



Unity College

Deputy Head of Year

**Permanent
Full Time**

Closing Date 9.00am Monday 15 April 2024



Dear Candidate

I am delighted that you have requested further information regarding the position of **Deputy Head of Year** at Unity College. This is a permanent, non-teaching role.

I have been the Headteacher at Unity College since September 2022. Unity College has a very positive, friendly atmosphere. The staff care passionately about the well-being of our children and students are vibrant, enthusiastic and affable. Although Unity College is a large school, we strive to maintain a 'family feel' and a powerful sense of community in which every member of our community feels that they belong, are valued, and contributes positively to College life.



Deputy Heads of Year are new posts. We have recently made the decision to move from a 'vertical' house-based structure to a 'horizontal' year-based structure. Years 7 to 11 have a Head of Year, who is a member of teaching staff. The Head of Year holds ultimate accountability for the Year Group. They are supported by a Deputy Head of Year and expert pastoral teams: Student Support (including Mental Wellbeing Workers and an Early Help Co-ordinator); Inclusion; SEND and Attendance.

The successful candidate will have experience of working successfully with young people and their families. They will be aware of some of the challenges facing young people yet hold the highest aspirations for Unity College students. They will also be committed to and use strategies that will ensure that all students are given the very best opportunities to be successful in all areas of their lives. We are looking for a Deputy Head of Year with experience of working with young people to secure excellent outcomes, who are able to develop and sustain strong relationships and routines and who will inspire students to engage widely across the College. Above all, Deputy Heads of Year will model and maintain the highest of standards at all times.

Working at Unity College is tremendously rewarding and this role is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference to young people's lives as well as offering abundant prospects for professional development. As a College we are firmly committed to continuous professional development for all and we invest heavily in developing our staff at all levels.

You are very welcome to visit Unity College to help you decide if this is the school and the role for you; I'd be delighted to meet you. Please contact the HR Manager for an appointment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'J. Richardson'.

Jane Richardson
Headteacher

The College

Unity College is a co-educational, 11-16 college. By September 2025, we will be the largest 11-16 secondary school in Lancashire, with 1500 students on roll.

Unity College lies within the beautiful grounds of Towneley Park with breath taking views of the local countryside. The College was part of the Building Schools for the Future project. Our £33 million building opened in September 2010. Due to the huge demand for places at Unity College there is large expansion programme which has included a new build of 19 classrooms and some internal structural changes. The new building opened in April 2022. This is a very exciting, but challenging, time for the College as we work hard to ensure that such rapid expansion does not detract from our core business of offering the very best possible education for every student at the same time as knowing our children and families really well.

The College's intake is diverse, with its catchment area comprising some of the most disadvantaged and most affluent areas of Burnley. In 2021/2022, 34.9% of students were classed as disadvantaged, 87% of students were White British and 66.4% of students came from E/E* areas of overall multiple deprivation. In 2021/2022 21.6% of students were identified as having Special Educational Needs, compared with 12.1% in Lancashire and 14.1% nationally.

We are a friendly, caring college which puts the needs of our children at the heart of all we do. Academic progress is obviously vital but we also place a high value on the provision of enrichment opportunities that help our students to grow into responsible, confident and considerate young adults. Underpinning all of this are excellent standards of pastoral support and care that allow children to feel safe and valued. At Unity College, we are proud of the extensive and expert support systems that we have in place for our students. These comprise a wide range of people and processes (both within college and involving outside agencies). We currently have 11 DSLs trained and operational at Unity College.



Why work at Unity College?

Every Headteacher will say good things about their own school and so we asked our staff to contribute to this brochure to give you an honest view 'from the chalkface'. Furthermore, interviews always provide opportunities for candidates to talk frankly with a range of staff.

"I feel so proud and privileged to have worked with so many amazing children over the years. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing children who deserve to achieve great results do so. The fact that we, at Unity College in Burnley, can help students achieve high grades of 8s and 9s shows the true value and quality of our teaching and curriculum. It gives me joy to know our students from Burnley can not only rival the grades achieved by children at grammar schools/private schools but beat them too. (It also makes me feel quietly smug!) We have, and continue to have, a positive impact on the life chances of young people across our community in Burnley."

