



## SCIENCE TECHNICIAN Information for Applicants

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### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in this post. The Kings of Wessex is an exceptional Academy with a strong commitment to excellence. There are currently nearly 1100 students on roll aged 13 to 18, including a flourishing Sixth Form of 260.

Kings is an exciting and rewarding place to work and the Academy prides itself on its academic success and wide range of achievements, enjoying an excellent reputation in the community and beyond. As a result demand for places is high.

### History of the Academy

The Kings of Wessex was opened in 1976, although the origins of the Academy in fact date back to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century when Hannah More founded the first school in Cheddar. The remains of an important Anglo Saxon Palace were discovered on the site, hence the name of *'The Kings of Wessex'*. The outline of the site of the Palace and also the ruins of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Chapel of St Columbanus today enhance the setting of the Academy.

Kings has Church of England Voluntary Controlled Status, which is reflected in both the composition of the Trustees of The Kings of Wessex Academy Trust and the ethos of the Academy. On 1 September 2006 Kings became a Foundation School and on 1 June 2011 became an Academy under the Government's fast-track scheme for Outstanding Schools.

Kings is situated in the thriving village of Cheddar, at the foot of the picturesque Mendip Hills. Cheddar is, of course, famous for its Gorge and cheese and is within easy commuting distance of Bristol, Bath, Wells and Weston-super-Mare. The Academy serves a predominantly rural area and receives students from Cheddar and the surrounding villages.

### Academy Aims

The Academy's mission is: *'To get the best out of everyone'*, and to achieve this we aim:

- To strive constantly for excellence.
- To make effective learning the focus of the Academy.
- To teach in a way that both inspires and challenges each student to become responsible for their own learning.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which is relevant to students now and in their adult lives.
- To promote an understanding of the meaning, significance and values of the Christian faith.
- To promote an active partnership between the Academy, parents, the communities of the Cheddar Valley, and our international partners.
- To foster a caring and orderly environment for learning in which every student can feel secure and valued as an individual.
- To provide equal opportunities for all.
- To value and professionally develop all staff.
- To promote responsible citizenship and lifelong learning.

## Examination Results 2016

In 2016, our students achieved excellent examination results at both GCSE and A Level.

Results at GCSE were a school record for Kings with 82% of students awarded five or more grades A\* - C and 76% achieving five or more Grades A\* - C including English and Maths. The overall pass rate was once again 99%, and a quarter were the top Grades A\*/A. It is wonderful to report that Kings is now in the Top 100 Schools in the country for its performance at GCSE.

Similarly, A level results were outstanding and amongst some of the best in the country and the overall pass rate was 99% with more than 50% of students awarded Grades A\*, A and B.

## Ofsted Inspection 2015

Kings was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2015 when the overall judgment was good with outstanding for the Sixth Form.

Kings is an exceptional Academy and we continue to be proud of our achievements. It was particularly pleasing that our Sixth Form and the safeguarding of our young people were both judged to be outstanding. We are working hard to focus on the areas noted for improvement in the report.

The SIAMS inspection in March 2015 judged Kings to be Outstanding Church of England Academy.

## Academy Leadership Group

The Academy Leadership Group is composed of the Executive Headteacher, a Deputy Head, three Assistant Heads and the Bursar with the following responsibilities:

- Executive Headteacher - Strategic Vision, Curriculum, Improvement, Planning and Evaluation
- Deputy Headteacher - Student Welfare and Guidance, Intervention and Child Protection
- Assistant Headteacher - Examinations and Assessment, ICT and e-Learning
- Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning/Continuing Professional Learning
- Assistant Headteacher - Sixth Form
- Bursar – Finance and Premises

In addition, the ALG has a number of shared responsibilities that include policy formulation and evaluating the work of the Academy. ALG are linked with Year Leaders and Subject Leaders for the purpose of communication and accountability, and monitor the work of the Academy through performance data, subject reviews, lesson observations and the scrutiny of students' work.

ALG meet three times each week to plan and evaluate the work of the Academy.

