



ZENITH MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



The Vacancy



ZENITH
MULTI ACADEMY
TRUST

Operational Support Officer

Part time – 22.5 hours per week

Hours of work 8.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesday & Thursday and 8.00am to 3.30pm Friday

Term time, plus one week

Salary scale 6, point 13 - 17 (actual salary £14,009 - £14,998)

Are you organised, methodical, and forward thinking in your approach to your work?

If so, this post could be for you! Zenith Multi Academy Trust is a small, friendly, locally based Trust, currently comprising one primary school, three secondary schools and one special school in South East Essex. We are very values driven and are committed to our core principles of dignity, collaboration, positivity, and dignity.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, hard-working, and reliable Operational Support Officer to join and support our central services team. The successful candidate will be working closely with, and, providing operational administrative support to the Chief Financial Officer and Director of HR, as well as supporting the CEO. The role will be based in the Trust central offices, located at The King John School, with occasional travel to our other schools across the Trust when needed.

The successful candidate will need to be able to multi-task, be adaptable, flexible, able to work under pressure to multiple deadlines, using their own initiative whilst remaining calm and organised.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a forward looking, inspiring, and ethical Trust.

In addition to excellent access to continued professional development opportunities, we can also offer you:

A friendly and welcoming place of work, which invests heavily in staff training
Benenden Healthcare cover
Vivup employee discount scheme and EAP
Local Government Pension Scheme
Numerous Staff Wellbeing Initiatives

For more information or to arrange a visit contact Leigh Christensen, Director of HR
leighch@zmat.co.uk

Applications

To apply for the role please download the application form from the vacancy page on <https://www.zenithmultiacademytrust.co.uk/vacancies/>, completed applications should be submitted to recruitment@zmat.co.uk. CVs will not be accepted without a completed application form.

You must complete the application form fully and give details of all employment, training and gaps in employment since leaving secondary school to the present day. Any additional information, which you wish to bring to the notice of the selection panel should be included in your letter of application (supporting statement). Please ensure you say why and how you meet the criteria from the person specification in your letter of application. Full job description and person specification can be found at the end of this pack.

Shortlisted applicants may be screened prior to interview by checking social media sites. The purpose of such screening will be to ascertain whether a candidate demonstrates appropriate conduct, behaviour and suitability for employment in a school environment.

Closing Date: 14 April 2024

If you have any queries, wish to discuss the role informally or undertake a visit to the Trust, please do not hesitate to contact us via email recruitment@zmat.co.uk or telephone 01702 426707.

We look forward to receiving your application. You will be notified of your application status within two weeks of the vacancy closing date.

Safeguarding Children & Young People

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All staff and volunteers are therefore expected to behave in such a way that supports this commitment. Appointment to this post will be subject to the following satisfactory pre-employment checks:

- Health
- Identity
- Relevant work qualifications
- Right to work in the UK
- Barred List Check (previously List 99)
- Disclosure & Barring Service Check (for all staff and volunteers)
- References
- Childcare Disqualification Declaration Check (relevant Primary School posts only)

Welcome from the CEO



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Trust, and I very much hope this job application pack you gives you a sense of what it is like working in our Trust, including our vision and values.

We are a small, locally-based Trust in South East Essex, currently comprising one primary school and three secondary schools: Laindon Park Primary School and Nursery, The James Hornsby School in Basildon, Castle View School in Canvey Island, and The King John School in Benfleet.

We are intentionally a small Trust and very much see our role as central to the communities we serve.

As a member of staff within the Trust, you become part of a dynamic network of staff working to achieve a shared vision for all of our children. You become a valued member of a small group of schools, able to shape the education of future generations. In doing so, we hope that you feel really well supported in your career, and that your well-being is always considered. As a member of our Trust, you engage in a professional

learning journey which develops you as a practitioner, and allows you to use your talents to transform lives and make a genuine difference.

Our Core Purpose

To enhance the life chances of every child and drive social mobility.

Mission Statement

A quality education and experience for all.

Values

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dignity | Collaboration | Positivity | Aspiration |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Vision

Zenith Trust will ensure excellence across the pillars of school improvement, governance, and business operations, harnessing the transformative power of collaboration so that all students attend truly outstanding schools.

Regardless of background or need, all students will achieve highly and have high levels of well-being, because they are taught and supported by the very best staff, who are well-trained and supported, buy into Zenith’s vision, and are committed to providing a quality education for all. School leaders act ethically, inclusively, and always with the child’s best interests at heart. Our students will be aspirational for themselves, enjoying their time at school, and flourishing as individuals within a safe, secure and nurturing environment.

All Zenith schools value students’ social, moral, cultural, and spiritual development, building exceptional character so that students are kind, resilient, and inspired to be life-long learners. By working closely with the families and local communities we serve, and listening to students’ voices, students will be well-prepared for life in a modern, tolerant Britain. They will secure outstanding academic outcomes and high quality destinations, always well-prepared for their next steps. As adults, they will lead happy, purposeful, and rewarding lives, and make a positive contribution to the world.

