



Sir Graham Balfour
Multi-Academy Trust

**Teacher of Drama and lower school English
Full time, permanent post**

From September 2021



Dear Applicant

Thank you for requesting details of the post of Drama and English Teacher at our school. I very much hope that after reading the enclosed information, you wish to apply.

We are situated on the northern outskirts of the town of Stafford and draw nearly two-thirds of our students from the surrounding suburban area and the remainder from a rural area extending towards the Shropshire border. Students come from all sections of society and cover the entire ability range making the school a true comprehensive.

The successful candidate will join a school committed to continuous improvement and to providing a vibrant educational experience. We welcome change and view new initiatives as opportunities to further our aims. We share good practice systematically and use a highly structured CPD programme to continually develop staff.

We are looking for forward thinking, inspirational individuals prepared to play a full and active role in our further development. Should you wish to join our team, I very much look forward to receiving your application.

The school is committed to ensuring all staff and students have access to equal opportunities.

Please be aware that all appointments will be subject to an enhanced DBS clearance and as part of our stringent safeguarding procedures the interview process will include an assessment of a candidate's suitability to work with children.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Beck
Headteacher



Lesley Beck
Headteacher

Welcome to Sir Graham Balfour School which OFSTED in May 2014 found to be a 'Good' school with 'Outstanding' features. I hope you find the information it contains useful and informative.

**Our vision is summed up in our mission statement –
'Learning, Working and Succeeding Together'**

For us, the 'together' is absolutely critical; collaboration, cooperation and teamwork are essential for developing the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary for academic and personal excellence. As well as the drive to achieve academically, the ability to self-regulate, to communicate clearly with others, to know and be proud of who you are, to be compassionate to others and to be ambitious for yourself and others are equally important.

We passionately believe that the circumstances of birth or upbringing should not be the key determining factors to success in life and we are relentless in our ambition for ALL children to achieve as well as possible at Sir Graham Balfour School, regardless of their sexual orientation, socio-economic, ethnic, religious or gender status.



Our Values

Our aim as a school, working alongside parents and our community, is to help students to become outstanding and effective citizens; to make responsible, appropriate and healthy choices in all things. Staff and parents will not always be there, at the point where critical decisions need to be made. This is why we are committed to **values based learning**; *rules* prescribe a set of appropriate/inappropriate behaviours (e.g. don't run in the corridors) which are specific to given contexts, whereas *values* provide a set of aspirational guidelines within which children must choose the right behaviour or action for the vast array of contexts they will be faced with in life (e.g. how do I need to move around the school if I am taking responsibility for myself and others?).

These are the values which we believe will help our students to become excellent citizens of Stafford and beyond:

- Commitment to excellence
- Responsibility for ourselves and others
- Care for the local and wider Community
- Respect, Kindness and Compassion for ourselves and others
- Ambition for ourselves and others
- Perseverance and resilience
- Pride in working hard and the success it brings

Our values drive and shape every aspect of school life, taking the place of school rules. They seek to reinforce the development of the whole person, in addition to the academic. They are values which will, if routinely exemplified and embedded, give our young people all the skills and characteristics necessary to become outstanding citizens of the future.



Employee Benefits



SGB MAT is a member of the Education Broker Wellbeing Package enabling staff and their immediate family to access the following services:

- Family Issues
- Family Matters
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Stress
- Gambling
- Financial
- Relationships
- Legal
- Domestic Abuse
- Insurance Claims
- Consumer Issues
- Debt
- Childcare
- Work
- Housing and many more

**WE'RE
HERE
FOR YOU** **24/7**

A CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.

SOMETIMES IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO BALANCE THE PRESSURES OF WORK WITH THE NEEDS OF HOME LIFE. THE EDUCATION BROKER RECOGNISES HELP IS SOMETIMES NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES YOU MAY FACE IN LIFE, BOTH PRACTICAL AND EMOTIONAL.