"I genuinely enjoy coming to work and love what I do. I enjoy teaching and being part of such an amazing team who are more than just work colleagues but are genuine friends. I have worked in a few schools but none of them have ever felt like home in the way that this school does. Here are just a few reasons why I love teaching at Unity College.

1. Many students here at Unity College come from challenging backgrounds, but I feel that I make a difference in their lives by working here. I love working with the dedicated team of staff in our department.
 2. This school has a sense of community where students, staff and our parents and carers work together to look after each other.
 3. We have access to incredible facilities that allow us to offer our students a broad curriculum that is not only engaging but also provides fun experiences that no other local school can genuinely match. As a result, we can offer students of all abilities access to opportunities to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.
 4. I feel proud to be a member of the Unity College family because we have an excellent reputation for the quality of our teaching and excellent behaviour of our students."
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"I believe that Unity College has a genuine desire to do the best for all the students. The staff within the department are a good team who work together and the staff have an excellent spirit. When I first came to the school, the staff and pupils were warm and welcoming and accepting of new staff and pupils. I feel as I can discuss any issues with any other member of staff (SLT or class teacher) and will not be judged or questioned but supported to find a solution that is best for everyone."

"I have worked at Unity for six years now and commute here every day from Yorkshire. One of the many reasons I am still here is the excellent working relationships I have with other members of the mathematics department. There is a very friendly feel to the department, and everyone just "gets on" with each other. I have worked in several other schools where there was not the same cordial atmosphere in the staffroom. As for the students I have found that they take a little bit of getting used to but once you have gained their respect, they are a great bunch of young people to work with. The diverse range of student backgrounds makes it a very rewarding job where you can feel that you are really making a difference to the lives of the students in your care."

"Unity College is a modern, successful, and well-respected school with great facilities based in beautiful surroundings – but none of that to me is truly important. The reason I work at Unity College is because I love the great team dynamic in the supportive, professional department that I'm part of; it was also immediately obvious when I interviewed here that the whole of the college really cares about the future of our children. The fact that the school is within easy reach of a variety of vibrant places to live doesn't hurt matters either!"

"There are so many reasons why I love working at Unity College. Here are just a few:

1. There is a whole school approach to behaviour management: staff are supported by Heads of Department and SLT to maintain a positive learning environment.
2. Teachers are respected as professionals.
3. Although some students face real challenges outside of school, when they see that you as a teacher are staying here and not giving up on them, they behave well and work hard. I find this one of the most rewarding things about working here.
4. We have such a range of students from different backgrounds.

There is never, ever a dull day!"

"You really should choose to work at Unity College because it is a school where staff are valued and made to feel welcome, truly act as part of a team, and are encouraged to develop themselves as practitioners. As the College expands and grows, it is an exciting time to join to help shape the future of more young people in Burnley and make a difference to their lives every day."

"I have travelled 6121 miles from my home town and have taught for half my life at Unity College. I absolutely love being part of the 'Unity' family. It is one of the most rewarding experiences playing a part in educating young people in Burnley, watching them grow in confidence, develop a love for Mathematics and achieve success."

Why work in Burnley?

A big warm Northern welcome to Burnley. After all, we weren't voted the friendliest town in Britain without good reason! From world-renowned, cutting-edge brands to affordable living and housing and spectacular countryside to explore, we truly believe we have it all in Burnley.

Burnley is conveniently located on the uncongested M65, providing easy access to the M62, M66, M6 and beyond. There are three international airports within an hour's drive, as well as Manchester, Leeds, Preston, Blackpool, The Lake District and Liverpool being a short drive away.



Burnley offers affordable housing: the mean house price in Burnley is £106,199, which is 36% of the national average. Not only does your money go further when you live in Burnley, but there is a wide-range of properties at your fingertips. From quality modern newbuilds and contemporary apartments to quaint cottages and impressive Victorian terraces, there's something for everyone's budget and taste. 80% of Burnley rural, making it the ideal place to wind down and explore.



Job Description

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| Dates | Apply by Monday 15 April 2024 - To start ASAP |
| Accountable to | Head of Year |
| Salary | Grade 8 (SCP 25-30) |
| Contract Type | Permanent |
| Hours | 37 hours per week; 42 weeks per year |

As the rate of pay notified above will be enhanced by payment in lieu of leave entitlement, public holidays and locally scheduled holidays, under normal circumstances you are not entitled to any leave during term-time.

If the duties of this post require work in excess of 42 weeks, due to exceptional circumstances, then you would be entitled to additional payments in line with your normal rate of pay.

Introduction

This job description outlines the purpose and key tasks required to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list and duties / specific tasks may be varied from time to time, without changing the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed. This will allow flexibility for the college to respond to changing priorities and also support and enhance individual professional development. It is the practice of the college to examine job descriptions periodically, update them and ensure that they relate to the job performed, or incorporate any proposed changes. This procedure will be conducted by the Headteacher/Line Manager in consultation with the post holder.

Overall Purpose and Accountability

The Deputy Head of Year, working alongside the Head of Year, is responsible for the achievement, personal development, welfare and conduct of all students within their year group, so that:

- **Every young person achieves their true potential**
- **Our community shares a love of learning**
- **Our students are involved in every aspect of college life beyond the classroom**
- **Our community is characterised by an ethos of inclusivity, tolerance and respect**

The successful candidates will possess excellent management and communication skills and will have demonstrated an ability to work with young people and their families successfully. They will be aware of some of the challenges facing young people yet hold the highest aspirations for Unity College students. They will also be committed to and use strategies that will ensure that all students are given the very best opportunities to be successful in all areas of their lives

We are looking for Deputy Heads of Year with experience of working with young people to secure excellent outcomes, who are able to develop and sustain strong routines and who will inspire students to engage widely across the College. Working alongside the Head of Year, they will ensure all students engage in extra-curricular activities and will develop a range of

leadership roles within their year groups. Above all, Deputy Heads of Year will model and maintain the highest of standards at all times.

Each year group has a Head of Year, a Deputy Head of Year and a team of form tutors. The Attendance Team, Inclusion Team, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team and 11 DSLs also support the year team.

The Deputy Head of Year will work with the Head of Year to create and deliver a shared vision for the personal development, behaviour and attitudes, wellbeing and safeguarding of all members of the College community. The Deputy Heads of Year play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Unity College by working alongside the Heads of Year to:

- Create a strong college community, characterised by consistent, orderly, caring and respectful relationships
- Ensure that the pastoral offer reflects the College's vision and values
- Raise the aspirations and ambitions of our students, their families and carers and the local community
- Create a college culture and ethos that is utterly committed to achievement
- Ensure that every student at Unity College experiences a sense of belonging

Post-Specific Responsibilities

Leadership of a Year Group

- In collaboration with the Head of Year and a team of Form Tutors, ensure the highest standards of attendance, uniform, behaviour and attitudes for all students in a year group, ensuring every student achieves the best possible outcomes
- Contribute to the monitoring and tracking of attendance, punctuality, behaviour and attitudes for all students in a year group
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, know the progress and attainment measures for the year group and support improvements for underachieving students and groups of students
- Be a visible presence around the College, modelling and ensuring high standards and high expectations consistently, insistently and persistently
- Ensure that an ethos of inclusion and tolerance characterises the year group so that identity is celebrated and difference is valued
- Ensure that clear routines are promoted within the year group both within and between lessons and during social time
- Ensure that any students who have particular needs or whose behaviour and/or attendance fall below the College's high expectations, demonstrate improvement with necessary support and guidance
- Be the key contact for parents and carers of students within the year group
- Establish a strong sense of identity and belonging in the year group
- Build and sustain effective, positive relationships with all staff, students, parents and carers, governors and the local community and be an excellent ambassador for Unity College

