



Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

**The Governors, staff, and of course, the students of
Stony Dean School look forward to welcoming you!**



You will also find more details about the school on our website: www.stonydean.bucks.sch.uk



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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Stony Dean School.

Due to growing student numbers we are looking to expand our team. Do you want to make a real difference to young people's learning and emotional development? Do you have a proven track record of success? Do you have high expectations? Are you a caring and enthusiastic individual? Are young people at the heart of every professional decision you make? Then Stony Dean School is for you.

Stony Dean School is an Outstanding Special School located in the "leafy" town of Amersham in South Buckinghamshire.

We are looking for a dynamic and caring person who is passionate about improving the life chances of young people through education. We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of training opportunities for the right person to ensure that you would have the right skills for the school and your future.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection commented that Stony Dean School is a "vibrant school where pupils relish taking part in school life" and where students are "exceptionally well prepared for their next steps", developing "an impressive degree of independence". Many parents have described Stony Dean School as "amazing", valuing the individual support provided to their children.

Stony Dean School have highly trained therapists and teachers who work in a truly symbiotic environment to ensure we offer the best of all opportunities to our students. We are extremely proud of our calm and nurturing environment; simultaneously seeking to challenge students and support them to be the best that they can possibly be. We provide small class sizes and personalised support to ensure the needs of every child are consistently met and that every student is able to make progress academically, personally and socially.

We cater for over 200 young people with various special educational needs, including speech and language and communication needs, Autism Spectrum disorders and moderate learning difficulties. Many pupils have a combination of special educational needs and all have an education, health and care plan.

If you are excited at the prospect of working in a collaborative and rewarding environment, then we would like to hear from you. Visits to school are encouraged. For an application pack or to arrange a visit, please contact Sharon Jacobs at sjacobs@stonydean.bucks.sch.uk

Stony Dean School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. An offer of appointment is subject to satisfactory references, Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service), PO (Prohibition Order) checks, social media checks and medical clearance.





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ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Stony Dean School is a heavily oversubscribed secondary special school situated in Amersham in Buckinghamshire. We are very proud of the fact that we were the first school in this county to gain specialist SEN College status and our designation is for Communication and Interaction. This underpins the whole life of the school and our curriculum focuses on language development for all our students.

The students who attend Stony Dean come from across the south of Buckinghamshire and occasionally from neighbouring authorities or from the north of this county, if their specific SEN cannot be met elsewhere.

Our school is a calm and productive learning environment, where the staff team seek to maximise the potential of every student and to take advantage of every learning opportunity. The school is consistently successful in achieving appropriate Post 18 placements for students in either colleges, supported internships or employment with training. Many of these further education places will be on “mainstream” college courses, as our students will have met the entry requirements and will have the self-confidence as independent learners to participate fully in the adult world.

Our beliefs and philosophies of teaching and learning are underpinned by the values of collaborative practice. As a school, our therapists and teachers work together to ensure that students have the best possible educational experience. Strategies and interventions are research based and targeted to support the needs of the students. We believe that every child can succeed and we have tailored our curriculum to develop their literacy, employability and independent living skills.

Stony Dean students are lively, thoughtful and always ready to participate in a wide range of curriculum and extra-curricular activities. They are a remarkable group of young people and it is an enormous privilege to work alongside them as they make the journey following the transition from primary school, all the way to adulthood.





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WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL DISTINCTIVE?

Curriculum Breadth

The school offers a heavily adapted curriculum, designed to support different groups of learner's successes. Students experience learning in a group setting that target key areas of their academic and social development. We offer a range of accreditations depending upon the student pathway and future aspirations. Students complete appropriate qualifications for their ability and need in English, Maths and Science as well as a range of other subjects.

The school is rapidly developing its vocational and Learning 4 Life courses and also has positive links with a range of external providers. Work related learning is on the timetable for all students and this is the vehicle we use to enable them to experience the practical application of their learning and to gain the skills necessary to achieve independence. Students within our Sixth Form, complete modules towards their Princes Trust qualifications and also participate in work placements, greatly assisting them to achieve employment after leaving us. Students also take part in lessons that develop their speech and language abilities, both practically and socially, as well as targeted lessons focusing on their individual outcomes of their EHCPs, as they move through the school.