## Academy Improvement Planning

The Academy has an annual development planning cycle.

An opportunity is provided for all staff, students and parents to contribute to the Academy Improvement Plan. Priorities are also informed by the outcomes of inspection, performance data, and academy self-evaluation. All Subject Teams are required to prepare an Action Plan that reflects the Academy Improvement Plan priorities and is monitored by the Academy Leadership Group. A termly report is submitted to the Governing Body on the implementation of the Academy Improvement Plan.

The priorities of the current Academy Improvement Plan are as follows:

- 1. Improving the Outcomes for Students**
- 2. Improving Teaching, Learning and Assessment**
- 3. Improving Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare**
- 4. Implementing the Curriculum and Examination Reforms**
- 5. Improving the Effectiveness of Leadership and Management**

## Teaching and Learning

Effective Teaching and Learning is central to the work of Kings. Teachers make an enormous difference to the success, or otherwise, of students, and it is for this reason that we are constantly striving to improve. The Academy has a dynamic and exciting programme of Teaching and Learning, including a Teaching Framework to which all staff are expected to adhere, setting out the minimum expectations in terms of pedagogy and classroom management.

Teachers deploy various strategies to make lessons exciting and enlightening, and there is an emphasis on active learning in lessons rather than passive. A team of Learning Coaches work closely with colleagues to support them and enhance good practice and staff are equipped with a Teaching and Learning Toolkit.

Good planning is central to good teaching and all teaching staff plan their work on a daily basis on their laptop identifying learning objectives, teaching and learning activities and homework.

Sharing good practice is important and staff are encouraged to work together with colleagues to share aspects of their teaching that they feel went particularly well. There are also opportunities for staff to observe lessons of colleagues across the Academy.

## Curriculum

All students benefit from a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum up to the age of 16. Our young people are entering a world marked by rapid technological, globalisation and social change, and in their adult lives even greater demands will be made on them needing adaptability, self-reliance, confidence and high standards of education.

The curriculum is organised within Subject Teams with support provided by Learning Support. There are five 60/65 minute lessons in the academy day, as well as a 20 minute assembly/tutor period.

All students in Year 9 study Core Science, and approximately 60% will move on to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate Sciences whilst the remainder will take dual award Science.

Students who are capable of progressing to University are currently advised to take a Humanities Subject (History or Geography) and a Language (French or German) to be able to achieve the English Baccalaureate

All students follow a three-year Key Stage 4 curriculum commencing in Year 9. The core subjects include English, Maths, Science (Dual and Triple), and R.E. All are required to choose from History or Geography and approximately 80% of the cohort study either French or German. Those not studying a Language receive additional teaching time for English and Maths. Students are able to choose three options from the following list of GCSE/BTEC subjects: Geography, History, ICT, Computing, Product Design, Cooking and Nutrition, Business Studies, P.E., French, German, Art and Design, Textiles, Music, Performing Arts.

All students study non accredited courses in PSHE/Citizenship and Physical Education in Years 9 to 11.

## Sixth Form

Students in the Sixth Form at Kings can currently study the following AS Level and A Level courses:

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Studies
- Design & Technology
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- German
- History
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education and Sport Science
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies & Philosophy
- Sociology
- Textiles

Year 12 students have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification as an extra A2 Level qualification. Each student is assigned a Staff Supervisor, and completes a 5,000 word dissertation over the summer holidays. Whilst the Extended Project is entirely optional for the students, they are actively encouraged to undertake the important independent study project. Supervisors meet with the students, but are not required to mark the dissertation. It is the students' responsibility to organise the meetings and to complete their dissertation.

The Sixth Form have their own Common Room for use at free time. In addition to the Sixth Form Study Room, students also make use of our Learning Resources Centre for private study. A large number of Year 11 students chose to continue their education in the Sixth Form and a growing number of students are opting to transfer into the Sixth Form from other local Schools and Academies.

