

Heathlands School

Required for September 2024

Communication Support Worker

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the staff of this vibrant, local authority special school for deaf children aged 3-18. We are seeking to appoint an Educational Communicator to work with a KS4 pupils when attending A-Level lessons in a local mainstream school. The communicator will be responsible for supporting the young person's access to the curriculum offering simultaneous translation of English into BSL as appropriate.

Pay Scale: H6/H7 (£14.17 - £16.63 per hour depending on qualifications and experience).

Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.30pm. 32.5 per week, term time only plus 3 inset days and holiday entitlement. *Exact timings of the day could be adjusted when the final student timetables are known. This post would suit someone with aspirations to become a BSL Interpreter. Support and training towards this can be provided.*

Candidates with qualifications and/or experience of working with deaf children, ideally as educational communicators, are invited to apply. The successful candidate will have:

- Good Communication skills in BSL (minimum BSL3 with a commitment to achieve higher levels of BSL)
- Qualification in English at Level 2 (e.g. GCSE grade C or above) as a minimum
- Strong ICT skills
- A broad education to at least A level standard and the ability to understand the content of a high level secondary school curriculum
- Flexibility, initiative and common sense
- The ability to work in an effective partnership with teaching colleagues
- Sensitivity and be responsive to the social and emotional needs of young people
- Good organisational and time management skills
- Proactivity regarding our professional development and the ability to apply learning to practice.

Heathlands is committed to safeguarding pupils and this post will require an enhanced DBS check. Safer recruiting practices will be followed.

To apply for this position, please return for application form and person specification form via email to the Co-Headteachers, Heathlands School, Heathlands Drive, St Albans, AL3 5AY (head@heathlands.herts.sch.uk)

Closing date: Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 12 noon

Heathlands School Communication Support Worker

Job Purpose and Context

To provide sign language interpretation and general educational support to enable effective learning to take place for hearing impaired students in lessons where they are taught by teachers in mainstream classrooms.

To support the social, emotional and pastoral development of pupils facilitating interaction between deaf and hearing students.

To provide sign language interpretation when necessary to support inclusion in extra – curricula activities and the wider life of the school

Main Areas of Responsibility

- To interpret mainstream lessons into BSL/ SSE as preferred by the student.
- To support two way communication as necessary between staff, hearing students and Deaf students ensuring full access for everyone in the classroom e.g. voicing over.
- To support the students' access through note-taking as necessary.
- To develop and maintain effective liaison with school staff, Deaf students and parents to ensure effective learning takes place.
- To contribute to reporting procedures with regard to progress made by students in mainstream lessons.
- To liaise with Heathlands Staff to support pre and post tutoring as necessary.
- To contribute to the maintenance of a purposeful working atmosphere.
- To work within all safeguarding legislation and guidance.
- To work within the policies and procedures of the employing school and host school when supporting in a mainstream institution.

Knowledge, Experience and Training.

- An empathy with and understanding of the needs of school aged children and an appreciation of the difficulties caused by severe to profound hearing impairment.
- Minimum BSL3 with a commitment to achieve higher levels

- An awareness of the potentially intrusive nature of interpreting in mainstream lessons and act accordingly
- Minimum GCSE grade C or equivalent and an understanding of the syntax and semantics of English Language
- To have the capacity to understand the subject matter being interpreted
- Strong ICT skills
- Understanding of child development and how children learn
- Flexibility, initiative and common sense
- A calm and patient manner
- Good organisational and time management skills
- Proactivity regarding our professional development and the ability to apply learning to practice.
- Reliability and a commitment to work hard in the best interests of children

Supervision

- The subject teachers are responsible for day to day liaison with the Educational Communicator.
- Line management will be through the Assistant Headteachers of both the employing and placement school.
- Support and Advice will be offered by the Assistant Headteacher of Heathlands and the SENCO of the placement school
- Ongoing training in BSL and as an Educational Communicator will be offered by the employing school