

Lady Joanna Thornhill's (Endowed) Primary School

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Thank you for your interest in the vacancy for Head teacher at Lady J.

Lady Joanna Thornhill was lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Braganza, wife of Charles II. She was the great granddaughter of Sir Richard Grenville and widow of Colonel Richard Thornhill of Olantigh in Wye. When she died in 1708, Lady Joanna left an endowment 'for the benefit of the poorest children of Wye for their better education' and so our school came to be. The school moved to its present site in the 1890s, and is accommodated in both Victorian buildings and ones from 1960s onwards.

The school draws its intake from Wye and the surrounding villages, and from Kennington and Willesborough on the northern side of Ashford. The school has more than doubled in size over the last 25 years becoming two form entry in 2004. As of January 2016 there are 428 children on the school roll.

The school is well supported by the local community, Thornhill Trust, the school 'Friends' association and an engaged parent body. The successful applicant will also have the full support of our dedicated and hardworking staff, and of course our incredible pupils who are happy, motivated and keen to learn. We also enjoy a strong and positive relationship with Wye Parish, Ashford Borough and Kent County Councils.

Lady J has been an Ofsted outstanding school since 2006. Despite this, we have considerable challenges positioning ourselves in an increasingly harsh economic and academic environment. We think we have more to do to improve our governance arrangements and ensure that the school remains in the vanguard of educational developments following the retirement this year of both the current Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher.

This presents an exciting opportunity for the successful applicant to appoint their new Deputy and work with the other members of the senior management team to develop their strategy for the school as well as helping us to objectively consider the benefits/drawbacks of becoming an academy.

Lady J is a National Support School, something we see as a key strength. Along with schools in Ashford, Tenterden and Shepway we have a long and strong history of working collaboratively. The Ashford Teaching Alliance represents an exciting opportunity to build on that tradition for the benefit of all our pupils. It has been formed by a group of schools from Ashford and Hythe. Our aim is to develop high quality staff training and development in order to give young people in our schools the opportunity to achieve to the best of their potential.



Lady J is always heavily over-subscribed and governor vacancies always attract more high-quality applicants than we can accommodate. Consequently the school is well supported by a committed governing body comprised of a group of individuals with complementary skills that are drawn from a cross section of public and private sectors.

Hopefully this brief overview provides you with insight into our thinking and stimulates your interest. We are proud of our school and place the development of children as good citizens who fulfil their academic potential as a key ethos.

We would welcome and encourage you to come and visit us to help you make up your own mind. To do so, please make direct and informal contact with Jo Rall, School Business Manager so that you can meet the team and draw your own conclusions. If you wish, Jo will also arrange for you to meet Kevin Grout, our current Head Teacher.

The village of Wye is beautiful and a highly-desirable location for anyone wishing to make a move to the countryside for an improved quality of life. If you have not yet done so, I would encourage you to read the information contained on the microsite and the school website about the surrounding area, nearby beaches, the historic City of Canterbury and excellent transport links to London and the continent that have made the village (according to *The Sunday Times*) the third most desirable place to live in Britain.

Please remember that the closing date for applications is 26th January. Should you choose to apply I very much hope to meet with you and wish you well with your application.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Rose
Chair of Governors