Attendance and Punctuality

- Ensure that all students in the year group have high attendance and are punctual
- Monitor and track the attendance and punctuality of all students in the year group to ensure that the attendance of all students in the year group is above or in line with national averages
- Work collaboratively with the Attendance Team to analyse persistent absence rates to ensure that the attendance of all students in the year group is above or in line with national averages
- Work collaboratively with the SENCO to ensure that the attendance of SEND students in the year group is above or in line with national averages
- Work collaboratively with the Inclusion and Safeguarding Teams to ensure that attendance of the most vulnerable students in the year group is above or in line with national averages
- Ensure that the College's attendance policies and procedures are followed and consistently applied across the year group
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, organise and participate in targeted intervention programmes to raise standards of attendance for individual students and groups of students
- Ensure that, if a student has been absent from college, they are supported in catching up on work missed and reintegrated successfully into the College

Behaviour and Attitudes

- In collaboration with the Head of Year, ensure that every member of the Year Team has high expectations for students' behaviour and conduct, that these expectations are applied consistently and fairly and that these expectations are reflected in students' behaviour and conduct
- Ensure that relationships among students and staff reflect a positive and respectful culture
- Be a visible, proactive presence around the College, promoting positive behaviour and attitudes from all students
- Support and advise all members of college staff to ensure high standards of behaviour and attitudes are secured throughout the College, ensuring that there is a calm and orderly environment which enables students to both learn and thrive
- Ensure standards of uniform, equipment and conduct are exemplary through the implementation of robust systems and checking mechanisms
- Model for all staff exemplary practice in terms of managing difficult and challenging behaviour from students
- Liaise with others in the implementation and development of the rewards and sanctions programmes in line with college policy, to ensure that the College's vision and values are realised
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, ensure consistent application of the College's Behaviour Policy and ensure that the application of the Policy, including fixed-term suspensions and internal exclusions, is effective

- Track and monitor standards of behaviour and behaviour data for the year group, ensuring that the relevant policies are consistently applied and that excellent behaviour and attitudes permeate throughout the year group
- Use behaviour data to evaluate, respond and make changes and recommendations
- Improve standards of behaviour both for individual students and the year group as a whole
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, plan, implement and evaluate targeted intervention programmes for individuals and groups of students within the year group
- Work with parents and carers to review student behaviour patterns and identify actions needed to improve standards of behaviour and attitudes, attainment and progress, and, in doing so, build strong relationships with parents and carers
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, plan and promote reward activities within the year group in line with College policies
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, plan and promote opportunities for student leadership within the year group, ensuring that levels of student engagement in such activities are high

Personal Development

- Ensure that form groups have appropriate areas for display of information and that these are kept up to date.
- Know how to support students' personal development, mental health and wellbeing and be the first point of contact for students with regard to extra support which may be needed
- Actively celebrate diversity and create an environment in which bullying, sexual abuse and harassment between children or discrimination are not tolerated. Ensure that, if they do occur, such issues are dealt with quickly and effectively, and not allowed to spread
- Keep up to date with political and social issues which affect students and be committed to organising, in collaboration with the Head of Year, workshops and other activities designed to ensure a no tolerance approach to all forms of discrimination
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, ensure that there is a well-developed extra-curricular offer for the year group and that each child takes up this opportunity
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, ensure that regular Student Voice informs the development of the year group and the College as a whole
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, organise and take part in parent and carer meetings and events to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education

Safeguarding

- Ensure that all students in the year group are safe and feel safe at all times and in all aspects of college life
- Take appropriate actions to ensure all students in the year group are effectively safeguarded, making relevant referrals where appropriate and working with other agencies where necessary.
- Work closely with the DSL and Safeguarding Team to ensure effective safeguarding practices are highly effective across the year group

- Undertake duties to ensure that students are safeguarded during social times and between lessons

Achievement

- Support leaders at all levels to ensure strong engagement in the curriculum and improved academic outcomes for students, including identifying barriers to learning and patterns of disruption and working with colleagues to address these
- Support staff in ensuring that students follow routines and that disruption to learning is not tolerated
- Ensure that students' attitudes to their education are positive: they are committed to their learning, know how to study effectively and do so, are resilient to setbacks and take pride in their achievements
- In collaboration with the Head of Year, have oversight of the educational provision and outcomes for any student educated off site within the year group

Health and Safety

You will:

- Adhere to college health and safety policies/procedures and current statutory health and safety requirements
- Attend training as and when required for the purposes of safeguarding children and corporate safety
- Ensure school is immediately notified of any issues that may affect your right to maintain enhanced clearance to work on the school site (DBS)

