there are well maintained grounds which include social areas, a 3G Astroturf pitch and a large playing field for grass pitches and athletics. There is also a detached playing field that offers opportunities for future development. The quality of the facilities and our outward focus means that we have an established busy community lettings programme which includes use by drama, music and sporting groups.

Trustees have recently released reserves of £400,000 to invest in improvements to our buildings and facilities. These have included updating the PC's and computer suite, remodeling our reception area, upgrading some of our toilet facilities and the Personalised Learning Centre - which is our hub for SEND provision. We have also installed new boilers and new CCTV and telephone systems.

# Our School Values and Ethos

Our core values are encompassed in our mission statement:

“ At Birchwood we are part of something special, welcoming all, supporting all, and encouraging all.

Enjoying together the exploration of ideas, the excitement of learning and the celebration of our achievements, in a school where we feel safe.

*“your dreams, your future, our challenge”*



# Key facts and statistics

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Location:

Bishop's Stortford

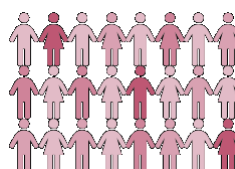
Status:

Single Academy Trust  
(established in 2011)

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11-18 Yrs  
Age Range

1179  
Students  
Yr7 to Yr11



227  
Students in  
Sixth Form

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Rated **good** in JUNE 2019

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**21%**  
SEND

**11%**  
EAL

**13.6%**  
FSM

**12.4%**  
PUPIL  
PREMIUM

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## **JOB DESCRIPTION: Caretaker**

**Hours of work:** 37 hours per week with a 30 minute unpaid break each day, some shift work may be required  
**Type :** Permanent, full time (52 weeks per year)  
**Salary:** Grade H3, SCP 5 (Range5-6) – from £24,790 per annum plus £706 fringe allowance

### **Purpose of the Job**

Reporting to the Site Manager, the post holder will ensure that the school grounds and buildings are clean will be responsible for repairs and maintenance to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all users of the school.

Alongside normal caretaking duties the post holder will make a significant contribution to the maintenance of the buildings, fixtures and fittings.

### **General Site Maintenance**

In conjunction with the Site Manager ensure that following are maintained and checked regularly:

- All services gas, water and power
- All HVAC units
- Intruder Alarm System
- Fire Alarm/Emergency Lighting
- CCTV System
- ATP
- Drains
- Plumbing
- Gutter and roofs
- Basic electrical repairs e.g. sockets, light bulbs, light fittings
- General carpentry and DIY repairs
- Decorating
- Bed and Border ground maintenance
- Maintaining the site in a clean and tidy condition.
- Toilet checks
- Graffiti removal

### **Pro-Active Site Management**

- Damages to be reported to Site Manager
- Advise Site Manager where external contractor is required
- Monitoring of gas/electricity meters
- Carry out emergency repairs where required

### **Security**

Be familiar with the procedure for locking and opening of the school to include setting all alarm systems



## **Ordering of materials**

- Advise Site Manager of any supplies required
- Identify tools and labour saving devices to be considered to improve the school environment.

## **Daily Tasks**

- Provision run – toilet rolls, towels, water etc
- Deliver portorage to relevant area –
- Preparing for school events and exams
- Ensure Asbestos records are maintained and filled in correctly (Training will be given)

## **School Holidays**

- Ensure School is open 9.00 am – 4.00 pm.
- Carry out repairs and maintenance as per schedules prepared by the Site Manager

## **Training**

- Identify any relevant training courses to Site Manager.

## **Other**

- Ensure efficient delivery of any other task reasonably requested by the Headteacher

## **Relationships**

- The post holder is responsible and accountable to the Site Manager.
- The post holder reports on a day-to-day basis to and is line managed by the Site Manager.
- The post holder interacts with all staff and should establish and maintain productive relations with them.





