

February 2017

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Learning Support Assistant (in the PSRP Autism Provision)**

JCoSS is an academic, aspirational learning community with an innovative and pluralist Jewish ethos. Opened in 2010 in a new £48m building, we fill our final year group in September 2016 as our first cohort reaches Year 13. The school enjoys an excellent reputation across North London and is heavily oversubscribed. Our pioneering cohort of students achieved outstanding GCSE results, putting us in the top 100 non-selective schools nationally. A quarter of the year gained 9A grades or better and 41% of grades were at A* or A. Our recent 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 and challenge all in attaining the highest results.

Legislative changes have led to a shift in the way SEN is identified and supported and the role of Learning Support Assistant is fundamental to our success in these changing times. There are two LSA teams: one for mainstream students, and the other for our 49-student Autism Provision (PSRP). There is a range of needs in both cases, and PSRP students frequently access mainstream lessons also. This LSA vacancy is in the PSRP.

The PSRP is an autism provision catering for students with a diagnosis of autism and related learning difficulties. Currently there are 52 students in the PSRP. The PSRP mirrors the main school with a class for each year group, consisting of a specialist teacher, senior LSA and a team of LSAs. There is also a therapy team including speech and language specialists, occupational health therapists and a music therapist. Students follow a bespoke curriculum based on the individual needs each spending a different amount of time in the main school. Students in the PSRP follow an autism specific curriculum including the development of life skills and employability skills for life after school.

The position would suit those considering a teaching career (opportunities exist, for suitable candidates, to be sponsored for teacher training in the future) wishing to gain experience in a mainstream secondary school / autism provision, or seeking a longer term post working with teenagers in a supportive role in a stimulating and rewarding environment.

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 2pm on Thursday 23rd February and the interview will be on Wednesday 1st March, however we reserve the right to interview suitable applicants before this date. Successful shortlisted candidates will be contacted by email or telephone. The successful applicant will take up post on 20th April 2017, or sooner if possible.

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 Hannah Lethbridge, Director of Inclusion, at the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Moriarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'P' and 'M'.

Patrick Moriarty, **Headteacher**