



**Ark Acton  
Academy**

**Appointment to the post of  
Head of Economics & Business.**

**Information for Applicants**

**September 2020**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about Ark Acton Academy. This pack is intended to give you information about the role of the Head of Economics & Business, together with details of the Academy's vision and ethos and our aspirations.

Ark Acton Academy is on an incredible improvement journey and we are sowing the seeds of greatness for our local community. However, there is still much to do and we are looking for someone with a deep passion for curriculum thinking who can help drive us forwards. You will share our firm belief in the importance of disciplinary curriculum thinking and you will want to join a school that invests in its staff.

We are rightly proud of our 6th form and we run two pathways – a highly academic A-Level pathway and a Professional Pathway focussing on Business. The vast majority of students in our 6th form secure places at Russel Group and top third universities and we have students securing Oxbridge and Ivy League university places. We currently have an Alps score of 1 and secure extremely strong progress rates for our students. We are looking for someone with a strong academic track record who wants to both lead and teach Economics A Level and oversee the growth of our Business Professional Pathway. This pathway is a key mechanism for ensuring we provide high-quality courses to as broad a range of our community as we can. We insist on business dress and impeccable behaviour as we prepare our students for the independence of university study or an apprenticeship.

At Ark Acton we have stripped away anything we feel gets in the way of being a great teacher so that we can focus on the main thing. This includes:

- Feedback policies that sit at department level
- No graded lesson observations
- No report writing
- No parent's evenings
- Only 2 data points a year
- No ½ termly data metrics to track progress
- Protected Department meeting time built into the timetable.
- Weekly co-planning time built into teacher loadings to provide dedicated time to discuss and improve curriculum thinking and teacher effectiveness.

We are heavily committed to staff welfare and development and this includes:

- weekly staff training
- Coaching for every teacher
- Access to the best professional development from Ark and Ambition Institute
- free use of our leisure centre
- access to the school counsellor
- Lower than national teacher contact ratios.

We place the curriculum – what we teach – at the heart of the academy and it informs all decisions we make. We are looking for someone who shares our belief in disciplinary

thinking and who will help improve and refine our curriculum thinking and build a really impressive Economics & Business department.

In the words of Alex Standish we believe that *“school subjects then are a way of inducting children into the intellectual habits of humankind, and hence into a disciplinary conversation about knowing our world”* and we are looking for someone who shares this belief to join our team.

I look forward to receiving your application and welcoming you to our Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Oli Knight  
Principal

## **Head of Economics & Business – Job description**

**Job Title:** Head of Economics & Business

**Reports to:** Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

**Responsible for:** Delivering the highest quality learning experiences to pupils in the Economics & Business Department.

**Start date:** January 2021

**Salary:** Main Scale (Ark Inner London) + TLR 2c

**Disclosure level:** Enhanced

**Roles included:** Head of Department, Classroom teacher, Form Tutor

### **Job purpose**

To contribute to developing Ark Acton Academy into a great school by overseeing the KS5 teaching and delivery of A-Level Economics and the Business Professional Pathway and the Business pathway at KS4.

### **Objectives**

1. To take a lead role in the maintenance of a transformational school community by raising standards in the Economics & Business Department to ensure that we are the school others want to come and learn from and that we are the leading provider within Ark for the professional pathway for business.
2. To support the development of a knowledge-led disciplinary curriculum.
3. To ensure the Economics & Business curriculum is 'future-proof' and remain abreast of the significant changes to the GCSE and A-Level Examinations and aligning Economics & Business at Ark Acton with these new curriculum requirements.
4. To grow your department as required, recruiting, inducting and developing your team to ensure consistently high standards of teaching.
5. To model what it takes to be an outstanding teacher and subject leader and thus act as an example to all middle leaders.
6. To put in place the systems and structures at a department level that ensure every teacher develops as an expert practitioner.
7. Monitoring and accountability for the progress and attainment of pupils in Economics & Business.
8. To work with our Teacher Development Lead to help induct and mentor NQTs, Teach Firsts, ATTs into the department.
9. Deliver high quality training on teaching and learning to other staff, focusing on your areas of particular expertise.
10. To act as a coach or mentor for other teachers as required.
11. Modelling for all staff exemplary practice in terms of establishing a culture of high expectations within your department.
12. To implement and follow all academy policies to ensure 100% consistency.
13. To deliver consistently excellent sequences of lessons to pupils to enable them to develop a deep understanding of the subject.
14. To constantly reflect on your practice and commit to the multiple layers of training and development available at Ark Acton.

