



As we come to the close of the 5th week of the spring term, I am delighted to report that progress towards the opening of The High School Leckhampton continues apace! Since the last newsletter I have continued meeting our local Primary Headteachers and I would like to thank them for their very warm welcome. They are certainly working incredibly hard to support the local community, both in school and online, and it was a pleasure to meet future pupils and see them showing such resilience and engagement. I have also enjoyed several meetings with Gloucestershire County Council, building contractors, uniform suppliers and of course my colleagues here in the Trust. The time is passing very quickly indeed!

Getting the foundations right (behind the scenes)

Although much of my current work may not be of great interest to our potential pupils, it is fundamental to the successful opening a brand-new school. Now is the time for laying the statutory foundations upon which we will build our ethos and culture. As such, I am in regular dialogue with the Department of Education to ensure that our policies and procedures are correct and that we are ready for our Ofsted pre-registration inspection. There are numerous policies required and perhaps unsurprisingly, I have started with key ones relating to Safeguarding, Child Protection, Recruitment and the Curriculum. Please do have a look on our website under the tab, Ethos and Values, <https://www.newschooldeltenham.co.uk/page/?title=Ethos+and+Values&pid=17> to give you a flavour of how our values will translate into policies and what our approach will be. Working with my colleagues at the Baccarras Trust allows me to draw upon their experience, their networks, and provides an excellent sounding board for ideas. The High School Leckhampton is also a fully signed up member of The New Schools Network, which is a fantastic source of expertise and resources.

Getting the foundations right (quite literally)

In the face of snow and freezing conditions last week, TG Escapes have made a blistering start to our home at Baccarras. Very quickly, we are beginning to see the footprint of the school, allowing us to imagine how the pupils will occupy the space and move around the site. We will include more photos with each newsletter.



Recruitment

I am absolutely delighted to announce that we have started to recruit. Last week we were thrilled to appoint Miss O'Riordan as **The Lead Pastoral Teacher** for the High School Leckhampton. Miss O'Riordan has worked at Baccarras School for several years during which time she has played a key role in developing the House System. She is an outstanding teacher of English and is currently a Head of Year. There's no doubt that Miss O'Riordan brings a wealth of recent and relevant experience to the role as well as a significant amount of enthusiasm and commitment to the task ahead. I couldn't think of a more passionate, committed advocate for young people and I have no doubt at all that she will be able to bring our House system to life. I am hopeful that I will be able to introduce our teachers to you in person over the next two terms but whilst we are in lockdown, I asked Miss O'Riordan to contribute a short paragraph so that she could share with her vision with you:



I think that pastoral care is the heart of every outstanding school and it will be at the very core of The High School Leckhampton. All pupils who attend the school will be warmly welcomed, encouraged by exceptional teachers, and immersed in a culture of high aspiration. The wellbeing of each child is of pivotal importance. If a child is happy, healthy, and safe in their environment, they will flourish academically and make the most out of the exciting opportunities that are available to them. I believe that every child is unique and has their own set of talents, and the pastoral system at the school will support all students to achieve their goals and beyond. Transitioning from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 is a big step for all, but we will establish nurturing relationships with pupils to ensure that they feel fully supported moving forward. We will be working in close partnership with pupils and parents to encourage excellence, expand the children's horizons and put additional support in place if necessary. I'm really looking forward to meeting our first cohort.





We are currently recruiting for outstanding teachers of Maths and Design Technology. Please see the website for further details:



Design & Technology MPS

Required for September 2021, a full-time permanent teacher of Design & Technology to join our brand-new school.

We are looking for a very enthusiastic teacher with excellent classroom skills who will contribute to our future success. The successful candidate will teach Design & Technology across the Key Stages in The Trust. Please refer to the *Letter to Applicants from The Headteacher* for further information.

This is an opportunity to work alongside the high achieving Design & Technology Department at Balcarras School, in a supportive environment in a dynamic, successful and friendly school.


Ofsted assessed Balcarras in 2005, 2009 and 2014 as *Outstanding* in every category.

Applications from both Early Career Teachers and experienced teachers are welcome. Excellent induction and further professional development available.

The High School Leckhampton is committed to safeguarding, safer recruitment and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date: Monday February 8th, at 9am
Interviews will take place shortly afterwards

Further details and an application form are available below.

Mathematics MPS

Required for September 2021, a full-time permanent teacher of Mathematics to join our brand-new school.

We are looking for a very enthusiastic teacher with excellent classroom skills who will contribute to our future success. The successful candidate will teach Mathematics at Key Stage 3 & 4.

This is an opportunity to work alongside the high achieving Maths Department at Balcarras School, in a supportive environment in a dynamic, successful and friendly school.


Ofsted assessed Balcarras in 2005, 2009 and 2014 as *Outstanding* in every category.

Applications from both Early Career Teachers and experienced teachers are welcome. Excellent induction and further professional development available.

The High School Leckhampton is committed to safeguarding, safer recruitment and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date: Friday February 5th 2021 at 12 noon
Interviews will take place shortly afterwards

Further details and an application form are available below.



<https://www.newschoolcheltenham.co.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=12>

And finally...

In the last newsletter I encouraged prospective pupils to pick up a book. This time I know that many of our feeder primary schools are encouraging mindfulness, so thought it might be timely to encourage our prospective pupils to [get creative](#). It would be great to see any pictures that your children might like to draw or paint of the local area.

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place and the weather against us, the children might like to capture the view from their window, perhaps they might be inspired by the pictures below, or they could look at the wonderful work submitted by primary and secondary pupils for the Royal Academy's Young Artist's Summer Show 2020: <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk>

I'd be delighted if parents could take a photo of whatever the children produce and send them in to me at admin@balcarras-gloucs.sch.uk and I will share a selection on our website.



With very warm wishes

Helen Wood
Headteacher

