

February 2017

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Head of Department: Spanish**

JCoSS is an academic, aspirational learning community with an innovative and pluralist Jewish ethos. Opened in 2010 in a new £48m building, we have reached full capacity this year as our first cohort reaches Year 13. The school enjoys an excellent reputation across North London and is heavily oversubscribed. Our early cohorts have achieved outstanding GCSE results, with 40% of grades at A\* and A, and just under a quarter of students achieving 9A or better. We have consistently achieved ALPS Grade 2 at both GCSE and A level, putting us in the top 10% for added value, and were amongst the top 100 non-selective schools nationally in 2015. Our 2015 Ofsted inspection graded us Good with a number of Outstanding features, including the 6th form and our provision for students with SEN.

Our staff are enthusiastic professionals who combine commitment and flexibility, and the culture of the school is one of purposeful good humour and humanity. Our families are motivated, eloquent and supportive, with high expectations, and our students are enormous fun to teach. We are determined to offer them the very best academic and vocational education, and to support all in attaining the highest results and developing open hearts and minds.

We seek an experienced and resourceful Head of Spanish to lead a team of teachers taking our students from beginners to A level proficiency. Our curriculum model is changing for September 2017, with the intention of offering Spanish from Year 8 onwards (rather than Year 9 at present) and we expect it to be a popular choice. Outcomes have been good at GCSE but we hope to bring them, and those at A level, up to the high standards of other languages.

The Languages Faculty (which also includes French, Modern Hebrew and Latin) consists of 10 teachers supported by 3 Language Assistants. All students currently study 2 languages at Key Stage 3 and the great majority continue at least one to GCSE. Students are rewarded through our Student of the Month system and half termly prizes of International Children's Literature to promote a love of languages. The faculty is well resourced with iPads, interactive white boards as well as a variety of text books at all key stages to support learning. The successful candidate will be a reflective and self-aware practitioner able to demonstrate a vision for improving student achievement, an ability to lead and motivate others, strong analytical skills and an ability to forge strong student and colleague relationships. The ability to offer another language at least to KS3 is helpful but not essential.

Please complete the application form as fully as possible, and attach a separate letter of application. As a guide, this should be no more than two sides of A4, addressing the criteria identified in the Person Specification, explaining how your experience has prepared you for this role and school, and outlining a vision for your contribution to JCoSS. The closing date for applications is 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February and the interview will be on Thursday, 23rd February, however we reserve the right to interview before the closing date. Successful shortlisted candidates will be contacted by email or telephone. The successful applicant will take up post in September 2017, or earlier by negotiation.

JCoSS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all its staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

Should you have further questions or wish to have a confidential conversation, please contact Sarah McColgan, Head of MFL Faculty, at the school. We look forward very much to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Moriarty, **Headteacher**