



Information for Applicants

Academy	Riddlesdown Collegiate, Croydon
Required	As soon as possible
Salary	TCT P6 £24,498 – TCT P10 £26,150 (pro rata term time only £17,352 – £18,522)
	Term Time only (38 weeks)
Interviews	As applications received





Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in the post of *Learning Support Assistant*. I hope that this information pack will help you to learn more about our fantastic school and that you will be excited about the prospect of joining our excellent team.

Riddlesdown Collegiate is an **outstanding** school (OFSTED, March 2023) with a clear vision to deliver successful outcomes and positive futures for all of our students. They are bright, well-motivated and a pleasure to work with, whilst our staff are talented, hard-working and ambitious for themselves and others. Our superb facilities enable us to provide the very best learning environment and learning experiences for our students and it is the combination of these factors that leads to the high academic standards and enviable reputation that *The Collegiate Trust* is known for. I am very proud of what we do and what we have achieved at the Collegiate and, as a *World Class School*, I hold the highest aspirations for what we will do and achieve in the future. You might like to watch our [Welcome, College VI](#) and [Teaching at Our School](#) videos.

As a Learning Support Assistant you will join a close knit team of College Inclusion Co-ordinators, HLTAs and Learning Support Assistants who provide a wide range of intervention and support for our students with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The person specification identifies the qualities, skills and attributes we are seeking, but in short, we are looking for a candidate who can demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of the additional needs of students with special needs
- warmth and resilience
- efficiency, creativity and empathy
- excellent communication skills
- an understanding of behaviour as communication
- the ability to work as part of a wider team

In applying to *Riddlesdown Collegiate*, you will need to understand our “small schools” model and your potential role within it. Our VALUES underpin the way in which we work and describe our high expectations and our emphasis on positive relationships across the Collegiate. Our motto, “*Learners of today, Leaders of tomorrow*”, applies as much to staff as it does to students and it gives an indication of the significance we place on nurturing talent and leadership. I shall make a presentation to shortlisted candidates at the start of the interview day to illustrate our structure further and outline our requirements for all colleagues who work with us.

I would be delighted to receive an application from you if, upon consideration, you feel that this role and the Collegiate may be right for you. To submit an application, please complete the form on our website, attaching where requested a statement of no more than two sides of A4, identifying clearly how you meet the person specification. If you have any further questions about this post, I would be pleased to speak with you; please feel free to telephone me at the Collegiate.

Yours sincerely

Dr P Bhatt
Principal



Key Information

We operate a “small schools” model – one school made up of a number of smaller learning communities, which we call Colleges, each with their own staff and facilities. Each College is led by its own Headteacher (who is an Assistant Principal) and has its own team of approximately 25 teachers and non-teachers, covering most curriculum areas. Students join one of the Colleges in Year 7 and remain there for five years before transferring to College VI, our specialist post-16 provision. In addition, the Creative and Performing Arts (CPA) College delivers specialist education to students across the Collegiate in Art, Drama, Design Technology, Media, Music and Physical Education whilst the MacKay College co-ordinates inclusion services to students with additional needs. Small teams, working with just 400 students each, allow us to provide even better pastoral care to all students, as well as engage with learners and their families in more effective partnerships. They also provide teaching across the curriculum and learning teams focusing on personalised approaches and best serving the needs of the individual students in their care.



Information about *The Collegiate Trust*

Our Trust works in the Crawley and Croydon areas with a clear vision to deliver *exceptional education for all*. Such an education achieves excellent outcomes in pupil progress and attainment, a rich creative, cultural and physical learning experience, and great personal and social development for all pupils. We achieve this by working with and developing strong teams of staff in each school, under the direction of the Principal of the school and the *Local Governing Body* (LGB)

The Trust has grown out of *Riddlesdown Collegiate*, an **outstanding** (OFSTED, May 2016) secondary school in Croydon with almost 2000 students and over 200 staff. *Gossops Green*, in Crawley, was the next school – and the first primary – to join the Trust, followed by *Waterfield Primary* (also in Crawley) on 1st March 2018. A second secondary, *The Quest Academy* (in Croydon), joined on 1st June 2018 and two further primaries, *Courtwood Primary* and *Gilbert Scott Primary* (both in Croydon) joined on 1st September 2018. Most recently, *Kenley Primary* joined on 1st September 2021.

Each school within the Trust is supported centrally by a designated *Director of School Improvement* on teaching and learning issues, the *Chief Operating Officer*, *Chief Finance Officer* & *HR Manager* on business management and HR issues, and the *CEO* on wider leadership issues. This complements rather than replaces in-school functions and allows the Principal and LGB to operate with a high level of autonomy in delivering the highest standards in their school. The LGB works to a *Scheme of Delegation* approved by the Trust's Board of Directors.

Our Values

Our ethos is to be a community in which all members are valued and value each other. We are the leaders of the Riddlesdown community, responsible for our learning and the Collegiate. We work together to maximise our own achievement and those of others. In applying for a post at Riddlesdown Collegiate, applicants should consider how they would promote our values in their day-to-day work with students, colleagues and other stakeholders.

