

**Teacher of English and Drama
Required for September 2012**

Background information

The English Department is seeking a dynamic, enthusiastic and well-qualified member of staff to teach English and Drama from September 2012. The successful candidate must be able to teach GCSE English and A Level Drama and Theatre Studies. The ability to teach A Level English Literature is desirable.

Ratcliffe College is a co-educational, day and boarding school with 685 students aged between 3 and 18 years. The majority of students are of above average ability. Each year most of them obtain 9 or more GCSE passes at Grade C or above, and a large number of sixth formers proceed to Higher Education.

Currently, the department consists of four full-time and three part-time members of staff offering English, Literature and Drama. Individual members have specific areas of literary expertise, as well as being able to teach across the school spectrum to a very high standard. The department also works closely with the Media Studies Department.

The English Department is housed in its own suite of rooms with a separate theatre for rehearsals and productions; there is also one large Drama studio with an adjoining classroom area. Each English classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, data projector and facilities for DVD display. The department is well-resourced in terms of teaching and learning materials, which are kept centrally.

The department is wholly committed to raising the standards of pupil achievement and to providing students with a learning experience of the highest quality. We are ambitious and innovative and fully recognise the importance of a collaborative approach to curriculum development. The English Department takes its role as a core department very seriously and is constantly seeking new ways to enhance teaching and learning; the successful applicant will be keen to contribute ideas and to create new resources that can be incorporated into future schemes of work. Our detailed schemes are regularly reviewed to ensure that all staff contribute to a coherent and supportive programme of study.

In Years 7 to 9, pupils are taught in mixed ability groups, in small classes. Pupil progress is closely monitored using MidYIS data, and by the subject teacher through the formal assessment of reading, writing and speaking and listening skills.

The department follows the AQA GCSE course, which offers a range of accessible and appealing texts and excellent support for interactive activities. The majority of students will take both English Language and English Literature. A small number of students will take English Language GCSE only.

A Level English Literature is popular among our students at both AS and A2. Both Year 12 and 13 receive 9 hours of English tuition per fortnight from two members of staff. The OCR English Literature specification is followed at this level. The choice of texts varies according to teacher preference.

GCSE and A Level Drama follow the Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies syllabus. Years 10 and 11 complete internally assessed coursework and perform in a number of workshops; they are formally assessed in performance by a visiting external examiner at the end of Year 11. Year 12 complete practical and written work on two drama texts from different genres and have one examined performance, which includes monologues and a short play. Year 13 create a devised piece for coursework and take a synoptic paper at the end of the year.

The extra-curricular life of the English Department is thriving, with a considerable range of activities being offered to all students. The editorial team of the student newspaper 'Hello

Ratcliffe' meets on a weekly basis to discuss, draft and edit articles for forthcoming editions. A Reading Club is provided for pupils in Key Stage 3, who can take part in frequent competitions, treasure hunts and lucky dips. There is also a Sixth Form and Staff Lunch Club, which is an opportunity for its members to talk informally about specific literature, over lunch, twice a term. It is expected that Year 12 and 13 Literature students attend this activity.

In addition to the above, the department runs frequent public speaking, poetry, debating and creative writing competitions. There are opportunities to become involved in a variety of drama productions; we have very good links with local theatres and theatre companies further afield; we offer numerous drama related activities, such as workshops in or out of school, backstage tours, a wide range of different performances and study sessions which support the curriculum, as well as some for pleasure and cultural enhancement.

The English Department works closely with the School Librarian, Mrs Margaret Williams, to promote not only literacy skills, but a love of reading throughout the school. All classes at Key Stage 3 have a fortnightly library lesson; as well as promoting reading, these lessons are closely linked to learning in the classroom. Both the Emery and Rosmini Sixth Form Centre Library are extremely well-stocked with a range of children's fiction, senior fiction and subject specific and recreational non-fiction.

In January 2010, Ratcliffe underwent an inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), which found that, 'Relationships between pupils are strong and supportive. An outstanding sense of community permeates the life and work of the school.'

The summary report is available on the school's website; full details of the inspection report can be found on the ISI website www.isinspect.org.uk by selecting 'School Inspection Reports'

There will be an expectation for the successful candidate to have the responsibility of a tutor group which will include involvement in the school's PSHCE programme and also to contribute to the school's extra-curricular programme and duties on a pro rata basis.

Ratcliffe College is a Catholic school and all staff are expected to support its aims and ethos. Teachers are required to attend school assemblies and Mass.

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Main Pay Scale plus Ratcliffe Allowance. The Ratcliffe Allowance is on a sliding scale presently ranging from £612 to £6403, depending on the experience of the teacher (these values are reviewed annually). Children of staff who are eligible for the School receive staff discounts on fees currently set at 50% of the day fees. Subsidised lunches and coffee are available. The School participates in the DCSF National Teacher's Superannuation Scheme.

Candidates are asked to complete an application form and support this with a letter of application, as soon as possible, but no later than **1pm on Friday 3 February**. Applications may be sent to the Headmaster, Mr G. Lloyd, email, cgovan@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk or by post to Ratcliffe College, Fosse Way, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Leicester, LE7 4SG. Shortlisted candidates will be expected to prepare and teach a lesson (the details of which will be forwarded) as part of the interview programme.

Before Governors confirm a permanent appointment, a satisfactory report of general health will be required of the selected candidate. Ratcliffe College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

For further information about Ratcliffe College please see our website:

www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk