EYFS Teaching Assistant

Required for September 2018
The School

Davenies is a thriving IAPS day school for boys aged 4-13. Our ethos and philosophy enable the boys to make the most of their preparatory years, supported by high quality pastoral care, a broad and stimulating curriculum and numerous extra-curricular opportunities.

Davenies has its own distinct character and from their earliest years children are encouraged to relish the learning experience.

We are committed to an education both in and out of the classroom, thereby enabling the academic, artistic, musical, creative and physical potential of each child to flourish. This school is a warm, caring and happy one, where self-esteem is nurtured and grown; we believe that by fostering a wide range of interests and passions we provide the boys with every opportunity to develop in confidence. Our high quality teachers have an excellent track record of preparing children for life at the country's leading senior schools and beyond.

Enterprises such as the unique Davenies Award Scheme and the permeation of technology in our teaching and learning ensure we offer a truly independent educational experience.

At Davenies, our outstanding facilities support us in providing a positive learning experience with our own language of learning that nurtures each boy’s understanding of how he learns. Davenies’ boys are polite and friendly with their own individual characters, personalities, passions and interests.

Aims of the School

Davenies’ vision is to engage, inspire and challenge.

Davenies’ mission is to ensure that every boy experiences a breadth of educational opportunities, encouraging and cultivating a lifelong eagerness for learning, whether academic, creative, artistic or sporting. We encourage the boys to discover their own passions and talent, to develop determination and resilience, to reach their potential, and to become mindful and thoughtful individuals, with a strong sense of service, responsibility and community.

Davenies’ aims are:

- To offer academic excellence alongside an extensive educational experience
- To delivery contemporary and highly skilled teaching approaches whilst embracing traditional values
- To provide a vibrant, caring and inclusive environment to which all boys contribute and within which they thrive

Fundamental to this is our understanding of boys and how we approach their learning, whilst never losing sight of each boy as an individual.

Davenies’ ethos underpins our vision to engage, inspire and challenge:

- By engaging, we develop curious, reflective and enthusiastic thinkers
- With inspiration, we nurture motivated and ambitious learners
- Through challenge, we cultivate courageous and determined characters

Davenies’ spirit provides the stepping stones that develop courteous, confident, thoughtful and independent young men, and supports our school’s motto, singulus pro fraternitate labourans – each striving for the good of all.
The Appointment

EYFS Teaching Assistant

The School is looking for an enthusiastic full-time EYFS Teaching Assistant with excellent communication skills to work within our busy and energetic Pre-Prep Department. A Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education or an equivalent qualification is a minimum requirement. This is a full-time position from the start of the Autumn Term 2018.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit a Davenies’ Support Staff Application Form with a cover letter for the attention of Mrs Deborah Battersby, Head of Pre-Prep, by 10am on Friday 23 February 2018. Applications should be sent via email to Mrs Katy Reed, HR & Compliance Officer, or by post.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 05 March 2018.
EYFS Teaching Assistant
Job Description

Duties

- To work under the overall direction of the Headmaster and to be accountable in the first instance to the Head of Pre-Prep
- To work with a designated class under the day to day direction of the class teacher
- To assist in the daily routine of the classroom including where appropriate helping with ideas and planning
- To liaise and co-operate with parents, staff and others involved in the smooth, effective, safe and secure operation of the school
- To inform the class teacher or the Head of Pre-Prep of any significant observations or developments regarding any pupil
- To attend meetings of the staff of the school and to contribute to them
- To attend school/parent consultations and to contribute to them where appropriate
- To undertake playground supervision as and when required during the school day
- To act as a member of the school staff as a whole, participating fully in collective enterprises such as activities in music, drama, sports and school outings
- To assist the class teacher in the organisation of class outings
- To take responsibility for acquiring and improving their skills by attending future training as required
- To undertake any other duties that the Head of Pre-Prep or the class teacher may reasonably require, in order to facilitate the efficient administration of the school, including supervision of pupils