The students play an important role in the Academy, organising the student council, charity events and attending academy events. The Head Boy, Head Girl and Senior Student Team are selected every year from the Sixth Form following a testing selection process.

## Assessment and Reporting

All students are assessed at regular intervals by their teachers and the assessment pattern is dominated largely by public examinations. GCSE, AS and A2 Level examinations take place in June and there are also internal examinations for Years 9, 10 and 11.

Students in all year groups are made aware of their target grades at the beginning of the year and receive regular assessment feedback from their teachers in the form of predicted grades.

All teachers record assessment data electronically using SIMS Assessment Manager. This "electronic mark book" is also used to distribute prior attainment data and to support the monitoring of students' progress against their targets.

## Celebrating Achievement

Celebrating our students' achievements is important at Kings. Throughout the academic year, students receive merits for their work and contribution to Kings leading to Special Achievement Awards: Bronze (15 merits); Silver (30), Gold (50), Double Gold (75), Platinum (100), Double Platinum (150) and Titanium (250). Students are presented with Special Achievement badges, certificates and from Double Gold to Titanium, students also receive vouchers.

Praise Post cards are also sent home to parents to celebrate students' work and end of term presentation assemblies are held to celebrate students for their achievement and contribution in academic and enrichment subjects, colours, 100% attendance and other awards. Students are also celebrated as "Stars of the Term" for each Department in special display boards around the Academy.

A special highlight on the academic calendar is the annual Awards Evening in September, when we welcome parents, Governors and friends of the Academy to celebrate our students' success, which is attended by all staff.

## Setting Arrangements

In Years 9 – 11, students are set according to their ability in Maths, Science and, to a more limited extent, in English and Languages.

The rest of the Year 9 curriculum is taught in mixed ability groups. In Years 10 and 11 students are taught in groups that are determined by their option choices.

## Staffing

Kings' greatest asset is, of course, its staff and we are committed to supporting fully both teachers and non-teachers. The Academy currently has around 80 teachers organised in Subject Teams and Year Groups and over 40 support staff across the Academy.

Staff enjoy positive and supportive relationships, and a teamwork ethos. An induction programme is provided for all new staff, and there is a strong commitment to professional development. All teaching staff are provided with a laptop computer.

Job descriptions are issued to all staff and are reviewed as appropriate. All teaching staff are involved in appraisals with an annual meeting to review and set targets. Meetings are held regularly with a weekly briefing for all teaching staff, half termly Subject Leader meetings, followed by team meetings and Year Leader meetings.

All staff appointed to The Kings of Wessex are expected to support the aims of the Academy and uphold high our professional standards. The Academy has a staff dress policy and is a non-smoking environment.

## Continuing Professional Learning

We are committed to the professional development of all staff and provide training, which supports colleagues at all levels of the organisation in their work. Staff who are new to the Academy are supported by an Induction Programme and are assigned an individual mentor.

A wide range of Continuing Professional Learning sessions is on offer to support staff in improving their teaching, assessment and leadership skills. These include external training, in-house training, visits to other Schools and Academies and time off timetable to work with colleagues. A Continuing Professional Learning programme by teachers for teachers runs throughout the year in twilight sessions.

The Academy has a strong commitment to leadership training through programmes, and also includes supporting staff on the NPQH programme.

Kings works in partnership with other Somerset Academies to provide joint training and professional development opportunities.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The work of the Academy is evaluated by the Academy Leadership Group (ALG) and Subject Leaders Team.

Performance data is monitored on an on-going basis. All teaching staff receive data that shows the Value Added progress made by students in their teaching groups. ALG undertake reviews involving lesson observations, scrutiny of students work, and discussion with students. This helps to inform priorities for future work, and also helps to monitor the implementation and impact of new initiatives.

Subject Leaders complete individual Team Evaluations, including undertaking lesson observations, student voice and scrutiny of work. This information is then discussed with their ALG Link and contributes towards the evaluation of the Academy.

