



January 2025

Dear Colleague,

Teacher of Design Technology (Maternity) – part-time – Maternity cover

Thank you for your interest in this post. We are currently recruiting an excellent teacher of Design Technology to cover a maternity from February 2025, on a part-time basis (0.5).

The High School Leckhampton opened to Year 7 in September 2021 on our temporary site at Balcarras School. In September 2022 we moved to our £30 million, state-of-the-art building at Farm Lane, Leckhampton where we welcomed a new cohort of Year 7 pupils. The school has expanded each year, and we will take a new cohort of 180 pupils into Year 7 annually, until it reaches a capacity of 900 pupils. From September 2025, we will have 750 pupils on roll in years 7-11, as follows:

Year 7 = 180 pupils
Year 8 = 180 pupils
Year 9 = 150 pupils
Year 10 = 120 pupils
Year 11 = 120 pupils

We are on a very exciting journey!

The High School Leckhampton is part of The Balcarras Multi Academy Trust, and we already work closely with Balcarras School. During our first year we were temporarily housed in a brand-new building on the site of Balcarras and shared several teachers and this close relationship has continued in year 4. Consequently, all applicants should look at the Balcarras Trust website for additional information about the ethos and culture of The Trust. Winchcombe School joined The Trust in November 2023 and subject networks are in place across all 3 schools.

At this time, we are looking to recruit a high skilled Design Technology teacher, with experience of delivering engaging lessons at KS3 and GCSE to cover a period of maternity on a part-time basis. We are happy to consider applications from both experienced and Early Career Teachers.

Pupils follow a highly creative, skills-based Art and DT curriculum, studying a sequence of engaging topics. In Design Technology, the focus is placed on developing problem-solving and practical skills through independent research, fundamental design principles, and hands-on projects. Pupils explore the importance of playful experimentation with materials, techniques, and ideas, alongside



Farm Lane, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL51 3FS | Headteacher: [Mrs Helen Wood BA \(Hons\) NPQH](#)

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understanding real-world influences on design and its impact on the environment. Further practical skills, including CAD/CAM, product prototyping, woodworking, and food preparation techniques, are honed throughout the KS3 curriculum, preparing pupils to make well-informed decisions regarding GCSE options. For their GCSEs, pupils have the opportunity to specialise in either Product Design (AQA - 8552) or Food Preparation and Nutrition (Eduqas). Both subjects offer a broad and creative experience, enabling pupils to explore a range of techniques, materials, and industry-relevant skills.

At The High School Leckhampton we believe in developing the whole child and as such extra-curricular clubs and super curricular activities already play a key part of the life of the school – the person appointed will, we hope, make a strong contribution to them. We want our pupils to have plenty of enriching opportunities to 'experience' Design Technology outside the classroom including visits, visiting speakers and the opportunity to enter competitions.

As we are recruiting to a new and growing school, this role provides a unique and exciting opportunity for the right candidate and I would encourage you to read all the information about the school before making your application, particularly: the *Information Pack for Applicants*, the *Prospectus*, and of course visit our website <https://www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Above all else, we are looking for a dedicated, enthusiastic, and highly skilled Design Technology teacher who will integrate smoothly into the existing team and who shares our values.

The High School Leckhampton is an excellent place to work, and we will support you to develop your leadership and expertise as a teacher. As you will see from the website and in the information provided to applicants, we are an ambitious school with a clear vision. Whoever is appointed will be assured of a warm welcome, a strong induction programme and consistent support.

I hope that having read all the details that you will be keen to apply. Please write a covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4 explaining why you are a strong candidate and what you can offer to our new school.

Please send your application to arrive by *Thursday January 23rd 2025 at 9am*. We will then interview shortly afterwards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher



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The High School
Leckhampton



THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Teacher of Design Technology
SALARY GRADE:	MPS / UPS
CONTRACT TERM:	Part-time (0.5) – temporary – Maternity cover
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Curriculum Lead for Art and Design Technology

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications are invited for the temporary position of Teacher of Design Technology for The High School Leckhampton, from February 2025.

This is a uniquely privileged opportunity for the right candidate to join a flagship department and make a significant contribution to our provision of Design Technology. We see it as of paramount importance to appoint the right person to join a very successful – and happy – teaching staff that is already notable for its particularly strong emphasis on teamwork and mutual support. The successful candidate should have a keen appreciation of the school's ambitious ethos and an understanding of how academic study and scholarship, pastoral care and extra-curricular activities contribute equally within it.

The successful applicant will be confident, resilient, and comfortable with change. They will be expected to quickly familiarise themselves with the existing culture, ethos and practices of the school that have been established since the school opened on the site at Balcarras School in September 2021. The person fortunate enough to be appointed to the post will need to 'hit the ground running' as they will be joining the team mid-way through the year, when our first cohort of GCSE pupils is half way through their Year 10 studies. Our new school building brings with it many fantastic facilities and the opportunity to teach Design Technology in large, light workshops and classrooms, that are superbly resourced.

At KS3, our pupils value and enjoy their Design Technology lessons, and eagerly engage with the challenge of finding solutions to key problems through clever design. We believe that every pupil has the potential to be knowledgeable, articulate, and successful. The Design Technology curriculum is diverse, offering a broad range of opportunities for all our pupils in terms of the skills and topics taught. Subject expertise is critical in supporting strong curriculum planning, implementation, and pupil progress. A candidate's skills in teaching across a range of Design Technology specialisms such as product design, CAD/CAM, prototyping, electronics, and food preparation, to pupils of all ages and abilities is therefore essential. The ability to deliver lessons and specialisms that contribute to our

evolving curriculum would be of particular interest, and a good working knowledge of software packages such as CorelDraw, Adobe, Shapr3D, and similar design tools would be highly desirable.

