

Valley Park School

General Information for Lead Practitioner Applicants

We are part of Kent-based Valley Invicta Academies Trust, and are proud of our high expectations in terms of student conduct, attitudes and academic standards.

Having started our school improvement journey under new leadership in September 2019, and following our experiences with Coronavirus since March 2020, we are committed to driving up standards and supporting our students with their learning post-lockdown. We are very keen to expand our leadership and our teaching teams, so that we can offer the very best for our students as they identify gaps in their learning and strive for future successes, and we are looking to recruit high-calibre colleagues who will join us on our exciting and fulfilling next steps.

What areas of specialism are we looking for?

We are looking to expand our Lead Practitioner team with the right experienced practitioner; colleagues with passion and drive for excellence, an eye for detail and an influential manner that will inspire teachers and students alike.

Our Lead Practitioners will help us to embed the changes we have already made, whilst propelling us further towards our vision for all-round excellence.

In your application, to help us to identify your strengths, please identify your own experiences in relation to coaching and supporting others, leading change and driving up pedagogical standards.

What is our community like?

We hope that you will review the extensive information available on our website (www.valleypark.viat.org.uk) and decide to proceed with your application – you will be able to view key policies, but also explore information relating to our most recent events, and read our weekly Friday newsletter to students, parents/carers and colleagues. We hope that you will find something about us that ignites your passion for excellence, as this is our vision!

Valley Park School is a mixed 11-18 high school with over 1600 students on roll. Our Sixth Form is thriving and continues to grow.

Our Arts-rich school is underpinned by a set of core values (**CREATE**):

- Community
- Respect
- Excellence
- Aspiration
- Tenacity
- Enthusiasm

We were inspected under the new Ofsted framework in March 2020 and are proud of our judgement, which was Good in all areas. Inspectors noted that:

- Students take their learning very seriously; they work hard in their lessons, always trying their best.
- Pupils' behaviour is of a very high standard.
- The curriculum is broad and has a logical sequence.
- All pupils conduct themselves with maturity.
- Pupils act well on the feedback they receive. This is a strength of the school's practice.
- Leaders have a positive impact on pupils with SEND. Staff have achieved this through thoughtful and well-judged support.
- The Sixth Form is a strength of the school. Students have a broad set of courses to choose from.

Our vision at Valley Park School is predicated on 2 key principles: Outstanding Academic Outcomes and Outstanding Pastoral Care.

Culture of Care

Our vision is for Valley Park to be a centre for both academic and pastoral excellence and we believe that these two key aspects of school life are inseparable. Our Student Hub is central to school life and, through it and the support of classroom teachers, we provide the following focused areas of care, guidance and support:

- Individual wellbeing, both in the academic and in the pastoral sense;
- Excellent attendance;
- Excellent motivation and attitude to learning;
- Excellent academic progress and relevant intervention;
- Identification of, and response to, individual needs (including health needs and/or SEND needs).

Culture of high standards in education

At Valley Park, we aspire for every student to reach their true potential; our broad and balanced curriculum reflects both the academic and the personal development knowledge and skills required in order for our young people to take up meaningful and knowledgeable roles in society when they leave us.

Our students benefit from an Arts-rich environment, and all students are encouraged to engage in the Creative Arts. The curriculum is broad and balanced throughout all year groups, encompassing traditional academic subjects alongside vocational pursuits. We offer pathways to suit our students at key stages four and five, with careers guidance to support the decision-making processes.

Students are encouraged to express and share their own interests, to pursue their passions and to develop as individuals – not just through their academic studies but also in their support for the communities in which they belong.

Our extensive co-curricular programme provides students with opportunities beyond the classroom – a selection of these opportunities are listed below:

- Exploring the Creative Arts – through visits to galleries, museums and theatres, participation in *flash mobs* in the local community, taking part in live performances and sharing a love of the Arts with others.
- Developing a Love of Learning – whether this be through the pursuit of subject-related clubs, or by supporting our Farm, or by becoming a student librarian, there is a niche here for everyone.
- Representing Valley Park in Sport – through our considerable range of clubs and teams.
- Becoming a Leader – whether this be through a formal qualification, or by organising a charity fundraiser, or running a learning activity for other students.
- Valuing Our World of Culture – either through participating in exchange programmes, or by corresponding with a pen pal overseas, or by learning a new language.
- Contributing to Our Community – this could be as a member of our *Student Voice*, or by mentoring other students, or by supporting our popular *Dementia Café*. The opportunities are endless...

We are seeking dedicated colleagues to join our established community and we look forward to receiving and reviewing your application.

Valley Park School is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants are subject to a DBS check and satisfactory, relevant, employment references.

We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the closing date for applications.