SGB MAT is part of the Government Childcare Voucher and Tax Free Childcare schemes enabling staff to make tax efficient child care payments to their nurseries.

Vacancy Details



Teacher of Drama and English

Full time, permanent post.

Sir Graham Balfour Main Scale (actual salary £25,714 - £36,961)

Required from September 2021

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic teacher of Drama (to GCSE) and English (to KS3) to join our very successful English and Drama Faculty. The successful candidate will have a firm commitment to raising whole-school achievement; have a professional approach to staff development; high expectations; and a determination to succeed. This post might well suit a Newly Qualified Teacher looking for their first position, but more experienced colleagues are very welcome to apply.

The faculty is at an exciting point in its development, having restructured the whole of the Key Stage Four and Five curriculum over the past year. We are looking to appoint a forward thinking, able professional to join the Faculty in its continuing development.

At Sir Graham Balfour we offer:

- A friendly, well-motivated staff, who embrace willingly a culture of professional development.
- An ever growing reputation in the local community which has resulted in the school being consistently oversubscribed in an area where student rolls are falling.
- A very positive climate for learning.
- A first rate learning environment. We are housed in buildings completed in 2002 and financed via a PFI initiative.
- Innovative 14-19 collaboration and an increasing roll at KS5.
- A commitment to inclusive practice.

Vacancy Details



Please note:

The school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students and as such all applicants will be submitted for an enhanced DBS check.

- Applications can only be accepted if submitted on the enclosed formal application form, alongside a letter of not more than two sides of A4, outlining why you applied for this post and what you would bring to our school if appointed.
- Two references will be required, one of which *must* be from your most recent employer.
- We confirm our commitment to equality of opportunity in all areas of our work. All individuals will be treated in a fair and equal manner and in accordance with the law regardless of gender, marital status, race, religion, colour, age, disability or sexual orientation.

Visits to the school are strongly recommended and can be arranged by contacting Mrs Vicki McKeen (details below).

If you require any further information, please access our website, www.sirgrahambalfour.co.uk or contact Mrs Vicki McKeen, Headteacher's PA, on vmckeen@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk or telephone 01785 223490.

The closing date for applications is: 1.00 pm on Friday 14th May. Please return completed applications to vmckeen@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk

Shortlisting for this post will take place Monday 17th May and successful applicants will be contacted no later than 3.20pm on the same day. If you have not heard from us by this time, please assume you have not been successful on this occasion.

Interviews will take place w/c Monday 17th May; will include a tour around the school, delivery of a lesson and interviews for the short-listed candidates. Details of the lesson to be taught will be sent out at the shortlisting stage.

Vacancy Details



April 2021

The English Faculty at Sir Graham Balfour

The English Faculty consists of 9 specialist English teachers, all of whom teach across the full age and ability range at Key Stages 3 and 4. We pride ourselves on being forward-looking and innovative; developing and taking on new initiatives to meet the needs of our students.

Our 7-year curriculum takes Graham Balfour students on a learning journey to prepare them for terminal examinations in Y11 and Y13. Our curriculum goal is to achieve a true spiral curriculum, building student skills and knowledge from Year 7 upwards to create independent learners. This is what we are currently striving to perfect. We believe that our team should have the freedom to teach lessons creatively and to suit the needs of the students in the class, but the curriculum provides the framework for content, skills and assessment. This gives our team the guidance we need to be successful in our class rooms. In Year 7, we begin to teach the skills necessary for success in the future – introducing challenging texts such as William Blake’s poetry and Dickens’ A Christmas Carol as well as touching on the skills needed to be successful in analysing language and structure. This focus on all of the Assessment Objectives continues in Year 8. We have introduced a group reading programme in both year groups and one of our aims is to encourage reluctant readers to enjoy independent reading. We regard Year 9 to be a key transition year, introducing more key topics to prepare students for GCSE. However, above all we want our students to enjoy their English lessons, engaging in a range of approaches, experiences and opportunities.