**This post is subject to satisfactory enhanced level verification by the
Disclosure and Barring Service**

Person Specification

| | | Essential | Desirable |
|----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Qualifications | Five GCSEs, including English and Maths at a minimum of Grade C or equivalent | ✓ | |
| | Evidence of continuous professional development | ✓ | |
| Experience | You have experience of working with young people in an education setting | ✓ | |
| | You have experience of providing pastoral support within an education setting | | ✓ |
| | You have experience of working with external agencies | | ✓ |
| | You have experience of developing inclusivity | | ✓ |
| Knowledge and Skills | You are able to build and sustain positive relationships with children and other adults | ✓ | |
| | You are able to speak in front of large groups of students and small groups of staff | ✓ | |
| | You are able to work sensitively and effectively with a range of groups and individuals | ✓ | |
| | You are a skilled communicator, both orally and in writing | ✓ | |
| | You are able to prioritise and work quickly and accurately, particularly under pressure and to meet deadlines | ✓ | |
| | You pay close attention to detail and adopt a meticulous approach to record keeping | ✓ | |
| | You have excellent literacy and numeracy skills | ✓ | |
| | You have excellent behaviour management skills | ✓ | |
| | You are effective at building strong partnerships with parents, carers and other agencies | ✓ | |
| | You are able to think creatively to solve problems, pioneering new approaches as well as understanding which prior methods have been effective | ✓ | |
| | You are able to work unsupervised, use own initiative and make appropriate decisions | ✓ | |
| | You are able to address sensitive matters with a caring approach and appropriate confidentiality | ✓ | |

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| | You are able to use ICT confidently to communicate, review data and present information to other | ✓ | |
| Personal Attributes | You have a sense of humour and good interpersonal skills | ✓ | |
| | You have high levels of energy and enthusiasm | ✓ | |
| | You are a committed, highly-competent, reflective and resilient individual | ✓ | |
| | You are prepared to work flexibly, before and after college hours, as required, to promote and support the welfare of students | ✓ | |
| | You have the highest levels of professional and personal integrity | ✓ | |
| | You are committed to your own professional learning and development | ✓ | |
| Beliefs | You believe inclusivity and equality | ✓ | |
| | You are committed to raising aspirations in the College and believe in the potential of all young people to achieve highly | ✓ | |
| | You have proven leadership skills and the ability to motivate and inspire others | ✓ | |
| | You pay close attention to detail and adopt a meticulous approach to record keeping | ✓ | |
| | You have the ability to inspire high levels of student performance | ✓ | |
| | You can work under pressure and prioritise according to need | ✓ | |
| | You are a skilled communicator, both orally and in writing | ✓ | |
| | You are a skilled presenter, able to engage and inspire others | ✓ | |
| | You are effective at building strong partnerships with parents, carers and other agencies | ✓ | |
| | You have excellent literacy and numeracy skills | ✓ | |
| | You have excellent behaviour management skills | ✓ | |
| | You have the ability to think creatively to solve problems, pioneering new approaches as well as understanding which prior methods have been effective | ✓ | |
| | You have a sense of humour and good interpersonal skills | ✓ | |
| | You have high levels of energy and enthusiasm | ✓ | |

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| | You are a committed, highly-competent, reflective and resilient individual | ✓ | |
| Beliefs | You believe inclusivity and equality | ✓ | |
| | You are committed to raising aspirations in the College and believe in the potential of all young people to achieve highly | ✓ | |

How to apply



Please complete an application form **and** write a letter of application of no more than three sides of A4 (please use font size 11 or 12 and double spacing for this). Your letter of application should include your vision for this role and how your experience and skills will equip you to realise this.

The application form can be downloaded from our website and should be returned to Joanne Lever, the College's HR Manager, **by 9.00am on Monday 15 April**, preferably by email to j.lever@unity.lancs.sch.uk.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your application by the deadline, please contact the College.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing Monday 15 April.

If you would like to arrange a visit or have an informal, confidential discussion, please contact the College's HR Manager via the email above or telephone number below.

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www.unity-college.com

