



Dear Applicant

I am delighted that you are exploring the possibility of applying for a position with Orbital South Colleges. The intention of this introduction is to provide you with a short insight into the College group to help you decide if you wish to pursue your application.

On 1 February 2019, East Surrey College in Redhill incorporating Reigate School of Art, merged with John Ruskin College in Croydon to become The East Surrey College Corporation, trading as Orbital South Colleges. East Surrey College (ESC) and John Ruskin College (JRC) are situated around 11 miles apart and this is proving a very good and productive mix. Reigate School of Art is based within the main East Surrey College Gatton Point campus. Both the Redhill and Croydon campuses offer good to excellent accommodation with further potential. At Redhill, the ESC campus underwent a major rebuild in 2010 and offers an impressive, high-quality learning environment. We have exciting plans for further developments at both ESC and JRC over the next few years.

The curriculum offer at both ESC and JRC is wholly vocational. We do not offer 'A' Levels or 'GCSEs' with the exception of GCSE English and Maths. Instead our focus is on delivering high-quality vocational qualifications through a range of awarding bodies such as Pearson, City & Guilds, EAL, Cache and UaL. Our students come from an increasingly wide geographic area and are able to access studies at a variety of levels – from Entry level to full BA/BSc degrees.

Over recent years, we have transformed our curriculum to meet local needs and priorities. We work very closely with employers to benefit skills development including a skills academy with the healthcare sector. We have seen substantial, persistent growth in apprenticeships at all levels and more recently, at degree levels. We value highly our partnership working. Excellent relationships with schools have helped us through recent, national demographic decline and we are now on a major growth trajectory – for adults as well as for young people aged 16-18.

Our College group is hugely aspirational while understanding that resources need to be allocated wisely to make impact. Staff across the organisation place great value on building the confidence and workskills of our students so that they can thrive in a fast changing world. We wish to appoint positive people to join with us to make a difference. Working in education is always challenging but we can assure a positive and valuable career with competitive pay and generous terms and conditions. We provide staff with excellent support, a professional development programme and the resources to carry out a first-class job.

I am very proud of what we have already achieved in our Colleges and look forward to our journey ahead. Recruiting and selecting people with the right values has been - and will continue to be - crucial as the College moves to the next phase of its development.

Finally, I would like to say that I do appreciate how long it takes to apply for jobs. I appreciate your investment of time and whatever the outcome, I wish you well in the future.

Kind regards.


Jayne Dickinson
Chief Executive Orbital South Colleges/Principal East Surrey College