

Application information - Deputy Head at Downs View based at the Link College

Thank you for expressing interest in this exciting role at Downs View. I have been the Executive Head Teacher at Downs View since September 2020. It is an exciting time for the organisation as January 2021 saw the geographical merge of the Woodingdean and Hollingdean school sites and the opening of the new extended school in Woodingdean.

It is a very difficult time to recruit due to the impact of Covid 19. I would encourage anyone interested in the roles to email to arrange a phone call or visit where I can clarify the current situation for the organisation and give detail about the position.

Background

Following a review of the special school and special facility provision across the city, three hubs have been created; two around SEND (learning difficulties, autism, complex needs) and one around SEMH from a total of 6 special schools. In the East of the city, Downs View School & Link College (broadly SLD, PMLD, ASC) merged with the Cedar Centre (complex needs) to form a generic school to serve half the city. The school has been operating on 2 sites but came together in January 2021 at Woodingdean.

Downs View has three sites:

- *Downs View Woodingdean in Warren Road, Woodingdean. NoR 155, 2 to 16 years*
- *Downs View Link College in Surrenden Road. NoR 46, 16 to 19 years,*
- *Downs View Life Skills College in Patcham Village. NoR 35, 19 to 25 years.*

The Woodingdean site has been extended and refurbished to enable all school age (2 to 16 age pupils) to come together onto one site in January 2021. Downs View in Woodingdean will become a site able to accommodate up to 155 pupils alongside maintaining the existing Downs View colleges above.

The integrated element the city wants to create means that health professionals (fundamentally therapists) will spend more time on site to enable even more effective multi-disciplinary working and training with therapists working alongside staff and especially more focused work with parents and carers. The second element is that we will be developing extended services to better support families through operating new after school, weekend and holiday clubs and support services based on site(s) and in the community. The third element is family support. Downs View has a proven track record of working with parents in a pilot project to support behaviour management at home. This will become a feature of the new 'hubs' where identified school staff work at home with families.

As you can see from the above, there is significant expansion as well as change, which means that the successful candidates will have enormous opportunities for professional growth and development within the context of an outstanding supportive special school.

The post - Deputy Head – Link College (16-19)

This post will be based at the Link College but there are whole organisation responsibilities within the role that require close liaison with the two other deputies. We are seeking applicants with a broad range of SEND expertise and experience to fulfil this role.

I do hope that you are minded to telephone to talk to me about this outstanding opportunity. I am hopeful that applicants will be able to visit the site and discuss any aspects of the role.

Vanessa Hickey

Executive Headteacher