

April 2024

I am delighted you have taken an interest in the position of Exams Officer at The Catholic High School, Chester. Your application will be the first step in joining our ambitious and successful team and coincides with an exciting phase of our development as we progress our school. Having been judged as 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2021, we are eager to continue on our school improvement journey. If you feel you have the energy, determination and ideas to be part of this journey, then we would love to hear from you.

Our school is about everyone working together to achieve the best for our students and our staff. We know that success comes from knowing our roles and ensuring that we push our potential every day. As a Catholic school we strive to serve each other at every opportunity in order to create a family environment. If this sounds like the school for you, then let us know.

The position is 41.2 weeks a year term time only, paid over 12 months.

Mrs C McKeagney

Headteacher

# Exams Officer

## The role

We have an exciting opportunity for an Exams Officer to join our school. The successful candidate will be passionate in working with our children and families to make a difference for them to our children. We are looking to recruit a colleague with both the commitment and relevant skills to embody our culture, enthuse students, and help to raise standards throughout the school. The successful candidate will join the school at an exciting time. Having been judged as 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2021, we are eager to continue on our school improvement journey – and we look forward to having you on this journey.

## The successful candidate will:

- To be responsible for managing the effective and efficient administration of external examinations in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations (on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies<sup>1</sup>) and/or awarding body rules for exams administration in a consistent and secure fashion, thereby helping to maintain the integrity of the assessment process
- To support the Head of centre in ensuring that the centre is compliant with the JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times.
- To act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments
- To closely liaise with key stakeholders (external and internal) to ensure exams administration processes are strictly followed and key deadlines met.
- To ensure examinations are conducted in accordance with the regulations.
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff, supports the head of centre in taking all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations have taken place.

As part Catholic School within the Diocese of Shrewsbury, there is an expectation that the successful candidate will embrace Catholic Life working to demonstrate Catholic Social Teaching in everything that we do.

## Our School

**The Catholic High School, Chester** is an academy where we all strive for excellence. We have a real sense of community, and being part of the community is incredibly important to us. As part of our school improvement journey, we have clear plans to ensure that outcomes continue to improve. Our team approach is evident in everything that we do, and this has been a key factor in securing school improvement in recent years.

We believe in the importance of all of our students achieving a Quality First Education, which in turn enables our students to believe that they can achieve whatever they want to with hard work, determination and self-motivation.

The role of the Exams officer is a key role, working with a range of internal and external parties ensuring that students and families are supported and guided through their exams in an effective and supportive manner so that all aspects of exams are managed well.

### **What we offer**

You will be part of the school's admin team, supporting the Senior Leadership Team to enable the student to process through their exams in as smooth a way as possible.

As part of The Catholic High School, Chester you will be open to opportunities to develop as an individual within the school through our Training Programme. The value of being part of our team should not be underestimated, joining The Catholic High School, Chester will mean that you will be part of a supportive and dedicated group of staff who will invest in your professional development. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop your abilities and knowledge whilst working in a supportive environment in conjunction with other very dedicated and professional staff.

The role is Permanent Role over 41.2 weeks a year (Term Time) paid over 12 months. 37 hours a week 8am to 4pm (3.30 pm Friday). To include INSET days and exam results days. (Subject to a successful probation period of 6 months)

**Pay** – Grade 6 SCP 11 – 17 £25,979 - £28,770 (pro rata for 41.2 weeks £23,680 - £26,817.29)

Commitment to support your professional development.

Opportunity to join the Cheshire Local Government Pension Scheme.

You will not be able to take holidays during term time.