Andy Hodgkinson
Chief Executive Officer

Why work for Zenith Multi Academy Trust?

Thank you for considering Zenith Multi Academy Trust as your potential new employer.

If you share our commitment to securing transformational change and sustainable school improvement, and would like to be part of our vision to provide excellence in education, we would love to hear from you.

In return we can offer you:

- A friendly Trust which places staff wellbeing and development at the forefront of everything we do
- School settings with excellent facilities
- Access to high quality and bespoke CPD across the Trust, including a collaborative project with the Education Endowment Fund (EEF)
- A supportive and positive Early Careers program run in partnership with University College London and Chafford Hundred Teaching School Hub
- The opportunity to develop your career with and across the Trust Schools
- The Trust is an early adopter of the new NPQs

Staff Wellbeing

The Trust is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all staff and supports management practices that promote good health and wellbeing of all its employees, and as such, we are proud to have signed up to the Department for Education staff wellbeing charter. The Trust recognises that wellbeing and performance are linked. Improving employees' ability to handle pressure and to balance work and home life will ultimately lead to improved individual and Trust performance, including better outcomes for students.

The Trust has adopted a number of family friendly policies to support our commitment to staff wellbeing, including:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing policy which focuses on the Trust's commitment to maintaining the health and wellbeing of staff
- The Health and Safety policy which provides a framework for, and measurement of, safe places to work; and
- The staff Recognition and Reward policy which ensures our staff feel valued for the work they do and recognised for the contribution they make.

The wellbeing and training of our staff are seen as critical in creating the most effective and talented staff team. The high calibre of our staff means that we are constantly striving to improve so that we can provide the outstanding level of education that all our diverse and talented young people deserve.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

At Zenith Multi Academy Trust, all staff are encouraged to develop their knowledge, skills, understanding, and attitudes to enhance their professional work, regardless of experience. We work towards 'a culture of excellence', where all staff have the opportunity to continue to improve and sharpen their knowledge and practice. All staff who work in the Trust also have access to our innovative, online learning platform 'Zenith Institute', which provides staff with bespoke training and access to the latest research.

Working for Zenith brings other benefits:

- Free Benenden Healthcare Scheme
 - Access to a GP 24/7 hours a day seven days week for you and your immediate family
 - Access to a Mental Health Helpline 24 hours a day seven days a week
 - Access to a care adviser who can provide advice and information on adult care issues
 - Medical Diagnostics
 - Medical Treatment at one of the hospitals in our treatment network for certain procedures.
 - Physiotherapy
 - Mental Health Counselling Support
 - Financial Assistances to a care adviser who can provide advice and information on adult care issues
- Access to Benenden Healthcare rewards and discounts scheme
 - 46% off digital fitness subscriptions
 - 22% off activity trackers from Fitbit
 - Save up to 11% on the cost of gift cards of E-Gifts
 - Lifestyle shopping vouchers – save 6%
 - Home movies rentals – save up to 40%
- VIVUP Employee Assistance Programme and Lifestyle savings membership
- On site staff counselling programme
- Annual staff wellbeing survey
- Access to Bike2Work scheme
- Annual calendar of wellbeing events
- Eye sight tests
- On-site free medical health checks
- On-site flu jab clinics
- Free access to on-site gym facilities
- Generous Teachers' Pension and Local Government Pensions schemes
- Generous annual leave entitlement for full-time support staff up to 29 days + 8 bank holidays per annum



The Schools of Zenith Multi Academy Trust



A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Daniel Steel, is the Headteacher at The King John School, as a parent of two young children himself, he leads the school through the eyes of a parent, with very high expectations and aspirations for his students. The King John School is a popular, oversubscribed school where students' very high attendance and levels of achievement reflect their commitment and enjoyment of school life. The school is a large, mixed comprehensive with a well-established sixth form, and serves the ever-growing communities of Thundersley and Benfleet, as well as welcoming students from further afield.

To enable their students to be happy and successful learners, they strive to create a caring, supportive and aspirational learning community, with high expectations and opportunities for all. They believe in offering a broad and balanced curriculum to enable students to flourish as individuals, and to achieve future success in whatever they choose to become later in life. This includes a strong emphasis on sport and the Arts. Opportunities for extra-curricular activities are extensive for all to support in developing knowledge, skills and cultural capital beyond the classroom setting. These opportunities include enterprise, creative performing arts, and a wide variety of trips and visits. Added to this their sporting expertise which puts them at the top of the county and national championships in a whole range of sports you will see the school has a lot to offer. They strive to nurture and develop global citizens of the future by celebrating success and valuing aspiration. There is a strong focus on developing students' character by instilling the King John PRIDE values of positivity, resilience, integrity, dignity and equality. They are determined every student should maximise their potential.