## Welfare and Guidance

To ensure students develop their full potential, it is vital that they are given the support and guidance that enables them to get the best out of their learning. On entry to the Academy, the students are placed in mixed ability tutor groups, in which they generally remain throughout the Academy.

This academic year, there are currently ten forms of entry in Years 9, 10, and 11, each with a Tutor who looks after day-to-day matters and monitors the progress of students.

A Year Leader has overall responsibility for each year group in the Lower Academy and the Assistant Headteacher is responsible for the Sixth Form. Each year has its own student committee and representatives are elected to sit on the School Council. The School Council is an excellent student voice for the Academy and meets every half term, providing an opportunity for the discussion and debate of Academy issues. Successful projects in the past include a road safety campaign, a green transport debate and additions to uniform.

All students follow a programme of PSHE/Citizenship (Personal, Social and Health Education) to help them cope with the demands of life in and out of the Academy. The course includes areas such as Health Education, Sex Education, Study Skills and Careers Education and Guidance.

Our Mentoring Plus programme supports all Year 11 students and Mentors meet with students six times on a one-to-one basis during the academic year to review progress and set new learning targets. The Mentor liaises directly with subject staff to ensure students are kept on track and that any missing work is caught up. Any student falling behind, or needing additional support attends compulsory extra sessions at lunchtime and after school.

## ICT

The Network Manager and team of ICT Technicians, and Web Developer oversee the network, which provides access for administration and curriculum use.

Firefly, our Virtual Learning Environment provides teachers and students with anytime, anywhere browser access to online educational resources and services. Through Firefly, people can share their ideas and knowledge, and communicate and collaborate more easily.

Teachers can set homework and add resources which students can then access from home. Students can also save their work onto Firefly whilst in the Academy and access it at home.

All subject areas have access to ICT provision with computer suites serving most subjects. The majority of classrooms are equipped with data projectors and Kings has over 500 PCs. Extensive use is made of ICT for both teaching and learning across all subjects.

All teaching staff have a laptop computer linked to a wireless network, used for lesson planning, registering attendance, recording assessment data and communication by email.

## Careers Education and Guidance

A dedicated Careers Adviser works with our young people to provide careers information, advice and guidance. The emphasis in Year 9 is on helping young people to make decisions and explore career opportunities. Whilst in Year 10 students undertake a period of work experience in the Summer Term and work in the Academy focuses on helping students to prepare.

Throughout Year 11 students receive guidance and support in helping them to make decisions about Post-16 options. In the Sixth Form the emphasis is on helping young people through the application process for Higher Education or in entering the workplace.

Careers education also forms part of our PSHE/Citizenship Programme and young people receive individual support and guidance in response to their specific needs.

## Facilities

The Academy is sited on an attractive campus close to the centre of the village of Cheddar, with views across the Mendip Hills and Somerset Levels. Each Subject Team has its own suite of rooms with a teacher planning room, and there are specialist facilities in Design Technology, Science, Languages, Art, Music, and ICT.

The Academy has a state-of-art Kings Theatre and modern Learning Resources Centre, which houses the Academy library and is equipped with a suite of computers and study area.

Also on the campus is a large sports centre 'Kings Fitness and Leisure,' a separate company to the Academy. The Centre is popular busy and enjoys a large membership, providing a wide range of classes and access to a Sports Hall, studios, squash courts, swimming pool and recently the Fitness Suite was extended providing a modern space. All academy employees who work more than 0.4 FTE (20 hours) per week are entitled to a Complimentary Silver Membership to Kings Fitness and Leisure. The membership entitles staff to full and unlimited access to the gym facilities, swimming pool and racquet sports.

New changing rooms were opened last year and are a modern addition to the P.E. Department and the Centre. This year, the Academy opened its own Kings Café, and the new kitchens and café provide a large dedicated space for students and are a wonderful addition to the Kings campus.

The Academy has in-house services for catering and cleaning and contracts out its ground maintenance.

Cheddar Arts@Kings Theatre, who run a lively programme of theatre, film, music and comedy events. Both are run by a team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers.