## JOB DESCRIPTION: Caretaker

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Qualifications and experience:</b>	<p>Experience of providing site maintenance / security on a large site</p> <p>Good understanding of Health &amp; Safety</p>	<p>Knowledge of working in a school environment</p> <p>Health and safety qualifications</p> <p>COSHH certified</p>
<b>Knowledge and skills:</b>	<p>Ability to undertake DIY tasks</p> <p>Excellent organisational skills</p> <p>Ability to remain calm under pressure</p> <p>Ability to manage own time effectively</p> <p>Good reading and writing skills</p> <p>Ability to undertake general mathematical calculations</p>	<p>Good knowledge of security, heating plan and other building systems</p> <p>First Aid certificate or willingness to gain one</p>
<b>Personal qualities:</b>	<p>To be able to communicate and interact with other members of staff effectively.</p> <p>To be able to work within a team environment.</p> <p>Able to work flexibly in responding to situations as they arise.</p> <p>A personal manner in keeping with the school ethos towards parents, staff, children, the wider community.</p>	

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) will be carried out for all successful candidates.

# Completing your application pack

## Application Form

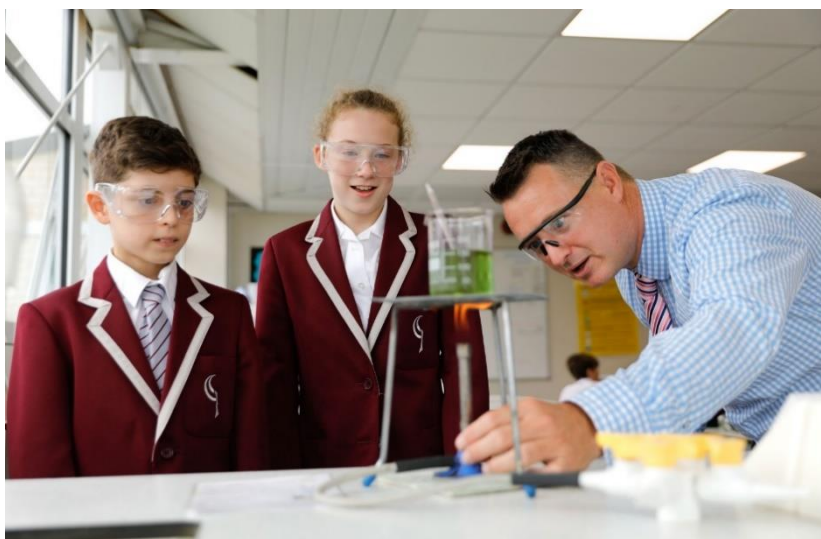
Applicants must apply through the **mynewterm** portal (CVs are not accepted). Please complete all aspects of the form fully. Include your full work history with no unexplained gaps since leaving school education

## Person Specification and Personal Statement

Please refer to the Person Specification to help guide you in terms of your personal statement. Be sure to evidence additional aspects such as training and qualifications together with your background and experience.

## References

Please make sure your referees are aware of your application and that they are able to provide a swift turnaround. Preferred referees are your last two employers, and you should provide their official organisation email address for us to contact.



# Important Information

<b>Salary:</b>	Hay Scale H3 SCP 5 (Range 5-6) £24,790 - £25,183 plus £706 per annum fringe allowance
<b>Start date:</b>	January 2025
<b>Hours of Work:</b>	37 hours per week with a 30 minute unpaid break each day Some shift work may be required
<b>Working weeks:</b>	Full Time, 52 weeks per year
<b>Closing date:</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025, 9am
<b>Interview dates:</b>	Interviews will be held soon after

<b>Any questions, call our HR Manager</b>	<b>01279 756376</b>
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Birchwood High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and visitors to share this commitment. Appointment to this post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) as well as other pre-appointment checks, including an online check, outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024).

To help us meet our high standards and aspirations of a fully diverse and inclusive workplace, we strongly encourage suitably qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply and to join us.



The ABC of being a Birchwood student:  
Achieve, Belong, Conquer!



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[www.birchwoodonline.co.uk](http://www.birchwoodonline.co.uk)