The recruitment, retention, and training of fully-qualified staff play a key part in their drive to secure strong academic outcomes for all students, and to instil a life-long love of learning. They understand the vitally important role of partnerships between families and school, and value their relationships with all members of the community they serve.

They have a thriving sixth form, which has been significantly extended to provide a wealth of additional state-of-the-art facilities. Students achieve well in a wide range of subjects and over a three year trend, the results are in the top 15% of over 2000 schools with 68% A*, A or B grades at A-level. Students' destinations are very strong, and they progress to Higher Education, including Cambridge and other Russell Group universities, apprenticeships and employment.



Laindon Park is a small school located in a rural unspoilt area. Their building retains a Victorian character with many historical features. The Headteacher of Laindon is Cristina Portoles, who ensures that they are a school where the child is at the heart of everything they do and leads the decisions they make.

"Pupils enjoy learning and playing together at this small, friendly school. They are confident that everyone is welcome here. From the early years, children learn to share ideas and equipment. Older pupils proudly take on roles in the school to help each other and to care for the school environment." (Ofsted February 2023)



Castle View School

Pursue Excellence | Be The Best

Steve Durkin is the Headteacher of Castle View School. The school is a place where students are put first in everything the school does. Their aims are to pursue excellence, to be the best they can be and they achieve this by working together with parents and the wider community to bring out the very best in their young people.

A good education inspires, opens doors and makes a difference to the lives of individuals, their families and the wider community. Therefore, the school takes their responsibilities as educators very seriously, doing all they can to help their students achieve anything and everything they set their minds to. The school also takes great pride in providing a happy and harmonious learning environment – one where every student is known as an individual.

As well as valuing academic success, the school strives for every child to become a well-rounded, caring and confident individual who plays a part in their community, and has the skills and mind-set to contribute positively to our wider society.



The James Hornsby School

Together we excel

The James Hornsby School is an oversubscribed 'Good' school; as rated by Ofsted, where students are at the heart of all we do. We have a strong family ethos where we believe "Together we excel".

The Headteacher, Tammy Nicholls firmly believes that investing in staff is a priority to ensuring every student receives a high quality education, enabling them to achieve their best. Family, Pride, Ambition and Excellence are their key drivers for success not only for their students, but for their staff as well. As such staff retention and well-being is high.

The James Hornsby School are extremely proud of the strong family ethos that has been built, which focuses on developing personal character, resilience, independence and removing barriers to success. They have a vertical tutoring system and every student and staff member are placed into a college structure, this strengthens the sense of belonging.

Our ethos ensures a safe and happy environment where students are at the centre of all we do. They have highly effective safeguarding structures in place and work in collaboration with parents and carers to ensure high levels of attendance, welfare and outcomes.

They have created an environment where all students can make great progress, this is underpinned by a well-structured curriculum that is rigorous and aspirational and is supported by quality first teaching.

The ultimate purpose is to ignite hope, drive ambition and advance the life chances of everyone who is part of their family. We will help students gain qualifications that will open the door of opportunity and develop the character to get them through.

We welcome the chance to meet with you and discuss your development opportunities as part of the James Hornsby and Zenith family!



Simon Holliday is the Headteacher of Castledon School. This school is a community special school based in Wickford, Essex that aims to unlock the potential of learners aged 5 to 19 with moderate learning difficulties and complex needs. Our motto is "Unlocking Potential".

We work closely with parents, staff and students to create a safe and inclusive community that is based on mutual respect and understanding. Staff, parents and students helped devise the Castledon Code which encourages all within our community to be safe, kind and responsible.

Our school has a range of facilities and resources to support our students' learning and development, including specialist classrooms and equipment, therapy rooms, a sensory room, a soft play area, a music studio, a swimming pool, animal care shelters and an art room. Our students have access to a range of pathways, including life skills, vocational, and academic. We work with our learners and families to identify their goals and aspirations and offer bespoke pathways that are tailored to each individual student.

Our school has won several awards, including the 2022 Essex SEND Teacher of the Year award. We also recently won the Educational Business Award for Environmental Practice in 2022, and the Community Award in 2021, Academy Partnership Award, and SEN Provision Award in 2019.

We invite you to follow us on Instagram to keep up to date with our school community.



Testimonials

Working at King John for the past six years has provided me with a wide range of fantastic opportunities and wonderful experiences. I was encouraged to attend a middle leaders training programme provided by the trust which gave me the knowledge and confidence to be successful in a promotion to Director of English and media. I was also lucky enough to attend the media department trip to Hollywood with a group of KS4 students and was encouraged to organise my own trip to The Globe theatre for KS3 students.

