



**Ark Acton  
Academy**

**Appointment to the post of  
Director of Maths**

**Information for Applicants**

**March 2021**

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 Director of Maths, 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 an expert leader of Maths who can help drive us forwards. You will share our firm belief in the importance of Maths as an academic discipline and you will want to join a school that invests in its staff.

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.

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

- weekly staff training
- Coaching for every teacher
- each member of staff has a personal development pathway to help ensure they have the feedback and space necessary to keep improving
- free use of our leisure centre
- access to the school counsellor

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.

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

## Director of Maths – Job description

**Job Title:** Director of Maths

**Reports to:** Vice Principal

**Responsible for:** Delivering the highest quality learning experiences to pupils in the Maths Department.

**Start date:** September 2021

**Salary:** Ark scales (Inner London) + TLR 1a

**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 designing and implementing a challenging Maths curriculum, enabling all students to fall in love with the study and practice of Maths, enabling all members of your team to teach highly effective sequences of lessons and constantly reflect on their practice.

### Objectives

1. To take a lead role in the maintenance of a transformational school community by raising standards in the Maths Department to ensure that we are the school others want to come and learn from.
2. To support the development of a knowledge-led disciplinary curriculum and sequence the implementation of Ark Maths Mastery.
3. To ensure the Maths curriculum is 'future-proof' and remain abreast of the significant changes to the GCSE and A-Level Examinations and aligning Maths 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 ensure that through weekly department and co-planning meetings, all members of the Maths Department reach the required standard and to be accountable as Director for this.
6. To model what it takes to be an outstanding teacher and subject leader and thus act as an example to all middle leaders.
7. To put in place the systems and structures at a department level that ensure every teacher develops as an expert practitioner and implements the 5 Habits.
8. To monitor and be accountable for the progress and attainment of pupils in Maths.
9. To induct and mentor ECTs, Teach Firsts, ATTs into the department, ensuring they have an effective mentor and are supported to grow and develop, wanting to stay at Acton at the end of their training programme.
10. Deliver high quality training on teaching and learning to the department and ensure all teachers in the department adhere to the academy assessment policy.
11. To act as a coach or mentor for other teachers as required.
12. Modelling for all staff exemplary practice in terms of establishing a culture of high expectations within your department and challenging any narrative to the counter.
13. To implement and follow all academy policies to ensure 100% consistency.

14. To deliver consistently excellent sequences of lessons to pupils to enable them to develop a deep understanding of the subject.
15. To constantly reflect on your practice and commit to the multiple layers of training and development available at Ark Acton.
16. To make a valued contribution to the school's pastoral and enrichment programmes; including trips and school visits.
17. To epitomise the vision and values of Ark Acton Academy and at all times adhere to the staff code of conduct.

## **Outcomes and activities**

### **A. LEADERSHIP OF MATHS**

- 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 ECT'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**

- Work with the Network Maths lead and 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**

- 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.

**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.</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 sequences of 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 EAL or SEND 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>• Deep interest in curriculum thinking.</li> <li>• An understanding of the ways that cognitive science can improve teacher effectiveness.</li> <li>• Awareness and clear articulation of the pitfalls of 'curriculum hoop-jumping.'</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> </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> </ul>

	Essential	Desirable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound judgement and problem-solving skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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.