At KS4, pupils have the opportunity to specialise in Product Design (AQA - 8552) or Food Preparation and Nutrition (Eduqas), with high expectations for creativity, innovation, and skill development. Both courses offer pupils the chance to explore a wide range of materials, techniques, and processes, fostering practical problem-solving skills and a strong understanding of design principles. Pupils also benefit from engaging with industry professionals through trips, visits, and guest speakers, which deepen their understanding of the design and food sectors and inspire ambitious project work.

Above all else, the appointed candidate will share our ambition that provision of Design Technology at The High School Leckhampton is second to none. They will be a superbly capable teacher, comfortable with significant and high-profile responsibility, and be as motivated, creative, and dedicated as the inaugural team of staff who have already worked so passionately to bring our school to life.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

We are looking for someone who is qualified as an Design Technology teacher, with a good Degree and is:

- an excellent classroom practitioner with an outstanding knowledge and understanding of Design Technology
- passionate about teaching and learning, have a positive outlook and excellent interpersonal skills
- an excellent communicator and with superb interpersonal skills
- prepared to promote the subject to the staff and pupil body
- enthusiastic and committed to working as part of a small team
- happy to grasp exciting CPD opportunities
- prepared to support our extensive extra-curricular and super curricular programme
- Contribute to the values, ethos and the development of our school

What you will need to succeed

- Have high expectations for yourself and the pupils to ensure that all of our children achieve their very best
- Have the ambition, creativity, and resilience to ensure The High School Leckhampton continues to have an excellent reputation amongst the local community
- Demonstrate the very highest standards of professional conduct
- Be supportive of the ethos of the school and department
- An understanding of the nature and value of comprehensive education and the challenges of establishing a new school
- Commitment to the paramount importance of the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils

The Department

The Art and DT department currently consists of dedicated and enthusiastic staff members:

- Mrs Georgina McAlpine – *Curriculum Lead for Art and DT (on maternity leave from Feb 2025)*
- Mrs Gemma Elliott-Squire – *Teacher of Art & DT*
- Mrs Amy Heron – *Teacher of DT (with some Art)*

- Mrs Ludette Joice – *Teacher of Art & DT*
- Mrs Jo Dean – *DT technician (Part-Time)*
- Mrs Nicki Wallace – *Food technician (Part-time)*

Excellent communication and organisation are vital to the success of the department, with each member playing a vital role in its development. The team works very closely together and aims to be a stimulating and inviting environment where everyone, staff and pupils, feels capable, supported and challenged whilst enjoying their teaching and learning.

The KS3 Curriculum

Both the Art and DT curriculums are comprehensive and complement each other. This has been designed by the Curriculum Lead for Art and DT and is strongly supported by The Balcarras Trust. The skills taught in one subject area are referenced, utilised, and developed in another, where this is possible and appropriate. The Design Technology syllabus values subject knowledge, practical skills and critical understanding, with pupils being exposed to the broad range of specialism available to inform their decisions at GCSE and beyond. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups of approximately twenty four and have four lessons per fortnight and work in project booklets at KS3.

To supplement classroom learning extra-curricular clubs are offered and trips take place throughout the year to venues such as the Harry Potter Studios and the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern.

The KS4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 Design Technology curriculum offers pupils a creative, skills-based experience through either Product Design (AQA – 8552) or Food Preparation and Nutrition (Eduqas), building on the foundations laid in KS3. The curriculum focuses on refining problem-solving, technical drawing, prototyping, and analytical skills while encouraging experimentation with materials, processes, and techniques such as CAD/CAM, timber fabrication, and culinary innovation. A series of structured, skills-based workshops in Year 10 equips pupils with technical proficiency and confidence, enabling them to work more independently as they progress into Year 11. Highlights of both courses include opportunities to work with local industry professionals and practitioners through visits, guest speakers, and trips, all of which support pupils' exam preparation and help inspire their projects.

This is an exciting time for the department, offering a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to contribute to and be part of these dynamic, evolving courses as they continue to grow and inspire pupils in their personal development and enjoyment of these subjects.

The appointed candidate will be expected to plan lessons and deliver a Design Technology curriculum that is both challenging and inclusive, so should be able to teach to pupils of all abilities. The successful candidate will play a vital role in delivering high standards of education and ensuring students are fully involved in the wider life of the school.

The Facilities

The Art and DT department comprises seven light and well-equipped classrooms including one textiles room, two Art studios with computers, one workshop, an ICT suite, one graphics room and one practical food kitchen. In addition to this we have a multi materials prep room. Each classroom contains a ViewSonic interactive screen, visualiser and subject specific equipment depending on use, including sewing machines, heat press, laser cutter,

3D printers, vinyl cutter, pillar drills, belt sanders, pewter casting unit, printing press and kiln to name only a few.

The above responsibilities are in addition to the responsibilities and duties outlined in the School's standard job description for a Teacher. These responsibilities are also subject to the general duties and responsibilities contained in the documents that constitute the Teacher Contract of Employment and letter of appointment.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

It is the policy of The High School Leckhampton to provide equal employment opportunities for all qualified individuals; to prohibit discrimination in employment on any basis protected by applicable law, including but not limited to race, colour, religious creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, age, medical condition, or disability. The High School Leckhampton promotes equal employment opportunities in all aspects of employment through positive employment policies and practices. If any special requirements are needed to attend an interview, please inform the school.

SAFEGUARDING

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom they are responsible, or with whom they come into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at all times.

Please note that all appointments are subject to the Balcarras Trust Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedures.

January 2025