- Director of Learning, The King John School

Since joining as an instructor in 2018, I have been continuously supported by Castle View, and the wider Zenith Multi Academy Trust. This has included fortnightly mentor meetings and frequent observations, feedback and support with my pedagogy; a second school placement at another school within the Trust; and regular CPD opportunities. This all resulted in me achieving my Qualified Teacher Status last December via the Straight To Teach route (which was also funded by the school). Despite only recently qualifying, I am already in discussions with Castle View about my progression and moving on to the next stepping stone of my career and development.

- Teacher of Maths, Castle View School

Having worked within Zenith for a number of years I have been afforded so many opportunities to develop. I came to the school as a Head of year and after discussing my drive to be on the leadership team I was given extra responsibilities to ensure the progression was effective and that I was ready to interview for a role. With this in mind I was asked to lead on several faculties and drove the Equality and Diversity within my school. This then led to me being asked to join a school within the MAT to take on the role of associate assistant headteacher. I have now secured a permanent position in this school and couldn't have done it without the opportunities given to me by the Trust.

- Assistant Headteacher, The James Hornsby School

I started working at James Hornsby in January 2012 and began working here as a learning facilitator; almost eight years on and I am now currently the head of mathematics. In this time I have had the opportunity to complete many roles within the school. Working in the behaviour support unit, as an achievement officer and then as a maths instructor, while I was completing my maths degree at university. The leaders within the school identified my skill set and provided me with the support and guidance to move through these positions.

- Maths Teacher – The James Hornsby School

Job Description

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| Job Title | Operational Support Officer |
| Grade | Scale 6 |
| Reports to | CEO, CFO, Director of HR |
| Responsible for | N/A |
| Liaison with | CEO, CFO, Director of HR, Trust DHTs, HR Teams, Finance Teams |
| Job Purpose | To provide efficient, professional and confidential administrative support, and to assist with the smooth running of the central team operational function |
| Duties HR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To effectively use computer facilities to ensure the production of reports, letters and documents as required. • To assist with the smooth running of HR by handling correspondence (internal mail, post, etc) and using initiative to deal with telephone calls. • To compile job application packs and post them on the Zenith website. • To monitor the recruitment inbox, respond to job applicants, track applicant sources and monitor application levels. • To assist in the recruitment process, including preparing interviewer packs, room bookings and filing of interview paperwork. • Administer payroll changes via the payroll system, which will include: starters, leavers, changes, monthly overtime, and absence processing in line with the deadlines set by the payroll provider. • To assist with new joiner administration including seeking references, medical clearances, and enhanced DBS checks. • To compile new joiner offer packs and induction packs.. • To maintain the electronic data management system (personnel files) for HR . • To assist with maintaining the HR database and other HR record systems, such as Welbee, Vivup and SCR Tracker • To assist with answering the telephone, taking and distributing messages. • To assist the Director of HR with administration associated with Zenith awards. • To assist the HR Director with any projects relating to payroll, wellbeing, recruitment etc. • To provide ad hoc HR / finance administration support at Trust schools. • To maintain confidentiality and Data Protection adherence at all times. |
| Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing purchase orders (ensuring correct coding etc) • Process credit card transactions. • Ensure expenditure is within budget constraints and is appropriately authorised. • Assist in the maintenance of the contracts database. • Assist with month end procedures. |

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| Administration support to CEO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process invoices received for payment on the Trust finance system. • Liaise with suppliers on all finance and goods queries. • Assist Chief Finance Officer as appropriate. • Undertake general administrative duties as required. • To make sure confidentiality is adhered to for all financial data information. • Monitor Finance inbox. • To provide administration support to the CEO in the absence of the PA to CEO |
| General | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To participate in the performance and development review process, taking personal responsibility for identification of learning, development and training opportunities in discussion with line manager • To comply with individual responsibilities, in accordance with the role, for health & safety in the workplace • Ensure that all duties and services provided are in accordance with the School's Equal Opportunities Policy • The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. • The duties above are neither exclusive nor exhaustive and the post holder may be required by the CEO, CFO or Director of HR to carry out appropriate duties within the context of the job, skills and grade. |

Person Specification

| General heading | Detail | General Examples |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Qualifications & Experience | Specific qualifications & experience | Experience of working in an office environment (E) |
| | Knowledge of relevant policies and procedures | Knowledge of education sector (D) |
| | Technology | Ability to use Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and Outlook or equivalent (E) Ability to use databases and experience of data entry (D) |
| Communication | Written | Ability to write letters and emails (E) |
| | Verbal | Ability to use initiative to deal with telephone calls and staff queries (E) Fluency in English (E) |
| Working with others | Team work | Work effectively as part of a team (E) Ability to work independently (E) |
| Responsibilities | Organisational skills | Ability to be proactive and prioritise work (E) |
| General | Confidentiality/Data Protection | Understand and comply with procedures and legislation relating to confidentiality and Data Protection (E) |