At KS4 we follow the AQA courses for English Language and Literature and in KS5 we continue to use AQA Specification A, focussing on World War 1 context option. Currently, four team members teach A Level and we have healthy numbers opting for Literature in Year 12.

The English faculty is based in a well-equipped suite of 5 class rooms plus an additional smaller teaching room and staff work-room. All classrooms have inter-active white boards. We have our own trolley of 30 laptops and benefit from excellent support with ICT. Our teaching resources are readily available to members of the English faculty on the school’s internet platform ‘Office 365’. One of the many strengths of the faculty is the willingness of staff to work together, sharing resources, ideas and skills. We are a well-organised, friendly and supportive faculty which is highly regarded within the school.

Debbie Giles
Head of English

Vacancy Details



June 2017

Drama at Sir Graham Balfour

We are lucky to teach most of the drama lessons in a Drama Studio which is close to the main hall too. Students perform using the stage in the hall when they rehearse and perform their plays. You will be teaching Edexcel Drama at GCSE which gives the students the opportunity to develop and display creative and analytical skills over two years. You will be expected to teach various Theatre methods alongside the knowledge of famous practitioners; study texts such as Blood Brothers, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime and The Crucible. Students will be expected to develop, create and perform their own play and evaluate what they have produced. Finally, students will have to watch various plays throughout the two years and explore through writing how their plays effectively captivate audiences.

It is essential for the teacher of Drama to engage with the text we study. We choose interesting texts to prepare students for the unseen texts in the examination. Thus, we teach skills to make students confident in reading and understanding any text from different time periods. We aim to foster a collegial atmosphere where students can evaluate their own learning and respond to texts in a critical way. We often work in pairs and small groups and use debate to develop and strengthen the students' point of view. Therefore, we build communication skills and encourage team work. Over the two years, focusing on the key skills enables students to learn and revise these skills in preparation for the terminal exams.

At key stage three, you will be expected to teach Years 7 and 8 in a rotation. Year 7 will be expected to study the history of the theatre and learn the basics of the acting and lighting. Year 8 will study a practitioner and develop a performance based on it – they should be able to develop the process by looking from the perspective of actors, or any aspect of the GCSE design list.

Debbie Giles
Head of English

Job Description



Post: Classroom Teacher

Core Purpose: To deliver a quality learning experience which promotes high standards of attainment and provides students with the opportunity to fulfil their potential and to carry out such duties as are reasonably assigned by the Headteacher

Responsible to: The Headteacher in all matters; the Head of Department/Faculty in curricular matters; the House Head in pastoral matters.

Key Expectations Teachers must:

- Make the education of their students their first concern, and be accountable for achieving the highest possible standards in work and conduct.
- Act with honesty and integrity; have strong subject knowledge, keep their knowledge and skills as teachers up-to-date and are self-critical; forge positive professional relationships; and work with parents in the best interests of the students.

PART ONE: TEACHING - A teacher must:

Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge students by:

- establishing a stimulating learning environment for students, rooted in mutual respect.
- setting goals that stretch and challenge students of all backgrounds, abilities and dispositions.
- demonstrating consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of students.
- promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all students by following the policies and procedures of the school.

Promote good progress and outcomes by:

- being accountable for students' attainment, progress and outcomes.
- being aware of students' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these.
- guiding students to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs.
- demonstrating knowledge and understanding of how students learn and how this impacts on teaching.
- encouraging students to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study.

Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge by:

- having a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas, fostering and maintaining students' interest in the subject, and addressing misunderstandings.
- demonstrating a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas, and promoting the value of scholarship.
- demonstrating an understanding of and taking responsibility for, promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject.

Plan and teach well-structured lessons by:

- imparting knowledge and developing understanding through effective use of lesson time.
- promoting a love of learning and children's intellectual curiosity.
- setting homework and planning other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding students have acquired.
- reflecting systematically on the effectiveness of lessons and approaches to teaching.
- contributing to the design and provision of an engaging curriculum within the relevant subject area(s).

Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all students by:

- knowing when and how to differentiate appropriately, using approaches which enable students to be taught effectively.
- having a secure understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit students' ability to learn, and how best to overcome these.
- demonstrating an awareness of the physical, social and intellectual development of children, and knowing how to adapt teaching to support students' education at different stages of development.
- having a clear understanding of the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs; those of high ability; those with English as an additional language; those with disabilities; and being able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them.

Make accurate and productive use of assessment by:

- knowing and understanding how to assess the relevant subject and curriculum areas, including statutory assessment requirements.
- making use of formative and summative assessment to secure students' progress.
- using relevant data to monitor progress, set targets, and plan subsequent lessons.
- giving students regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encouraging students to respond to the feedback.

Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment by:

- having clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms, and taking responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour both in classrooms and around the school, in accordance with the school's behaviour policy (B4L).
- having high expectations of behaviour, and establishing a framework for discipline with a range of strategies, using praise, sanctions and rewards consistently and fairly.
- managing classes effectively, using approaches which are appropriate to students' needs in order to involve and motivate them.
- maintaining good relationships with students, exercising appropriate authority, and acting decisively when necessary.

Fulfil wider professional responsibilities by:

- making a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school.
- developing effective professional relationships with colleagues, engaging in a professional dialogue, knowing how and when to draw on advice and specialist support.
- deploying support staff effectively.
- taking responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development, responding to advice and feedback from colleagues.
- participating fully in faculty reviews.
- participating fully in Performance Management reviews.
- celebrating student success as per school policy and procedure.
- communicating effectively with parents with regard to students' achievements and well-being, reporting to parents and attending parents evenings as directed.

Operational Responsibilities:

- Adhere to and implement the school's Child Protection procedures.
- Mark and keep accurate class attendance registers
- Control and oversee the use and storage of educational resources provided for class usage.
- Attend all Tuesday after school meetings.
- Play a full and active role in staff professional development activities as directed.
- Undertake daily duties as agreed with the Headteacher.
- Support and uphold all school policies.
- Ensure any Health and Safety issues are brought to the attention of the Head of Department/Faculty.

PART TWO: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

All teachers are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. The following statements define the behaviour and attitudes which set the required standard for conduct throughout a teacher's career.

- Teachers must uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:
 - treating students with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position.
 - having regard for the need to safeguard students' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions.
 - showing tolerance of and respect for, the rights of others.
 - not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
 - ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit students' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

This job description is to be carried out in accordance with the current School Teacher's Pay and Conditions document and within the range of duties set out in that document so far as relevant to the postholder's title and salary grade. The post is otherwise subject to the conditions of service for School Teachers in England and Wales and to locally agreed conditions of employment to the extent they are incorporated in the postholder's individual contract of employment.

Commitment to Safeguarding



Sir Graham Balfour School recognises its legal duty under s175 Education Act 2002 and the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts. We take seriously our responsibilities to protect and safeguard the interests of all students. This organisation recognises that effective child protection work requires sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and a workforce that is competent and confident in responding to child protection situations.



Our Safeguarding Policy aims to provide a framework which ensures that all our practice in regard to safeguarding children is consistent with the stated values and procedures that underpin all work with children and young people. Statutory guidance defines a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th Birthday.



The Policy has regard to the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2015 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2016 (KCSIE). The Policy is in keeping with Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's (SSCB) policies and procedures and their training strategy and reflects what the SSCB considers to be safe and professional practice. Child protection has to be considered within professionals' wider "safeguarding" responsibilities that include a duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004 and takes account of the need for children to 'be healthy' and 'stay safe'.



This document also seeks to make the professional responsibilities clear to all staff (teaching and non-teaching, including temporary and supply), governors and volunteers to ensure that statutory and other duties are met. All staff and volunteers need to have read and be familiar with this Policy, and all our internal procedures around referral, including contact details of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (referred to as DSL(s) in subsequent paragraphs).