For further information, please have a look at our website [www.christofidelis.org.uk](http://www.christofidelis.org.uk)

**Closing date: 3pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**Interviews will take place on a date tbc.**

Further details and an application pack are available from the vacancies page on our website:

[Vacancies - The Chester Catholic High School \(christofidelis.org.uk\)](http://www.christofidelis.org.uk)

Applications should be returned via email to: Andrew Kilcoyne, Business Manager  
[kilcoynea@christofidelis.org.uk](mailto:kilcoynea@christofidelis.org.uk)

*The Catholic High School, Chester is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our students and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check applies to all roles.*

## The Catholic High School, Chester

**Job Description**                      **Exams Officer**

**Responsible to:** Deputy Headteacher

### **Purpose of the role**

- To be responsible for managing the effective and efficient administration of external examinations in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations (on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies<sup>2</sup>) and/or awarding body rules for exams administration in a consistent and secure fashion, thereby helping to maintain the integrity of the assessment process.
- To support the Head of centre in ensuring that the centre is compliant with the JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements in order to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times.
- To act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments
- To closely liaise with key stakeholders (external and internal) to ensure exams administration processes are strictly followed and key deadlines met.
- To ensure examinations are conducted in accordance with the regulations.
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff, supports the head of centre in taking all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations have taken place.

### **Main duties and responsibilities**

#### **Before examinations**

##### Planning

- Maintain and develop systems to manage and coordinate all aspects of the exams administration process.
- Research and understand qualifications and how they are assessed.
- Identify and access relevant support available from external stakeholders (Awarding bodies/JCQ/Network group/The Exams Office etc.)
- Comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions and keep abreast of developments/changes/updates.
- Effectively use JCQ and awarding body online tools where required (e.g. the Centre Admin Portal (CAP), secure extranet sites)
- Oversee (as the main administrator) and manage appropriate access rights for relevant internal stakeholders using JCQ and awarding body online tools.
- Manage own time effectively to ensure key tasks are undertaken and external key dates and deadlines are met (Achieved by creating and working to an annual exam plan)

- Communicate clear internal deadlines and processes for gathering/sharing exam-related information from/with relevant internal stakeholders.
- Brief candidates/staff/parents/carers on examination regulations and requirements
- Actively support the head of centre in co-operating with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation or an unannounced visit
- Annually confirm the information required by the National Centre Number Register (as administered by OCR on behalf of the JCQ) and informs of any changes to centre status.
- Manage arrangements to receive, check and store confidential question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the regulations.
- Support the head of centre in managing potential conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies to timescale for each examination series and recording the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected.
- Contribute to the creation/review/update of exam-related policies/procedures as required by the regulations and accurately reflect working practices in the centre.
- Support the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) (or equivalent role) in implementing examination access arrangements and reasonable adjustments for eligible candidates (processing approval applications and requesting modified papers by the published deadlines)

## Entries

- Observe the awarding bodies' published terms, conditions and processes for the registration or entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations/assessments.
- Register or enter candidates for an examination or assessment in accordance with the awarding bodies' published procedures and published deadline for that qualification.
- Implement processes and liaise with relevant internal stakeholders to gather correct entry information to internal deadlines implementing strategies to avoid late (or other penalty) fees.
- Maintain required identifiers for each candidate entered for an examination/assessment and enter candidates who are on roll at the centre as internal candidates.
- Verify the identity of all students that are entered for examinations/assessments.
- Effectively use internal and external IT systems to submit and manage awarding body registration and entry data.
- Liaise with Finance to ensure fees are paid as instructed and at the time specified by the awarding bodies.
- Submit any applications for transferred candidate arrangements in accordance with the awarding body requirements.
- Liaise with relevant internal stakeholders to ensure final entries/registrations that have been submitted to an awarding body are regularly monitored, submitting timely changes (amendments/withdrawals) to ensure candidates take the correct papers at the correct time and enabling awarding bodies to deliver accurate results to the centre