## Finance

The Academy manages its own annual budget in excess of £5 million, with funding for capitation devolved to Subject Teams on a formula basis and Subject Leaders are responsible for its effective management.

The Academy has been successful in attracting significant additional funding over recent years.

## Parent Partnership

The Academy works very closely with parents and is committed to an effective partnership for the benefit of our students. Parents are welcomed into the Academy and we are in regular contact with home to report on progress and broader academy issues. Tutors phone home to parents at the start of term to inform of tutees' progress and keep in close contact during the year.

Parents are kept informed throughout the year with news items on the website, the Headteacher's blog and the student News Team also write a Student Blog.

The Parent Teacher Association is very active at Kings, and provides valuable support and an important link between the Academy and the Parent Body. The PTA gives generously to Subject Teams and raises money from providing refreshments and raffles at academy events and donations by parents to the Enrichment Fund.

## Learning Support

Our Learning Support Department provides excellent support for our young people, and is based in a dedicated support room, well equipped with computers and support materials. In addition, there is a separate therapy room with facilities for delivering physiotherapy programmes.

Students identified as requiring support may have access to the following, depending on their level of need:

- In-class support
- Withdrawal to the Learning Support Department to develop basic skills
- Star Reading programme, which is well supported by our Sixth Form students and community volunteers
- Individual programmes

Where required, a diagnostic assessment, using a wide range of standardised tests, may be undertaken to inform teaching and plan the way forward.

There is opportunity for students to attend lunchtime study support sessions in the Learning Support to help complete homework and catch-up on coursework.

## Enrichment Activities

Kings has a wonderful tradition of providing students with an exciting programme of enrichment activities, ranging from sports, to Knit and Natter, "Platform" Creative Arts/Writing magazine, Photography, Engage (Christian Union) the Kings and Queens News Team and many more. There are termly musical concerts and annual productions involving a large cast of students and this year, students performed the popular musical "*Chicago*". The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular with students and provides opportunity for them to challenge themselves.

In the Autumn Term Year 9 are introduced to the enrichment programme at the Freshers' Fayre and also enjoy a Sports and Arts Taster Day.

International visits include trips to France, Disneyland Paris, Germany, New York, Poland and South Africa, with Operation Wallacea students recently travelled to Mexico in the summer holidays. Last Autumn Half Term break Science and ICT & Computing teamed up to go to San Francisco for an exciting visit - including the world of Silicon Valley.

The Academy has a House system with four Houses: *Avalon*, *Camelot*, *Lyonnesse* and *Tintagel*, which operate on a vertical basis. There are inter-house competitions with awards presented each term for the winning houses.

It is expected that all staff will assist in providing enrichment opportunities for our students.



## Wessex Learning Trust

From this new academic year Kings joined together with seven partner schools (Axbridge First School, Lympsham First School, East Brent First School, Mark First School, Weare First School, Wedmore First School and Hugh Sexey Middle School) to form a Multi Academy Trust named the “Wessex Learning Trust.”

The Academy works closely with a wider group of schools who together form the Cheddar Valley Learning Partnership. The Cheddar Valley operates a tier education system and within seven miles of the Academy there are nine First Schools (aged 4-9) and two Middle Schools (ages 9-13) that all feed into The Kings of Wessex Academy. The Schools work closely together to give children in the area continuity in their education from five to 18.

The ten Headteachers meet regularly to plan provision within the Cheddar Valley and operate together as an effective team. Subject co-ordination is strong, with teachers involved in an established programme of cross-phase curriculum planning. The Cheddar Valley Schools come together on occasion for joint training days and opportunities are also provided to involve students in shared activities.

## Science Technician – from September 2017

We are seeking an enthusiastic person to join our Science Team as Science Technician to support the teachers and students, in the day-to-day running of the Department and to prepare for practical lessons.

The post is working term time only for the 38 school weeks, Mondays to Fridays (hours to be confirmed) with half an hour for lunch (30 hours) plus two days during the school holidays for training to be agreed with the Subject Leader for Science.

