

TEACHER OF ENGLISH INFORMATION BOOKLET

JANUARY 2025



Introduction

Thank you for enquiring about our **Teacher of English** position. We hope after reading the information in this pack, you will be excited by the prospect of joining our team.

Vandyke is a great place to work, with high expectations and a caring ethos. "Everyone Matters" here at Vandyke. Our Annual Survey consistently shows that staff feel well supported and are supportive of one another, students enjoy coming to school and our parents/carers are hugely supportive of our school. We often find that competition for posts at Vandyke is strong and the experience colleagues gain here can be a stepping stone to further promotion.

The successful candidate will be joining a thriving school, with a growing reputation for excellent teaching and achievement, innovative and inclusive practice, and excellent leadership and management that puts students and learning at the centre.

The Role

We are looking to appoint a teacher of English to join our outstanding team of teachers. This post would suit either an experienced or early career teacher; applicants looking for a full- or part-time role are welcome to apply.

English at Vandyke

All students in year 9 have 7 hours of English teaching per fortnight, which increases to 8 hours in years 10 and 11. GCSE Media Studies is also taught by members of the English team and is a popular and successful subject at Vandyke. At A level, we offer English language, English combined, English literature, Film Studies and Media Studies, all taught by the English team and recruit very well – English, Media Studies and the newest addition of Film Studies are popular! At A Level, we have a 100% pass rate in all subjects and year on year high performance at A*-C. We regularly have students leaving us to study our subjects at university.

The ethos of the team is extremely positive, with a proven track record of outstanding outcomes. We are aspirational, dedicated and innovative in our shared practice. Students at our school value their English lessons; performance in English exceeds national expectations. We continually strive to achieve at the highest level. To this end, planning together and sharing resources is very important to us and contributes to our success.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, show initiative and be willing to learn any new skills required to support the ever-changing needs of a modern, rigorous and challenging English curriculum. You will be joining a highly successful team that provides a great deal of support, including training and career development opportunities.

We have generously sized classrooms, all equipped with projectors and white boards. The whole school is covered by a wireless network, which enables all teachers to use their school-provided laptops in any classroom and allows students to use their



own laptops and Wi-Fi-enabled devices where this is appropriate within the curriculum. Every student and member of staff has their own e-mail account and full access to the internet and intranet.

Our School

Our students achieve very well, making strong progress in all year groups and achieving outstanding outcomes at GCSE and A Level from all starting points. In 2019, Progress 8 was +0.49 and value-added in the Sixth Form was also high building on strong progress at KS4. Exams in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled but results were at a similar level and allowed students to progress to their chosen next steps. In 2023 and 2024 results were again strong, comparable to the 2019 results. For the majority of Y13 students the next step was university with students going on to a range of courses at many different universities including students going on to Russell Group organisations and Oxbridge.

We had an ungraded inspection from OFSTED in January 2024. The highly complementary report stated that “Pupils at Vandyke are proud and articulate ambassadors for their school. They enjoy learning and achieve well. They thrive as a result of the school’s ambition for all pupils to become ‘world ready citizens’ Pupils are confident, courteous and aspirational. They behave well at all times”.



The ethos of Vandyke is based on strong, positive relationships between staff and students – “Responsible, Respectful, Resilient – World Ready.” We seek to establish and maintain an atmosphere that enables students’ autonomy and independence. Students respond very well to this creating a “special” atmosphere around school often commented upon by visitors. Staff go out of their way to provide great teaching and support and additional learning opportunities for students. Parents and carers are supportive of the school and feedback from parents and carers is always that the school is welcoming, friendly and inclusive.

We are pleased to hold Sportsmark and Artsmark (Platinum) awards in recognition of our commitment to Sport/PE and our outstanding programme of extra-curricular sport and performing arts activities. One notable achievement being that over 350 students take part in the DoE award scheme each year.



Facilities at Vandyke are excellent and include a theatre, drama studio, dance studio, sports hall, sports activity area, specialist athletics jumping facility, floodlit netball centre, floodlit astro-turf pitch, music suite, café and extensive library/study facilities. A Full sized 3G pitch has recently been added to the impressive facilities.

In September 2020 we opened a new teaching block comprising 12 new science labs, 10 new maths classrooms, Sixth Form centre including Sixth Form café and accommodation for staff. A further new build extension of the sixth form centre has recently opened.

The Recruitment Process

Applications can be made through MyNewTerm website including a personal statement;
<https://www.mynewterm.com/school/Vandyke-Upper-School/137169>

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 24th February 2025

Vandyke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All shortlisted candidates will be required to bring proof of identity and original qualification certificates to the interview. The successful candidate will be required to complete an application for an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS). Please refer to the separate information provided about the process and acceptable forms of identification. References and an online search will be carried out for all shortlisted candidates.

All applicants are also required to confirm their eligibility to live and work in the UK. Please ensure one of the documents you produce to support your DBS application is also included on the enclosed list "Asylum and Immigration Act 1996" to satisfy this requirement.