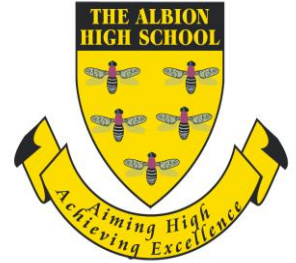


The Albion High School

A Mathematics and Computing Specialist College

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Headteacher: Steve Aveyard

Dear Candidate,

Thinking of joining the Albion's staff team?

Thank you for considering applying for a post at The Albion High School. We have much to be proud of and many challenges to face, in a difficult but rewarding inner-city context. We are always seeking high-quality practitioners, who put young people at the heart of their practice and constantly strive to improve.

Around two-thirds of our young people were born and bred in the locality, whilst the other third have over thirty countries of origin. Despite the high levels of deprivation in the area, the vast majority of our students are cheerful, keen and willing to learn. Behaviour and attendance have vastly improved in recent years, and these improvements are allowing us to focus even more upon achieving the best quality of teaching and learning.

Our last OFSTED inspection was in the Autumn of 2010. Although satisfactory overall, the inspectors noted the many good features of our school, its outstanding care, guidance and support for students, and its good capacity to improve further. Our challenge is now to continue to improve the standards of literacy and learning for every child.

Our Contextual Value Added score in 2010 placed us in the top 3% of schools nationally. Our 5AC figure rose to 87% that year (2005: 22%) and has remained well above predicted levels this year. In 2011, our 5AC with English & Maths reached 43%, our highest so far (2005: 12%). We are pleased with the school's progress to date, but we do not intend to 'rest on our laurels' and we are already developing our curriculum to help our young people to continue learn well and succeed, under the new national expectations.

The overall ability-level of our students on arrival is significantly below national averages, and so it is a real challenge, to ensure that our young people are fully equipped to succeed in the current jobs market. In recent times we have increasingly focused our training upon ways to enhance active learning and boost literacy. Over a quarter of our students have English as an additional language, whilst many for whom English is a mother tongue have had other barriers to their literacy development. This requires imaginative teaching in class and a wide range of additional support.

We find that the best candidates are those who relish the challenge of working here, and are actively seeking to work with students such as ours. They get on well with young people, and are keen to find new ways to make their subject interesting, engaging and accessible. Many staff choose to support our extra-curricular programme, helping with our highly successful sports teams, the well-developed Arts and ICT clubs, or the various activities that boost learning beyond timetabled lessons.

We make few if any distinctions between teaching staff and support staff, believing that we are one team, delivering the best education we can, to young people who will really benefit from what we can achieve together. It is no easy task, but it is a rewarding and worthwhile challenge. Might you be up for it? And up to it?

If you decide to apply for a post here, we look forward to welcoming you. We always aim to show candidates our school on a normal working day, so that you, as well as we, can make an informed decision about the degree of 'match' between your skills and interests and our aims and context. You will have time to speak to those who work here, including at least some people from the team that you hope to join. That will give you the chance to find out a little more about us, and decide whether or not you would fit in and be happy.

Regardless of your decision, we wish you the very best for your career development, whether here or elsewhere.

Steve Aveyard, Head teacher. January 2012.