Extra-Curricular Activity

As well as external providers, Stony Dean is fortunate to have dedicated staff who volunteer their time to organise extra-curricular clubs and activities. This year we have clubs at lunchtime and after school offering activities such as football, cooking, table tennis, art, basketball, music, boxing and ICT to name but a few. We also run homework clubs at lunchtime to support students who may struggle to complete homework tasks at home.

Trips are a strength of Stony Dean. Students have the privilege of going out on trips regularly as part of their studies, as well as to encourage and support their social development. Trips include visits to Hazard Alley, the Swan Theatre, Whipsnade Zoo and more local visits to the surrounding towns and villages to get the students used to buying a drink in a coffee shop or purchasing an item from a shop. Students in Years' 11 and above also have the option to attend the annual residential trip, most recently to North Yorkshire and Wales, further developing their independence and life skills.

Community

The school has excellent links with the local community; both in Amersham itself, and the surrounding area. The school takes part in many local community events such as performing arts at Energize - Wycombe Swan Theatre and links with Amersham Town Council. As a result of our involvement in such events, we are proud to receive numerous awards over the years, including most recently, The Amersham Town Council Community Support and Involvement Award. We also organise a number of events on the school site for the local community and parents. Highlights have included the Christmas and Summer Fayres, Sports Days, Art Shows and Coffee Mornings.

All schools are different and we believe that what is unique about Stony Dean is not just what we have shown you already, but also how our staff, students, parents and the community feel about our school:

'Stony Dean School – Working to Inspire'



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What do parents say?

Key strengths of the school are seen to be the location/setting, the leadership and management, the safe, secure and welcoming environment and the breadth of opportunities available to children. Parents comment regularly on how pleased they are with their child's progress and how easily they settle in to the school. Because we so often support families in matters beyond their child's education, parents are also positive about how much support they receive from specialists and teachers working in the school. We are often their first port of call in times of need, as well as in times of celebration. We often receive emails with comments such as:

'My son has absolutely blossomed since joining the school'

'You have inspired my son – not an easy feat by any means!'

'I am so grateful for your detailed advice on my son's transition from KS3 to KS4, it has really helped to clarify what will happen over the next two years and beyond'.

What do students say?

The students are very positive about their school. They feel well supported and that their teachers and tutors genuinely care for their well-being and education. Staff forge excellent working relationships with the students at the school and we often discover how important this has been to them when they reach an important transition point, such as the end of Year 11 or 13. Some comments from such students have been:

'Thank you for giving me the confidence to do the GCSE exam'

'Thank you for not giving up on me and for understanding me'

'I appreciate your help with choosing what to do when I leave Stony Dean'.





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Finally, what about the staff?

We are incredibly lucky at Stony Dean to have such a supportive and caring staff. They are also proud of their school and the students in it. There is a culture of continuous learning and development at the school and staff want to ensure they are at the top of their game. They work collaboratively with a range of specialists to make this happen.

'Stony Dean is a lovely, rewarding place to work, especially if you have a sense of humour. All staff are helpful, caring, approachable, calm and helped me to settle in'.

Benefits of Working at Stony Dean:

- Free onsite parking
- Discounted hot lunches prepared daily onsite
- Comprehensive CPD package, developing staff to their full potential
- Safe and caring place to work where staff and students feel secure and subsequently thrive
- Discounts to various local day nurseries & fitness centres and other local businesses
- Cycle to Work Scheme
- Local Government Pension Scheme
- Bus Service Discounts in Buckinghamshire and Off-Peak Chiltern Railway Discounts
- Employee Assistance Programme (PAM Assist)
- 50% discount to one adult learning course per academic year

Application Details

We strongly recommend that you visit the school in person to get a feel for the culture, the children, staff and location. We would be very happy to see you – just contact Sharon Jacobs on the email address below to make an appointment. Applications are only via an application form that is available on the below email address. If you would like a confidential and informal discussion about the school and the role please contact Sharon Jacobs on: sjacobs@stonydean.bucks.sch.uk

Interview and Assessment Arrangements

Stony Dean School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be expected to obtain an enhanced DBS check.

How to find us:

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