## Pre-exams

- Recruit, train, update and manage a team of invigilators.
- Manage the arrangements for the timetabling, rooming, seating, resourcing and invigilation of examinations in accordance with the regulations.
- Effectively resolve exam timetable clashes and manage overnight supervision arrangements (where arrangements may be required after all other options have been explored) in accordance with the regulations.
- Ensure all candidates are notified of their examination entries and the dates and times of their examinations/assessments in accordance with the regulations.
- Ensure all candidates are aware of the JCQ and awarding body information and regulations regarding the conduct of their examinations/assessments in advance of these taking place.
- Confirm relevant internal stakeholders' complete administrative tasks associated with centre assessed work in an accurate and timely manner in accordance with the requirements of awarding bodies and moderators.
- Support the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) (or equivalent role) in implementing examination access arrangements or reasonable adjustments for eligible candidates (appropriate arrangements for rooming, resourcing, facilitation, invigilation etc.)
- Effectively manage arrangements for the secure storage and dispatch of examination scripts for marking

## **During examinations**

### Exam time

- Effectively manage the conduct of examinations in accordance with JCQ regulations and/or awarding body rules
- Ensure all exam accommodation is prepared in accordance with the requirements.
- Inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service of any alternative site that may be used by the centre to conduct timetabled examinations.
- Effectively deploy fully trained invigilators to exam rooms according to the requirements
- Manage unexpected issues/irregularities which may affect the conduct of examinations.
- Support the head of centre in investigating and reporting cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with an examination as required by the JCQ and awarding bodies.
- Manage emergency access arrangements for eligible candidates as the need may arise during exam time.
- Maintain the confidentiality and security of candidates' responses and dispatch scripts according to the requirements.
- Submit to the published timescales, relevant follow-up reporting to awarding bodies in relation to the very late arrival of candidates for examinations and applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria.

## After examinations

### Results and Post-Results

- Ensure candidates and relevant internal stakeholders are aware of processes, key dates and deadlines in relation to the issue of results and the arrangements for post-results services.
- Plan, prepare for, and manage the restricted release of results and the distribution of provisional statements of results in accordance with JCQ regulations and/or awarding body rules.
- Effectively use internal and external IT systems to access and manage awarding body results information.
- Understand awarding body results indicators and provide support for relevant internal stakeholders in accessing results reports/analysis tools.
- Effectively use external IT systems to administer post-results services in accordance with the regulations to the published deadlines.
- Manage and administer the receipt, distribution and retention of examination certificates according to the regulations.

### Other

- Undertake training, update or review sessions as required.
- Undertake other duties appropriate to the grade and responsibilities of the role as may be required by the head of centre/SLT responsible for examinations, for example:
  - the preparation for and conduct of internal examinations under external examination conditions.
  - other exams-related administrative tasks
- Attend whole staff and other meetings; participate in staff development training and Continuing Professional Development opportunities; and to engage in staff reviews as required.

This job description will be reviewed where necessary and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks; it sets out the expectations of the school in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.

## Person Specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>How this will be Identified?</b>
<b>Qualifications and Training</b>	<p>An education standard equating to GCSE Grade C in English and Mathematics</p> <p>Knowledge of examination systems and examination board requirements</p>	<p>Knowledge of SIMS and its various modules</p> <p>Experience of school systems and procedures</p>	Application
<b>Relevant Experience</b>	Experience in a similar role or a role requiring similar skills, abilities and knowledge	Experience of working in a school setting	Application References Interview
<b>Skills and Knowledge</b>	<p>Have knowledge of Child Protection and Safeguarding legislation</p> <p>Excellent organisational skills</p> <p>Ability to work accurately and methodically, with strict attention to detail</p> <p>Ability to work on own initiative and to timescales/deadlines</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal skills- able to communicate and consult with a range of people.</p> <p>Ability to manage a small team</p> <p>Resilience and patience to deal with occasional difficult situations and behaviour</p>	<p>Sufficient understanding of how best to support and work alongside students with a variety of learning and care needs and continuing professional development, implementing practice and knowledge through self-evaluation and learning from others, to deliver a high standard of support</p>	Application References Interview
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	<p>Ability to relate well to students and staff</p> <p>To be able to work as part of a team and build positive relationships.</p> <p>An ability to take initiative and seek advice where appropriate.</p> <p>Commitment to making a positive contribution to the education of young people.</p> <p>A commitment to continue own personal development.</p>		References Interview