The actual starting salary is at Grade 14 point 13 at is £11,147 p.a. (*as at the 2016-2017 pay scales*).

### **Key Responsibilities of the Post**

1. To help maintain a safe and tidy working environment in the Science Department by helping to maintaining high standards of safe practice and a healthy learning and working environment.
2. To keep up-to-date with Health and Safety requirements for the Science Team, including any relevant documentation or practice in relation to the teaching of Science.
3. To ensure that routines are established to organise the maintenance and repair of equipment.
4. To prepare resources for lessons as directed within the schemes of work, including glassware, other equipment, chemicals and electrical equipment for safe and economic use. To work with staff on developing new resources and materials to inform quality science teaching.
5. To provide general technical support during lessons with a specific focus as advised by staff.
6. To create and maintain Science displays under the guidance of the Subject Leader.
7. To undertake Departmental administration: maintaining inventories of equipment and managing stock rotation, including ordering of materials and resources.
8. With guidance to be responsible as part of their role in the safe storage of equipment and resources paying due diligence to the relevant regulations, guidelines and procedure in line with the Academy's Health & safety protocols. This may involve undertaking training, routines testing and checking as appropriate to the task or situation.
9. To undertake other duties and responsibilities as directed for example with guidance and support carry out supervisory roles at social times, or attend educational trips and visits.

### **General Requirements**

1. At certain points of the day the postholder will be expected to undertake bending, lifting and washing up in the course of their duties.
2. Due to the nature of the post there will be an expectation that the postholder will be exposed to small amounts of flammables, hazardous materials, dirt and dust on occasions.
3. The postholder will be expected to undertake any appropriate training provided by the Academy to assist them in carrying out any of the above duties.
4. The postholder will be expected to contribute to the protection of students as appropriate, in accordance with any agreed policies and/or guidelines, reporting any issues or concerns to their immediate Line Manager.
5. This job description only contains the main accountabilities relating to this post and does not describe in detail all the duties required to carry them out.
6. The Kings of Wessex Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced Disclosure Service Barring Check is required prior to appointment.

## PERSONNEL SPECIFICATION – Science Technician

FACTORS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	HOW IDENTIFIED
<b>1. Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good standard of education: five GCSEs Grade A* to C including Maths, English and Science.</li> <li>• Evidence of good numeracy and literacy</li> <li>• Good IT skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Higher Education qualification in Science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Form</li> <li>• Application Form</li> </ul>
<b>2. Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interest in working in a school/educational centre to provide practical support for lessons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous experience of working in a school or in one of the technician subject areas.</li> <li>• A Levels or level 3 qualifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview/Application Form/Reference</li> <li>• Application Form</li> </ul>
<b>3. Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to work as a member of a team</li> <li>• Ability to relate to students</li> <li>• Good knowledge of the three Sciences</li> <li>• Excellent organisational skills</li> <li>• Punctuality</li> <li>• Confidentiality when required</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> <li>• Interview/Reference</li> </ul>

*The Wessex Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding young people.*

## **Your Application:**

If you wish to apply for our Science Technician post, please complete the Support Staff Application form and Equal Opportunities Recruitment monitoring form, which are both available on our website.

You are also asked to include a letter of application in which you describe your experience to date, professional strengths and the contribution you believe you could make to the post of Science Technician here at Kings.

**Please forward the following completed documents:**

- 1. Support Staff Application form**
- 2. Equal Opportunities Recruitment monitoring form**
- 3. Letter of application**

\*Please note in accordance with our safe recruiting, your application should include **all** of the above documents\*

**Please forward to:**

**The Executive Headteacher, The Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset  
BS27 3AQ**

**Email: [jobs@kowessex.co.uk](mailto:jobs@kowessex.co.uk)**

**Telephone: 01934 742608**

**Website: [www.kowessex.co.uk](http://www.kowessex.co.uk)**

**Please send applications ASAP.**

*Thank you for your interest in this post and in our Academy.*