March 2019

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for showing an interest in the post of Modern Foreign Languages teacher at Dane Court. This is a really fantastic opportunity to work in an exciting grammar school which is hugely influential in Thanet and beyond.

Dane Court is a mixed selective school of about 1200 students. In the context of Thanet (Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Margate) it is the most popular grammar school, each year filled with first choice students who have passed the Kent test - 11+ - and is a very pleasant school in which to work and to learn. In the context of the UK, Dane Court is more like a mixed comprehensive, with a range of academic ability and social and economic backgrounds that would surprise those who believe selection is only for the middle classes.

Dane Court is a Teaching School, part of the East Kent Learning Alliance (EKLA), with two other Teaching Schools and a number of strategic partner schools, as well as being a National Support school.

Dane Court is an IB school and has been now for ten years. We only offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP) and the International Baccalaureate Certificate (IBCP) in the sixth form because these are the best post 16 educational offers in the world. We are a lead school for the IB and a champion for it in the south of England. We support 29 other schools in Kent and we have international visitors coming to our school frequently to see what the IB does for our students and how we can share good practise internationally, as well as locally, conversations which are hopefully exciting, relevant and interesting. IB programmes start with the learner profile, the qualities that we are seeking to develop in all our students rather than constantly obsessing over results.

The IB philosophy places the curriculum at the centre of our thinking, rather than outcomes, and so it is very much in line with the new direction Amanda Spelman wants to take Ofsted in – a focus on the purpose of education rather than only measuring a school by its results. Dane Court is an open, tolerant, compassionate community, ambitious and determined to use education to transform both the lives of our students and the economic and social fortunes of our deprived community and totally committed to working in collaboration with local schools, as well as those in Kent, the UK and across the world.

That commitment lies at the heart of Coastal Academies Trust. The trust began as a federation between Dane Court and King Ethelbert. Since then, we have been joined by Cliftonville Primary School, an extraordinary, now outstanding, very large primary school serving the most deprived parts of Margate; Hartsdown Academy, an extremely challenging non-selective secondary serving Margate and Royal Harbour Academy, an equally challenging school serving Ramsgate.

The languages taught at Dane Court are French, Spanish and German to GCSE level and Japanese is an option post 16. In line with our IB ethos all students take at least one language subject at GCSE level. All students study language in the sixth form with an examined option or ab initio.

French and Spanish IB standard and higher level are very popular in the sixth from and many students go on to study languages at University.

The department is well resourced and students from Spain, France, Germany and China visit Dane Court frequently giving our students the chance to practice their languages as well as allowing them to make friends with students from other cultures across the world.

The languages team is a great one with very friendly, knowledgeable, ambitious, supportive staff who invest time in each other and there are many opportunities for any ambitious teacher to get involved in all aspects of MFL and general school life.

Please feel free to visit us, see the school and meet the people. Please contact Carolyn Hobbs on 01843 864941 to arrange a visit.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours faithfully,



Kate Greig
Executive Head