15. To make a valued contribution to the school's pastoral and enrichment programmes; including trips and school visits.
16. To hold, as an effective Form Tutor, responsibility for and a 'single-view' of each pupil in the tutor group and strive to become a true mentor to every pupil.
17. To epitomise the vision and values of Ark Acton Academy and at all times adhere to the staff code of expectations.

## **Outcomes and activities**

### **A. LEADERSHIP OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS**

- Establish a clear department development plan and monitor and evaluate its delivery and effectiveness.
- Design and implement a knowledge-led curriculum model that aligns itself to the Ark Acton Way.
- Monitor the effectiveness of teaching and learning and planning processes within your department.
- Support the professional development of teachers and their training where appropriate.
- Follow the Academy structure for mentoring, coaching and monitoring staff (including supervision of NQT's and beginner teachers).
- Manage the deployment of department resources effectively and efficiently.
- Monitor the progress of all pupils and sub-groups of pupils with staff and plan appropriate support / interventions to remedy slow progress.
- Produce, in line with the Academy self-evaluation cycle, Department Improvement Plans and Data Analyses to the highest possible standard and ensure all members of your department engage with these.
- Liaise with all appropriate personnel regarding support for student progress.

### **B. CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DESIGN**

#### *As a teacher:*

- Implement the Academy approach to marking and feedback to inform planning, develop learning and evaluate pupils' progress.
- Make effective and regular use of the Academy's assessment criteria and reporting procedures to inform learning.
- Set targets for raising pupil attainment in the context of whole school targets and work towards their achievement.
- Maintain regular records of pupils' attainment and progress.
- Attend parent events and Open Evenings as required.
- Assess how well learning objectives have been achieved and use this assessment and Academy provided data on a regular basis for future teaching and target-setting, as well as implementing strategies to address pupil underachievement.
- Liaise with external agencies about individual pupils as required.

#### *As a Head of Department:*

- Work with the Academy Curriculum Leads to review and develop the curriculum on an on-going basis, taking into account the findings from monitoring and self-evaluation, and ensure all staff have short and medium-term plans to deliver highly effective lessons.
- Set regular, measurable and significant assessments for pupils in line with the academy assessment calendar.
- Ensure all pupil data is understood and interpreted by staff and pupils and used to modify lesson planning.
- Analyse and interpret data on pupils' achievement in your subject, ensure pupil performance data is used effectively and is in line with departmental targets.
- Review with teachers their assessments of progress for classes and quality-assure such assessments through moderation, sampling and review.
- Ensure procedures for both internal and external exams are carried out according to the Academy's procedures and the Boards' regulations as appropriate.
- Ensure the maintenance of accurate and up-to-date information on the management information system.
- Disseminate and make use of analysis and evaluate performance data provided.
- Identify and take appropriate action on issues arising from data, systems and reports; setting deadlines where necessary and reviewing progress on the action taken.
- Oversee the production of reports on pupil progress in line with Ark Acton policies.
- Produce reports on examination performance, including the use of value-added data.
- Oversee your subject's collection of data.
- Provide the Senior Leadership Team with relevant information relating to the subject areas' performance and development as requested.

### **C. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### *As a teacher:*

- Take responsibility for your own professional development and demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional development by undertaking, and seeking out, opportunities to build your capabilities as a teacher.
- Maintain an up-to-date expert knowledge of your subject area, related teaching pedagogy and relevant aspects of the National Curriculum, exam board requirements and other statutory provisions, including developments and reforms in broader education policy.
- Ensure you understand your professional responsibilities in relation to Academy policies and practices.
- Evaluate your own teaching critically and use this to improve your effectiveness.
- Engage, positively, with the Ark Acton appraisal policy.

#### *As a Head of Department:*

- Actively monitor, and respond to, curriculum developments and initiatives in your subject at national, regional and local level.

### **D NON-SUBJECT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Demonstrate consistently high expectations of all pupils and a commitment to raising their achievement and social and emotional wellbeing. Promote the positive values, attitudes and behaviour expected from all pupils by treating them with respect and consideration.
- Develop strong and positive relationships with pupils.

- Implement all Academy policies, including the Academy's behaviour policy.
- Contribute to the design and delivery of the Academy's enrichment curriculum in line with your timetable and the Ark Acton enrichment policy.
- Model the ethos and vision of the Academy at all times.
- Communicate promptly and sensitively with parents, carers and other relevant bodies where necessary.
- Contribute to the Academy's liaison, marketing and pupil recruitment activities, e.g. the collection of material for press releases.
- Help to develop effective subject links with partners and the community, including attendance where necessary at liaison events in partner Schools and Academies and the effective promotion of your subject at Open Days/Evenings and other events.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues including support staff.
- Be familiar with and comply with the Academy's Health and Safety policies
- Be responsible for the health & safety of pupils when they are authorised to be on Academy premises and when engaged in authorised activities elsewhere
- Adhere, at all times, to the expectations of teachers at Ark Acton Academy, outlined on the final page of this document.
- Any other duties as required by the Principal commensurate with the post.

