



THE THOMAS LORD AUDLEY SCHOOL

Part of The Sigma Trust

Headteacher: Simon Essex BSc MA NPQH

January 2021

Dear Applicant

Thank you for taking an interest in a post at The Thomas Lord Audley School. Our School is a high performing, over-subscribed 11-16 comprehensive school, situated to the south of Colchester. It serves a wide and diverse catchment area, including Old Heath, Monkwick, Shrub End, the villages to the south of Colchester and the community of Mersea Island. In recent years, students have achieved a good standard of GCSE results in a wide range of subjects including English and Maths.

The Thomas Lord Audley School is a community in which every student matters. We have high expectations of all students with respect to behaviour, attendance and punctuality and have developed a curriculum, which enables our students to develop as young people as well as achieve good exam results. We have a highly committed and well-qualified staff who encourage students to give their best in all aspects of school life.

I was recently appointed as the new Headteacher of the school, but joined the school as Deputy Headteacher in 2013. I very much value the commitment and determination of all our staff in ensuring that the students access a high quality education. I am value driven and not inclined to game the system, off-roll or focus exclusively on quick fixes. Our SLT is mature and well-rounded and we have excellent relationships with colleagues. We are a happy school and have a relatively low staff turnover because staff in general feel well supported both personally and professionally. As a school, we take a considered approach to school improvement and performance management. We believe in building on our strengths and developing a few key aspects of our provision in depth and over time in order to have a sustained positive impact on students and to enable staff to experience professional satisfaction. This is a good time to join our school, we are on an upward trajectory and there is real enthusiasm to develop further having already made significant progress in recent years.

The school achieved a 'Good' in its Ofsted inspection in April 2016 and subsequently was designated the Most Improved Secondary School in Essex. In February 2020 the school achieved another 'Good' judgement when Ofsted inspected under the new Ofsted Framework.

The Thomas Lord Audley School is pleased to be a member of the Sigma Trust and we fully subscribe to the Trust's Mission, Vision and Values. We have positive relationships with our partner schools and fully engage in a wide range of activities. A number of colleagues are involved in leading aspects of Trust development at a senior level and other colleagues are participating in middle and senior leadership courses. I am keen to enable members of staff to develop their professional expertise and career.



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I would very much welcome an application from you and think that if you came to work here you would have a positive experience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Essex', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Essex
Headteacher