Working Time

- Term Time: 35 weeks per year
- 4 weeks paid holiday (to be taken during school holidays)
- 35 hours a week across 5 days, typically 8:30am until 3:30pm
- Where additional hours are agreed in support of school activities Monday to Friday, TOIL or additional pay may be given
Qualifications

- The candidate should have previous experience of working with young children
- Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education or equivalent qualification
- The successful candidate will be required to complete child protection training online (arranged by the school) before they commence the role, where they have not already received training in the past two years

Competences and Qualities

- We are looking for an assistant who is an enthusiast
- The assistant should have a sense of humour and be approachable
- The candidate must assist the teacher in making learning enjoyable
- It is expected that the assistant will be helpful and assist with ideas and planning
- The assistant should be keen to attend courses to further their professional development
- The assistant will be expected to encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect when dealing with boys, staff and parents
- It is expected that the assistant will help the teacher to provide a bright and stimulating classroom
- The candidate has to be an excellent communicator – with children and adults alike
- The candidate must be able to work as part of the school’s team
- The candidate has to enjoy working with children, to be able to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children
- The ability to use ICT is desirable
The Department

There can be no doubt that the first years of formal schooling are paramount.

During this time boys develop rapidly, acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for future schooling and, more importantly, for life. We instil in our boys a love of the learning process, developing their academic capabilities. At the same time we nurture in them a sense of respect for others and themselves and encourage good manners.

In our ever-changing world the ready use of technology means that boys must learn how to filter knowledge and apply it appropriately. They need to recognise that resilience and challenge are the key to unlocking learning: this is what you will see in our Pre-Prep.

The Pre-Prep years establish the foundation of the Davenies Curriculum, encompassing English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, PSHE and Drama. Additionally, French, Music, PE and Swimming are taught by specialist teachers. We use a synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading and a Singapore Maths methodology for developing numeracy skills.

The boys and staff benefit from outstanding learning spaces, facilities and resources, specifically designed to enrich the learning experience for boys. With two classes in the year groups, each supported by their own Teaching Assistant, the boys encounter work that is planned carefully to stretch them whilst building upon previous skills and knowledge. The boys’ topics, presented in a fun and practical way, have been chosen specifically to appeal and hook them into their own learning.

With a challenging curriculum, after-school clubs and staff who seek the potential in every child within their care, Davenies Pre-Prep is a warm, friendly and purposeful environment where your son’s confidence is fostered and his efforts recognised.
Facilities

Centred around a Grade II Listed Farmhouse, the school comprises a mix of traditional and modern buildings, with the latest, the RIBA award-winning Jubilee Building housing the Pre-Prep and Junior School, having been completed in September 2015. Two classes of twenty EYFS boys enjoy a secure purpose built annex with two linking classrooms, a break-out area, and outside learning and play areas. The boys also benefit from the use of the School’s other buildings and outside areas which house the Dining Room, Sports facilities including swimming pool, gymnasium and astro turf, and the Pre-Prep Library.

Staff

Davenies has over 70 employees consisting of full and part time qualified teachers and teaching support staff (including technicians), and supported by a team of office staff, a site team led by the Facilities Manager, and a dedicated School Nurse. Catering, cleaning and IT support are outsourced, with external contract staff working alongside the School to provide term-time services. In addition, the School hosts a range of visiting music, LAMDA and extra-curricular activity tutors.

In addition to a competitive salary, support staff can expect to benefit from membership of Group Life Pension after 3 months (5% employer contribution subject to 3% personal contribution), childcare voucher provision, Death in Service Benefit (2 x annual salary) Personal Accident and Emergency Dental cover, access to healthcare helpline and counselling services, and complementary school lunches and refreshments during term time.
Safeguarding

Child Protection is always a top priority at Davenies. Davenies is committed to providing the best possible care and education to its pupils and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people whilst offering a supportive working environment to all its members of staff. The School recognises that, in order to achieve these aims, it is of fundamental importance to attract, recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre who share this commitment. Child protection screening applies to all staff appointments within the school, including Enhanced DBS Certificate, Barred Lists check, and checks against the Teacher and Management Prohibition Lists.