



# Welcome to Stanchester Academy

## Deputy Headteacher Inclusion



*Stanchester Academy  
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**Website:** [stanchester-academy.co.uk](http://stanchester-academy.co.uk)

**Email:** [office@stanchester-academy.co.uk](mailto:office@stanchester-academy.co.uk)

**Headteacher:** Ms Ellie Forward

Recruitment Information Pack

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Ambitious learners who are  
knowledgeable and literate





Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of **Deputy Headteacher** at Stanchester Academy. This post is permanent and full time. Accompanying this letter is information about the Academy which we hope will provide you with everything you need to know to apply for the post. The Academy website gives further details and you are welcome to arrange a time to visit the school or speak to Ms Forward to learn more about the role.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced, creative and inspiring senior leader to this post with the energy and enthusiasm to work alongside the Headteacher, continuing to develop Stanchester Academy at an incredibly exciting time. We believe this is an outstanding opportunity to join a diverse and successful team, within a well-respected and ambitious Trust, who works hard to enthuse students and instil in them high standards.

Stanchester is well known for its welcoming atmosphere built on the strong relationships between staff and students. Our academic approach is for every student in every lesson to enjoy learning. We strive to ensure that our teaching standards are high, and children feel safe and supported in school, and that our lessons follow a knowledge-rich and rigorous curriculum.

As a result of high-quality teaching, students make clear progress towards subject mastery, and can articulate their areas for development confidently. There is a culture of self-improvement in which both staff and students continually seek to learn and improve. Stanchester Academy aspires to ensure there is no wasted time, and for every child to have purpose, come prepared, and feel proud.

**Welfare and Community:**

All staff are aware of the importance of promoting student welfare, and our Learning Centre offers staff who are there to support students with mental health and wellbeing. We also know that happiness comes from feeling engaged with your community and knowing that you are making a positive contribution to wider society. We create opportunities for students to make charitable contributions as well as give back to their local community.

The successful candidate will:

- Role model the fundamental philosophy of Stanchester Academy, namely that:
  - Students come first
  - All colleagues work collaboratively and cooperatively together
- Have exceptional communication skills
- Have outstanding organisational skills
- Have exemplary interpersonal skills
- Have the ability to be flexible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of the Academy
- Have the ability to plan strategically and execute those plans accordingly
- Have the ability to use their initiative to find effective solutions, think creatively and respond accordingly
- Have a high degree of professionalism, discretion and able to maintain confidentiality
- Be committed to continuous professional development, seeking opportunities to constantly improve their practice

We are proud to be an Academy known for a productive and welcoming atmosphere, valuing achievement whilst also strongly promoting personal development. School should be a preparation for later life, and learning self-respect, consideration for others, tolerance, resilience and the consequences of our own actions, all helps develop a sense of duty, citizenship and belonging.



All staff are working towards the same objective to nurture **ambitious learners who are knowledgeable and literate**. We are passionate about offering a knowledge-based curriculum, broad enrichment opportunities and constantly striving to find ways to refine and develop our practice. Leaders at this school are open and reflective and see feedback as a gift.

Stanchester Academy is a rural comprehensive school set in a stunning location in South Somerset, close to Yeovil and within a mile of the A303. We benefit from exceptionally good road and rail links to major cities in the UK. Stanchester is an exciting Academy with aspirations that match the high expectations we have of our students. The professional development of our staff drives learning and has helped to create the focus on knowledge that can be found in all classrooms.

In October 2019 Ofsted judged the school as 'good', recognizing the vision of the school and its commitment to student's personal development and focus on continual improvement through a well-structured curriculum that builds on prior knowledge and is owned by all. A recent externally commissioned quality assurance review found "leaders are steering the Academy confidently and strategically towards outstanding".

The academy is frequently praised for its positive ethos where students feel valued and respected and where a healthy culture for learning exists across the school. GCSE results are improving however, leaders are aware that progress needs to improve and the successful candidate to this post will need to play a key part in creating an environment that contributes to this objective.

We are looking for someone with high expectations, evidence of strong leadership, a love of their subject and the ability to inspire others and thrive upon the challenges of this role. You need to be a team player, who will go the extra mile to support students and want to continually develop through evidence informed research.

You are very welcome to visit us in advance of an application. In order to ensure safety for our community, visits will need to be after school hours and comply with our COVID visitor risk assessment policy. Equally please contact us to find out more about the role.

Yours sincerely

Ellie Forward  
Headteacher

### **Application Process**

Should you wish to arrange a visit to view the Academy or wish to discuss the vacancy further, please email [office@stanchester-academy.co.uk](mailto:office@stanchester-academy.co.uk).

Completed applications should reach the school by **Midday on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022** and should include:

1. A fully completed Trust application form (please note, CVs will not be accepted)
2. A letter of application (no more than 2 sides of A4) outlining:
  - How your experiences and skills will enable you to fulfil this role
  - Additional areas to which you feel you could contribute in this thriving community school



Once completed, please email your application form to: [recruitment@btc-trust.org](mailto:recruitment@btc-trust.org)  
If you have any queries, please email [recruitment@btc-trust.org](mailto:recruitment@btc-trust.org)

The anticipated interview date for shortlisted candidates is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Stanchester Academy has an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Academy follows the national and Somerset policies and procedures for child protection and security and the interview will include questions about safeguarding children. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process pre-appointment checks if the applicant is short listed. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service. Stanchester Academy is committed to equal opportunities and positively encourages applications from all sections of the community.

#### **Information about the school**

Stanchester is currently a small rural secondary school with feeder primary schools situated in villages and small market towns across a nine mile radius. In July 2019 the Governing Body made the decision to apply to join Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust, which was approved by the Trust and subsequently by the Regional Schools commissioner in September. The Academy officially joined the Trust on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

The decision to join the Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust has enabled senior leaders to plan for a secure and stable future with additional capacity to support continual improvement. The Academy is growing, with numbers on roll currently standing at 790. The roll increased significantly in September 2019 when the Academy returned to a six form entry admission policy (current numbers on roll and PAN can be seen on the Academy website).

Stanchester is driven by the core value of every child achieves and the overarching vision to nurture a culture with:

#### **Ambitious learners who are knowledgeable and literate**

The staff at Stanchester are absolutely committed to this vision and recognise the value of providing a curriculum, in and beyond the classroom that engages, motivates, inspires and challenges young people. Throughout the curriculum there is a relentless focus on student's personal growth.

The Academy operates a three-year key stage 3 to ensure students are exposed to as broad a curriculum as possible before narrowing their choices to three subjects as well as the core in key stage 4. All students learn languages (either French or Spanish) The provision for PE was increased in key stage 3 four years ago to return it to three hours a fortnight.

Academic attainment has fluctuated over the last five years, as is often the case with small cohorts (year 11 2018 of 95 students). Key areas for improvement are English and Science. A review of the curriculum offer has recently been completed, resulting in a revised offer and an increase in the number of vocational subjects offered at key stage 4.