

TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY - FULL TIME

Subject Lead for KS5 post available for a suitable candidate

To start: September 2020

Salary: MPS / UPS with a TLR for KS5 Subject Lead responsibilities

NQT applications welcome

1. THE COLLEGE

Comberton Village College was opened in 1960. As a Cambridgeshire Village College, it was designed to be a centre for the life of its community and to provide quality education for pupils aged between 11 and 16. This remains the case today.

In 1974, the school became fully comprehensive and, in April 1993, it became grant-maintained. It changed to a Foundation School and more recently became a Foundation School with a Trust: the Comberton Educational Trust. In February 2011 the school became an Academy overseen by the Cam Academy Trust. The pupil roll is around 1,800 while over 2,000 adults use the college for a wide range of continuing education and leisure activities. A £7 million building programme was completed in 2003 that has significantly enhanced a whole range of the school's facilities, including major new leisure facilities. A further £4 million building project provided further specialist teaching and learning facilities across a range of subject areas and has been in use since September 2009.

Our Sixth Form opened in September 2011 following the completion of a £9.5 million building project. It offers a strong suite of academic courses, across the subject areas as well as applied courses. This exciting development has enabled students from Comberton to complete their sixth-form studies with us as well as providing opportunities for students from other local schools. There are over 500 students in the Sixth Form who have achieved consistently high results year on year.

2. THE CAM ACADEMY TRUST

In 2011, The Cam Academy Trust (C.A.T.) was formed. It enabled Comberton Village College to convert to Academy status in 2011. Following this, the Cam Academy Trust has taken on further Academies:

- Melbourn Village College, an 11-16 Academy in Cambridgeshire. This Academy joined the C.A.T. in September 2013 following an agreement with the C.A.T. to do so.
- Cambourne Village College, an 11-16 Academy in Cambridgeshire, close to Comberton Village College. This has been opened as a new Free School by the C.A.T. from September 2013, initially with an intake of Year 7 students only. It serves the new and developing community of Cambourne that was formally in the catchment area of Comberton Village College. Numbers of staff are now teaching at both Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges as both Academies work extremely closely together.
- Gamlingay First School and St Peter's School, Huntingdon, both joined us in September 2016.
- Further primary schools include Offord primary school, Thongsley Fields primary and nursery school, Hartford Infant and Junior schools, Jeavons Wood primary school, Gamlingay Village primary, and Everton Heath primary. There is the possibility that the Cam Academy Trust could develop further, although this remains an open question. We are seeking to ensure that all Academies in the Trust work in effective partnership with each other and that there

are opportunities for staff to share ideas and resources. For some staff, there will be opportunities to work in more than one Academy.

3. OUTWARD LOOKING

Comberton Village College has worked significantly with other schools and in outreach projects from 2001 onwards. This dates from various of the designations the school received between 2001 and 2007:

- Specialisms in Sport, Languages and Applied Learning
- Training School and Leading Edge Status

Associated with this, 15 teaching staff were designated as Advanced Skills Teachers and have worked in different ways with other schools.

In July 2011, Comberton Village College was designated as one of the first wave of Teaching Schools in the country. It now works with a number of other schools, including other designated Teaching Schools, as part of the Cambridge Teaching Schools Network in order to provide:

- Initial Teacher Training. We are significantly involved with ITT, including through partnership with the Faculty of Education, Cambridge and through our own SCITT.
- Continuing Professional Development. We provide a number of activities relating to CPD. Many staff in the CAM Academy Trust Schools are able to benefit from these.
- School-to-school support. Staff are involved with supporting achievement in other schools. This includes those designated as Specialist Leaders of Education.
- Research. Many staff are involved in research, including studying for higher level qualifications.

4. STANDARDS

Comberton Village College has received a full Ofsted inspection on three occasions since 2000: in 2004, 2007 and 2013. On each occasion, the overall effectiveness grade has been 'outstanding'. In the latest inspection in 2013, every aspect of the school's provision was judged to be 'outstanding'. This included the first ever judgement on Sixth Form provision where both teaching and achievement were both clearly deemed already to be 'outstanding'. The short summary was:

"Comberton Village College is a highly successful school which enables its pupils to achieve not only academic excellence but also to become mature, confident, thoughtful and rounded individuals with clear goals for their future lives".

Pupil achievement is consistently high. Typically at KS4, 80% of pupils achieve at least 5+ 9 - 4 grades, including English and Maths, at GCSE or equivalent with 40% of grades at 9-7. Value added measures indicate excellent progress for all types of students. Achievement has been excellent from the outset in the Sixth Form with the significant majority of all grades achieved by students being A*- B. University admissions are very strong including students gaining places on competitive courses at the most selective universities, including Oxbridge.