Value each other

Aim high

Lead by example

Use and develop our talents

Excel in our efforts

Stick at it



Our Students

The vast majority of our students join the Collegiate in Year 7 with above average attainment. Behaviour is outstanding and our students consistently demonstrate their desire to learn and to achieve. They enjoy coming to school (attendance is over 95%) and enjoy lessons where they can explore, investigate and feel challenged by their learning. They equally value the opportunities they have to learn outside of the classroom and we are proud of the extensive and varied extra-curricular programme that our students enjoy and benefit from. It is these additional, high quality learning experiences, together with a strong set of academic qualifications that we believe provides our students with the very best chances of success in their future lives.



Care Support and Guidance at Riddlesdown

Providing outstanding care, support and guidance is crucial to the success of students and to the overall effectiveness of the Collegiate. The first point of contact for the care, support and guidance of students is their Tutor.

The role of a Tutor is to monitor and support academic progress and social welfare by communicating effectively with students, staff, and parents. Effective tutoring is very much at the heart of the pastoral care we provide, seeking to ensure that all students can feel welcome, safe, valued and encouraged to excel in a wide range of opportunities, whether academic, sporting, creative or cultural.

The Senior Tutors provide support for the Tutors in a Key Stage. Should a student have unresolved difficulties, the Senior Tutor will address the issue, whether it is personal, academic or behavioural. A restorative approach is encouraged, especially when confronting incidents of bullying or intimidation, though disciplinary sanctions such as detentions and behaviour reports to support and improve behaviour will also be appropriate at times. The Senior Tutor will ensure that the rewards policy is implemented equitably within the College and will ensure that students are recognised and celebrated for outstanding pastoral achievement.

At Riddlesdown, we are proud that we offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students at the Collegiate and within society. This also prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

To further develop our delivery of outstanding care, support and guidance, we have devoted two sessions per week to Personal Development Time (PDT) and enrichment activities. This will allow students to focus their thoughts, feelings and opinions on topical events and current affairs, as well as developing their learning skills in sessions delivered by their Tutor. Weekly assemblies support and supplement students' knowledge and understanding of weekly themes and events, and are delivered by a variety of subject areas, Tutor Groups, and senior staff throughout the year.

Each College has a College Inclusion Co-ordinator who works closely with a team of Learning Support Assistants in enhancing the work undertaken with students who experience both learning and behavioural difficulties or with those in vulnerable groups, liaising with the Deputy Head of College who also monitors attendance and punctuality within the College, meeting on a weekly basis with the pastoral team and if necessary providing support for that team on other pastoral and disciplinary matters.

The MacKay College is the hub for the Collegiate SEND provision where support for students is coordinated by the Assistant Principal, Inclusion and the Collegiate SENCo. They work closely with and are supported by the team of College Inclusion Coordinators, Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs).

The MacKay College provides additional support and intervention to students. We have strong values to ensure the Collegiate operates as a fully inclusive school. The MacKay College provides a safe, positive, welcoming and respectful place for students to work and grow as "Learners of today" and "Leaders of tomorrow".

Job Description

Purpose of the Post: To support individual students with learning needs, either in the classroom, with small groups or on a one-to-one basis

Accountable to: College Inclusion Co-ordinator

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- i. To work under the direction and guidance of the College Inclusion Co-ordinator to support with removing barriers to learning for individuals/groups, in or out of the classroom
- ii. To support access to learning for students within the class, under the direction of teaching staff.

Support for Students:

- i. To use specialist skills/training/experience to support students to make progress.
- ii. To establish productive working relationships with students, acting as a role model and setting high expectations
- iii. To support the classroom learning of individual students/small groups with SEND and the learning of Physical Needs students in Physical Education lessons
- iv. To promote positive attitude learning and maintain high ambition for all students at all times.
- v. To support students during exams and help invigilate when required.

Support for Teachers:

- i. To use strategies, in liaison with the teacher, to support SEND students to make progress and achieve their full potential.
- ii. To assist with the planning and delivery of learning opportunities and intervention sessions.
- iii. To monitor students' responses to learning activities and accurately record achievement/progress as directed
- iv. To provide detailed and regular feedback to teachers on students' achievement, progress, and barriers to learning.

Support for the Curriculum:

- i. Undertake structured and agreed learning activities.
- ii. Support the development of personalisation for SEND students to support progress and engagement.
- iii. Support the use of literacy, numeracy and ICT in learning activities and develop students' competence, independence and preparing for adulthood.

Support for the Collegiate:

- i. To be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to the SEND Code of Practice & Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- ii. To contribute to the overall ethos of the Collegiate.
- iii. Participate in training, professional learning opportunities and performance development as required.

Person Specification

Qualifications
At least A Level (or equivalent)
GCSE English & Mathematics
Experience
Successful experience of supporting students' learning and achievement in a School or similar environment.
Significant experience of supporting students with SEND and other disadvantage.
Skills and Attributes
Highly organised with excellent time management skills
Strong written and oral communication skills
Compassionate and empathic
Ability to manage multiple tasks at one time and operate to strict deadlines
Ability to be flexible and responsive to changing situations both in school and the wider community involving students' needs and provision
Demonstrate reflective personal characteristics and be able to continually seek positive outcomes for students with SEND
Ability to maintain positive relationships with all SEND students, families and the professionals who support them
Ability to support students with Physical Needs in Physical Education lessons

***The Collegiate Trust* is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the *Disclosure and Barring Service*.

Appointment will be dependent upon further health, medical and attendance checks.

