



# WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

*Pride In Achievement*

Headteacher: Mr Steven Hogan

St Barnabas Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 7DQ

Tel: 020 8504 9618

[www.woodbridgehigh.co.uk](http://www.woodbridgehigh.co.uk)

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14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in the post of Learning Mentor in our new Alternative Provision Unit at Woodbridge High School. This post within the school arises because we are in the processes of working with the London Borough of Redbridge to establish a specialist unit for students in Key Stage 3 with particular mental health or other needs that mean they are temporarily unable to be educated in mainstream schools.

In common with other schools in our area, we have seen an increase in young people with mental health needs, particularly at Key Stage 3. These range from school refusal or severe anxiety about coming to school, through to threatened or actual self harm and suicidal ideation. We are also seeing an increase in students who are transferring from primary schools (or primary PRUs or other units) without the competencies and skills needed to be successful at a mainstream secondary school. This new provision will be aimed at developing the skills and confidence of these young people in the early stages of their secondary education, so that they can be successful in their chosen mainstream school.

The unit we will be setting up will be funded by the local authority and will have 10 places for students from across the borough, starting with 2-3 students in year 1 and then gradually increasing in size. The students will be allocated to the unit by the Redbridge Inclusion Panel, following a referral from a mainstream school. Representatives from all of the borough's secondary schools sit on this panel. The unit will be a short-stay provision only, in that students will not normally be educated there for longer than 24 weeks. Throughout their time in the unit, students will maintain contact with home school and will stay on roll at that school.

Teaching within the unit will focus on literacy and numeracy skills, and on a school competency curriculum. The learning mentor will also support the teaching of most of the rest of the mainstream KS3 curriculum to ensure that students do not fall behind. Students will enjoy a full range of enrichment activities. Students working within the unit will also have access to facilities in the main school, such as sports or food technology facilities as part of their curriculum. Over time, the aim will be to help them to settle in to mainstream school by giving them access to mainstream lessons and other activities. The learning mentor will play a key role in leading and supporting the academic and pastoral curriculum in the AP.

In addition to academic work, students will have access to a range of support services, such as specialist outreach workers, counselling, mentoring, the school's therapy dog and mindfulness sessions. The provision will be housed in new specialist accommodation on the school's site. Students will attend for a modified school day, starting later and finishing earlier than the mainstream school, and will, in most cases, attend their own home school one day each week.

We are looking for a learning mentor who has the skills and experience to support the teaching in this new provision. This will involve working with our new Deputy Headteacher, Faheem Khan, and the AP teacher to support the setting up of the unit, support the work with the students on a daily basis, providing appropriate differentiation and feedback and helping liaise with external agencies and home schools, The post may suit a colleague who has experience or an interest in working with students with mental health needs or anxiety, or someone with experience of working in alternative provision.

Woodbridge is a very good school, and a great place to work. If you join us, you will join a community of dedicated professionals who will be fully supportive of the work we are doing to further educational inclusion. The ethos of our new unit will completely reflect the ethos of our large mainstream school. We are completely comprehensive in every way: socio-economically, ethically and in terms of ability. Someone who shares the values of the 'Woodbridge Way' (kindness, tolerance and diversity, respect, and the pursuit of excellence) will fit





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in perfectly at our school and in our new provision. Successful candidates are also likely to believe in social justice, educational inclusion, the power of comprehensive education, and have a welcoming and friendly outlook.

Visits to the school in advance of application are encouraged. Should you wish to visit, please do get in touch with Helen Dalby, Headteacher's PA ([hdalby@woodbridgehigh.co.uk](mailto:hdalby@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)). Helen will arrange a time for you to visit and see the school in action and talk to Faheem about the aims of the new provision.

I expect a lot of interest in the post; we have had large fields of applicants for recent advertisements. I think that this says something about how highly regarded we are. I very much look forward to reading your application. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any further questions in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

Steven Hogan  
Headteacher