5. BROAD EDUCATION

The school's formal day runs from 8.30 a.m. to 2.50 p.m. with 6 timetabled lessons of 50 minutes each day. Pupils see their tutors daily and have a weekly assembly.

However, we believe that true education is broad and should develop character and individual interest. Given this, there is also a very full and wide-ranging extra-curricular programme that runs each day from 3.00 p.m. There are also many school trips and visits, both national and international. We have significant school partnerships that involve exchanges in Europe, Peru, South Africa, Mozambique and Japan.

We consider the following as very important:

- Our major Duke of Edinburgh programme. Most pupils do the Bronze award with many continuing to Silver. Some now also progress to the Gold award in our Sixth Form.
- We have held the Arts Mark Gold Award for a number of years, a symbol of our commitment to excellence and breadth in Arts education and provision.
- We have been accredited as a British Council International School since 2002, a sign of our commitment to the international dimension of education.

6. AIMS AND VALUES

At the heart of what we do are fundamental aims and values relating to education. The Cam Academy Trust has five core principles that must be central to all Academies in the Trust. These have been at the heart of Comberton Village College for many years:

- The Excellence Principle. Education must be of highest of standards and lead to high achievement.
- The Comprehensive Principle. Excellent education must be for all pupils of all types and abilities.
- The Henry Morris Principle. Education should be rooted in and serve its local community.
- The Partnership Principle. We should always look to work in effective partnership with others for mutual benefit.
- The International Principle. There must be a clear international dimension to education.

Within these over-arching principles, we seek to ensure that all of our pupils reach their full, positive potential and become:

- **CAPABLE** in the skills relevant to their future lives and in having the knowledge which will increase their understanding, appreciation and interest in the world in which they live.
- **CARING** of others and considerate of the mutual dependence human beings have on each other.
- **CONFIDENT** of their worth because they have developed their strengths, understood their weaknesses and learnt that they can achieve success.

7. THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The Geography Department is a dynamic, innovative and forward-looking one in which staff are dedicated to achieving excellent standards of pupil attainment and to fostering a high level of enthusiasm and motivation for learning. The department places a high value on enquiry led learning and uses a diverse range of teaching and learning styles.

Currently, at Key Stage 3 we cover a range of units including 'What does the future hold for Antarctica?', 'Why is the UK coastline so varied?', 'Microclimate Investigation', 'People on the move', 'Can we protect ourselves from natural hazards?' and 'Development – are we all equal?'. At Key Stage 4 we follow the new AQA course with topics on natural hazards and urban issues and challenges. The department consistently achieves excellent exam results and we are constantly developing strategies to maintain and improve on these standards.

Many of our students continue studying Geography at A level in our sixth form. We follow the new AQA specification with units on natural hazards, changing places, water and carbon cycles and coasts in Year

12, as well as population and resources and global systems and governance in Year 13. We run fieldtrips across both years of study in the upper and lower sixth including a residential field trip in Y13 for students NEA.

There is a strong emphasis in the department on teamwork. We are committed to the development of original and innovative resources, which both challenge and stimulate. All members of the department embrace and share new ideas, which enhance the teaching and learning of pupils across the age and ability range. The department is involved in the mentoring of ITTs, and in this way we maintain very close links with the University of Cambridge's Department of Education, with which we frequently collaborate.

The department currently consists of 5 full-time members of staff. Pupils are taught in mixed-ability groups at KS3 and KS4. Uptake at GCSE is very good with four sets per year group being the norm. There are currently two groups in Year 12 and two groups in Year 13.

8. THE VACANCY

The post is available from September 2020 for a full-time teacher who will have a majority timetable of Geography across KS3-KS5. We are seeking to appoint someone who has:

- good subject knowledge and is able to teach Geography to KS5
- a strong sense of team work and willingness to contribute
- a desire to improve their own and departments practice
- enthusiasm for Geography and the ability to convey this to pupils
- a working knowledge of the National Curriculum in Geography
- successful teaching skills, including use of ICT
- efficient and systematic working skills
- effective oral and written communication skills
- a commitment to contributing to the success of the whole college

The post will offer excellent opportunities for development in a dynamic and successful Geography department and a school that has professional development as a core value.

We are always looking to develop and evolve our practice and as such this role would be suited to a Geography practitioner who is keen to share their passion of the subject through the development of all aspects of the curriculum.

There is the opportunity for a suitable candidate to take on additional responsibility as KS5 Subject Leader.

The successful candidate will need to meet the requirements of the general teacher job description and person specification on the college website.

If you would like to join us, please return your application and covering letter to Mrs L Atherton, HR Manager on personnel@combertonvc.org or via the post, **by midday on Monday, 24th February 2020**. If you wish to discuss the post further or visit us in advance, please contact Scott Aitken, Head of Geography by email at SAitken@combertonvc.org. We aim to carry out the interviews either on 27th or 28th February 2020.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be carried out for the successful candidate.