



St. Antony's Catholic College

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Information for Candidates – Teacher of MFL (Spanish and French)

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the MFL post at St Antony's Catholic College.

First, I must begin by stating that St Antony's is a lovely school. I was appointed Associate Headteacher in 2014 from a local Teaching School with the brief to help St Antony's move forward and make improvements in a number of areas. I became so settled and happy within the school, that in 2018, when the Governors took the decision to advertise the post of Headteacher permanently, I decided to apply. To my great delight, I was successful in my application and we are now entering a new phase in the life of this school. Currently, we have 550 pupils on roll (rising to over 600 in September). With this rise in pupil numbers, we are taking the necessary steps to grow our staff body and discover teachers who can work in our supportive and caring ethos.

What is St Antony's like to work in? Is the behaviour good? This is normally the first aspect of school life that potential employees are interested in. I can categorically state that behaviour in St Antony's is good. We work hard in this area and it is our reputation in the local area for good behaviour that is leading to the growth in pupil numbers. Staff are very supportive of each other and it is very much a team effort.

Why is the Ofsted judgement so low? Once you read beyond the judgement you will see that the report reads as well as the many of the reports of 'good' schools. We were devastated with the judgement we received earlier this academic year as it is not a judgement that we recognise and one which was based on a single curriculum decision which had already been changed. We were unsuccessful in our legal challenge of the judgement. We ask therefore that you visit our school. By the end of your tour we are certain that you will agree with us that St Antony's represents the kind of school you would like to be part of and not one that befits the Ofsted judgement.

What are some of the key features of the MFL department? Currently, pupils study French as a Modern Foreign Language. With the growth in pupil numbers we are looking to expand our MFL offer and introduce Spanish to the curriculum, initially with Year 7. In subsequent years, Spanish will be introduced in other year groups as cohorts move through the school. The department is well led by an experienced Head of Department and a good level of resourcing exists.

Will I be supported in my new position? Absolutely! Taking up a new post is daunting for both those new to the profession and for those who have experience in teaching. We understand this and therefore we always take steps to support colleagues in any way we can. Over the last few years, we have developed strong systems to support learning. We have an experienced Senior Management Team who recognise that only

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through collectively working together can we bring about the improvements we have been enjoying. Those new to the school settle very quickly and staff turnover is low.

Can I visit the school? Once again, absolutely! We are more than happy to provide reassurance to potential applicants. Once you have toured the school you will gain a real sense of many of the things I have referred to earlier on. In particular, you will find a warm and welcoming environment and a school where the children are known and are not simply part of an exam factory.

What next? Please give strong consideration to an application. The closing date is Friday 20th March (12.30pm). If you would like to visit the school in advance of this date then please contact the school as soon as possible. This can be done via emailing head@st-antonys.com or ringing 0161 911 8001.

Thank you for reading this letter and we look forward to hearing from you.

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