



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this exciting post here at Hampstead School. More information about the school can be found on our website [www.hampsteadschool.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadschool.org.uk).

Please look at the following documents:

- Copy of the Advert
- Job Profile and Person Specification
- Application Form – you can apply via TES or download the application form from our website: [www.hampsteadschool.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadschool.org.uk).

I started as Head at Hampstead in September 2020. Reopening the school in the midst of a global pandemic was a baptism of fire but staff, students and parents were incredibly supportive. It helped that I already had a link with the school, having started my career here as an NQT.

I made a lot of ‘coming home’ in my application form when I applied for the headship. My original stint only lasted four years, a length of time that pales into insignificance when compared to the years of service some have given, but after leaving I retained a strong connection to the school. Hampstead reflects – and has shaped – my educational values. It is a truly comprehensive school, seeking to serve its local community. It is non-selective in the truest sense; there are no ability bands, selection tests or restrictions based on gender or religion. If you live nearby, if it is your local school, there is nothing to stop you coming here. It is part of a strong local authority working to ensure high standards through co-operation rather than competition.

When Hampstead School gets it right then there are no caveats, no ‘yes buts’. Success is not based on a selective admissions criteria or top-down interventions from an academy chain. Success is sustainable, ethically sound and based on an unwavering commitment to equality of access. I can honestly say that I would not have applied for any other headship.

### **The School and its Community**

Hampstead School is a London Borough of Camden maintained comprehensive school with 1330 students. The school, with an admission number of 210, is popular locally and oversubscribed.

Founded in 1961 (it is our sixtieth anniversary this year) as a mixed comprehensive school, visitors often comment on the mutual respect which is evident amongst students and between students and staff. This has been recognised; we are the first secondary school in London to be awarded the UNICEF “Rights Respecting School Award” at the highest level.

The diversity of our students is a real strength of the school. Over 80% of students are of ethnic minority origin, with over 60 different languages spoken. Around half our students have English as an Additional Language, with a similar proportion eligible for the Pupil Premium.

The school has just been rebuilt over the past five years as part of the Priority Schools Building Programme; our facilities are now world class.



## Our Ethos

We expect staff and students to *Think Big, Work Hard* and *Be Kind*, principles underpinned by the value we place on ambition, critical thought, effort and compassion. This culture is fostered in an atmosphere where the quality of relationships is crucial; our motto, '*Learning Together, Achieving Together*', is reflected in the interactions that take place between staff and students every day.

The impact of this ethos, when combined with the highest expectations of achievement and a belief that every student can and will achieve, is seen in some of our successes and initiatives over the past few years. They confirm that Hampstead School's reputation for creativity, innovation and inspiration is firmly rooted in rigour:

- One of seven UK schools recognised as an inaugural "Achievement for All" Ambassador School
- Arts Mark Award (Gold) from the Arts Council for England
- Sportsmark
- International School Full Award
- Geography and History Quality Mark
- Sustainable Schools Award (Gold)
- Cultural Diversity Quality Standard (Gold)
- Stonewall Award

- National Champions in the Model United Nations national debating competition
- Our work with New Arrivals recognised as best practice and disseminated to all UK schools
- Enduring relationships with Future Leaders, Teaching Leaders and Teach First.
- Princes Trust kitemark (English)
- Diana Awards from the Prime Minister for our anti bullying and peer mentoring schemes
- Part of the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE)

We are proud of what we have achieved, never complacent and retain a genuine and positive determination to become exceptional in all areas. We relish our challenges, being fortunate in our committed and enthusiastic staff, all of whom work together for the benefit of our students. A sign of success is that, within a stable workforce, nearly all who leave do so for promotion. Consequently, this creates opportunities to appoint new colleagues with new ideas, enthusiasm, and moral purpose.

I am very excited about developing the school further and working with colleagues with differing strengths, but who all share an unwavering passion for education, and a commitment to improving the life chances of all our students.

If you are one of these talented people, we would love to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sadler', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Matthew Sadler – Head