## **H FORM TUTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Maintain a holistic overview of the academic and pastoral progress of your tutees, including monitoring their wellbeing, academic attainment and progress.
- Develop strong, trusted, relationships with each tutee to act as his or her mentor.
- Deliver the PSHCE curriculum to tutees in tutor time.
- Implement Ark Acton's attendance, rewards, sanctions, behaviour and monitoring policies, including being the primary behavioural point of contact for tutees and maintaining a weekly check of tutees' planners.
- Identify the need for, and support the design of, interventions to support pupils who are not meeting expectations.
- Monitor the safeguarding and welfare of tutees.
- Engage tutees' teaching staff to facilitate the sharing of relevant pupil specific strategies, information and best practice.
- Make specialist staff (SEND/CO) and senior staff (Heads of Year and SLT) aware of any issues with tutees as required.
- Proactively engage parents of tutees and endeavour to build positive home-Academy relationships. Act as the primary point of contact for parents of your tutees.
- Model the ethos and vision of the Academy.
- Keep the form register and monitor patterns of pupil attendance/ absence.

**No job description can be fully comprehensive, and from time to time the successful candidate may have to undertake other professional duties as directed by the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher.**

## **Person Specification**

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified to at least degree level in the subject being taught.</li> <li>• Qualified to teach in the UK.</li> <li>• Qualified to work in the UK.</li> <li>• QTS or equivalent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further professional qualifications.</li> <li>• Experience of teaching A Level in this subject.</li> </ul>
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to deliver consistently outstanding lessons in this subject to pupils of all ages and abilities.</li> <li>• Proven record of significantly raising achievement with all groups of pupils across the age and ability range and of helping them achieve impressive examination outcomes.</li> <li>• Proven commitment to continued professional development and a readiness to reflect and self-evaluate to change, improve and develop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of having worked successfully in at least one school in an urban, multi-cultural setting, teaching pupils from backgrounds of socio-economic disadvantage.</li> <li>• Successful experience of working particularly with high ability or SEN pupils.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough knowledge of the requirements of the National Curriculum in the subject.</li> <li>• An understanding of the current thinking around cognitive science and learning and how this influences curriculum thinking.</li> <li>• An understanding of the strategies needed to establish consistently high aspirations and academic / behavioural standards in an urban school setting, and a commitment to relentlessly implementing these strategies.</li> <li>• Knowledge &amp; experience of Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough knowledge of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 specifications in the subject.</li> <li>• Actively informed of developments in your subject area, and of broader pedagogic developments at local, national and international levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent interpersonal and listening skills; a high degree of emotional intelligence; and an effective oral and written communicator with children, staff and parents.</li> <li>• The ability to develop positive relationships with all young people.</li> <li>• Well-developed planning &amp; organising skills including time management, prioritisation, delegation and administration.</li> <li>• Sound judgement and problem-solving skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ability and willingness to teach across more than one subject.</li> <li>• A proven ability to use data confidently and forensically to inform and diagnose weaknesses that need addressing, and ability to plan effectively in order to raise individuals' and cohorts' attainment.</li> <li>• Competent user of ICT.</li> </ul>



<b>Motivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing to be fully engaged in the whole life of the school including extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• Willing to be a form tutor.</li> <li>• Committed to team work and working collaboratively with colleagues.</li> <li>• A commitment to the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of leading successful enrichment and extracurricular activities, which inspire and motivate learners.</li> </ul>
<b>Attributes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear passion for your subject.</li> <li>• The ability to enthuse and inspire others.</li> <li>• Passion, resilience, maturity and optimism to lead through day-to-day challenges while maintaining a clear strategic vision and direction.</li> <li>• Confidence and self-motivation to work well and be decisive under pressure.</li> <li>• A high level of honesty and integrity.</li> <li>• Personal stamina &amp; energy including a good record of attendance and health.</li> <li>• A firm and constant belief in the unlimited potential of every pupil and a commitment to inclusive educational provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An entrepreneurial attitude.</li> </ul>

- **This post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.**
- **The post holder must be committed to safeguarding the welfare of children.**