

CANDIDATE BRIEFING PACK

Deputy Headteacher

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the post of Victoria Park Academy Deputy Headteacher. We hope you find the following information useful when deciding to apply.

Our mission as a trust is simple: To help people become the best they can be. To do this, our vision is around the creation of stand-out schools. We want all our academies to achieve world-class provision through close collaboration and partnership. The primary-only trust currently consists of six academies from a number of West Midland local authorities including Sandwell, Birmingham, Staffordshire and Walsall. We aim during the next five years to grow to 12 – 15 schools all no more than thirty miles from the lead school, Victoria Park Academy (VPA). The school is currently two-forms of entry, rising to three plus a 52-place Nursery. Over 40 different languages are spoken by the pupils with almost half being of Asian origin. Less than 5% of our families are white British. Almost two-thirds of pupils speak English as an additional language with a similar amount eligible for free school meals, more than three times the national average.

VPA was previously in special measures and for the past five years has remained outstanding and has been named by the DfE as being one of the top 100 performing schools in England. Of the six academies, half of them were at one point in special measures and are now either outstanding or well on the way. You can find out more about the trust by visiting www.victoriaacademiustrust.org.uk or on Twitter @VicAcademies. If you have a bit more time on your hands and want to find out more about the school's journey, you can search on Amazon for '*The Art of Standing Out*' by Andrew Morrish, CEO and Executive Headteacher at Victoria Park.

The Deputy Headteacher position is a key senior post. As a DfE sponsor VPA is the flagship school within the MAT and needs to retain its position as a truly great academy. For the past few years, it has become a breeding ground for future leaders across the trust. Several of our headteachers came through the ranks at VPA and we want this to continue. So although we want you to join us as Deputy Headteacher, we see the role as central to our future growth and succession plan. This is why we want an ambitious and highly motivated individual to take up the challenge and apply. If you are successful, not only will you be making a difference at VPA, you will from time to time also be supporting in schools across the trust. It certainly is a unique and exciting opportunity.

In addition to running six academies, we also provide consultancy to a number of local schools as well as running several business ventures. In summer 2014 we received approval to open a SCITT – school centred initial teacher training - whose first cohort of 24 students completed training in September 2015. You can find more information about Central England Teacher Training on our website at www.cett.org.uk or on Twitter @EnglandSCITT. As deputy we would love you to get involved with the delivery of ITT, perhaps as a tutor or lecturer. We also run an award-winning social enterprise as a separate trading arm called *Ballot*

Street that will soon be incorporated as a CIC. Visit www.ballotstreet.co.uk for further details or on Twitter @TheSpiceAcademy. Again, this is an area you'd be heavily involved with, especially our changemaker team.

Richard Branson on [Twitter](#) recently said that we are 'a school for social entrepreneurs'. It is what makes us unique and our innovative NICER® curriculum has received much acclaim from as far afield as Sydney, Australia. In recognition of this, we were chosen by [Ashoka](#) (the world's largest fellowship of social entrepreneurs) to become one of the first Changemaker schools in the UK and one of only 130 in the world. We are also a [Whole Education Network](#) Partner School and frequently host best-practice events and conferences at the school. A number of our staff are invited to speak at national and international events about the work that we do and we hope that this is something that you might aspire to.

We are a values-driven organisation and expect all our staff to aspire to our core beliefs. Taking inspiration from the Latin word *Fides* (to trust), our five core values are:

- Focus on family
- Insist on excellence
- Do good as you go
- Embrace innovation
- Seize success

We hope that the enclosed job description and person specification will help you with your application. If you can demonstrate that you possess the necessary experience, knowledge and qualifications and aspire to our values and vision then we would like to hear from you. Remember though, above all, we are looking for an exceptional teacher so first and foremost we will want to see you teach. Once we know you can cut it, we'll then invite you to interview to find out more about how good a leader you are.

The trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful candidates will be required to complete an enhanced DBS check upon appointment.

To find out more about the post, or how to apply, please visit www.victoriaacademiesfuture.com. If you would like a confidential informal discussion about the role with the Chief Executive, please contact headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk or ring the academy on 0121 558 8701.

Please note that we will not consider CVs so do ensure that your supporting letter of application meets the requirements of the person specification. We expect demand to be high, so we encourage you to be succinct and to restrict your supporting letter to no more than four sides in length.

Finally, a reminder about key dates:

Closing date: Friday 3rd March 2017 (9am).

Interviews: Wk Beg: Monday 13th March 2017

Start date: 1st September 2017 or sooner if possible.

Thank you once again for considering this post and we hope we've done enough to convince you to apply. Good luck!