Staff Benefits

The Collegiate Trust is an exciting, fast-paced group of schools committed to progress, collaboration and excellence for all staff and students alike. We are a dynamic and expanding trust of seven schools (two secondaries with Sixth Form provision, and five primaries) with numerous and diverse career opportunities for both new and existing staff.

All staff and governors, at every level of their career, in both teaching and business support functions, have an equal entitlement to Continuous Professional Development (CPD). This promotes, develops and supports staff in their shared commitment to lifelong learning. Results are reviewed and evaluated regularly in order to support further development of our CPD programme and drive constant improvement.

Through expert facilitation, Trust-wide collaboration, inter-school networking, and our extensive CPD programme, every member of staff has the opportunity to make substantial contributions to the development of the curriculum, pedagogy and delivery of business services, whilst improving their own prospects of career progression. We are committed to:-

- facilitating **career progression**
- offering **excellent professional development**
- providing **opportunities to lead**
- extending **support from Trust experts**
- developing **collaborative opportunities** to generate new and next practice

Other tangible benefits of working within a TCT school include¹:-

- ✓ Exceptional performance rewards
- ✓ Two-Week October Half Term (instead of 5 INSET days)
- ✓ Well-equipped Staff Rooms and Work Rooms in each College
- ✓ Excellent learning resources in classrooms
- ✓ Cutting-edge technology provision
- ✓ Staff Diner (delicious hot and cold meals every day)
- ✓ Free use of Fitness Suite
- ✓ Other fitness and wellbeing activities, e.g. Staff Football, Yoga, Spin, Staff Choir
- ✓ Free Flu Vaccination available
- ✓ Free Microsoft Office apps
- ✓ Potential for rapid pay progression on The Collegiate Trust scale
- ✓ Contribution to cost of Masters in Education
- ✓ A designated delivery partner for the National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)
- ✓ In partnership with St Mary's University, facilitating the delivery of the *MA Education, Leading Innovation and Change*

Individuals who are successful in their application to The Collegiate Trust join us at an exciting time. In return for the opportunity to be part of our Trust, we ask that all joining members of staff share in our vision of "Exceptional Education For All" and are motivated to work continuously towards developing their own professional excellence.

¹ At the time of publication, not all benefits available at every TCT school.

How to find us

By Car

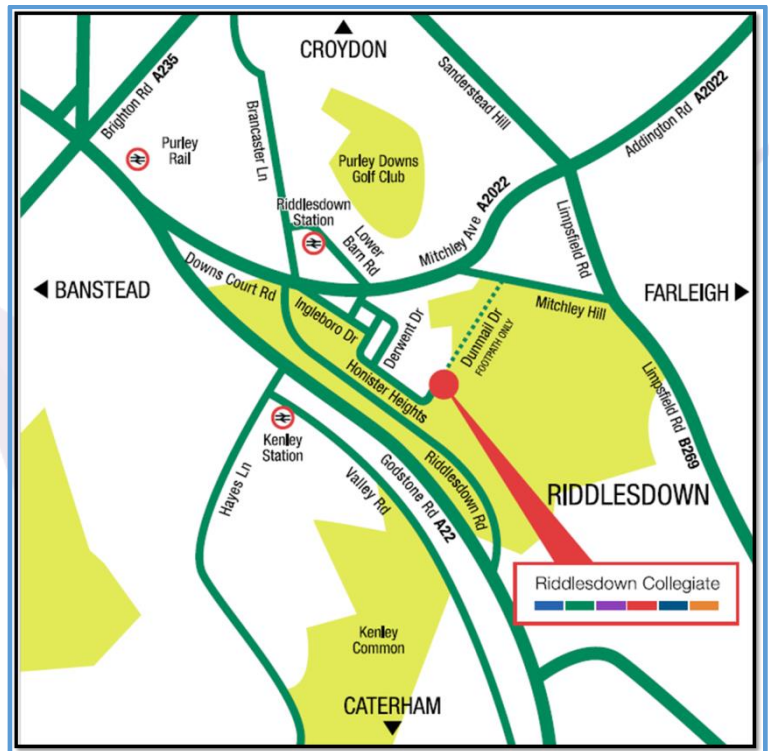
Please see the map.
M25 J6 or J7 are 10-15 minutes drive.
Parking is available on and off site.

By Train

A direct train from Victoria to Riddlesdown station takes 24 minutes. Riddlesdown station is a short walk from the school. Kenley station is also a short walk from the school, over the common. Kenley has direct trains from Victoria and London Bridge. More frequent trains run from Purley Station, where a 412 bus can be taken to Lower Barn Road, leaving a 10 minute walk.

By Bus

On routes 407, 412, 612.



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