

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Biology Laboratory Technician

Part time (2 days a week) term time only plus 5 days
Scale 5 (NJC points 22-25) £20,456 - £22,434 pro-rata
Actual salary £7,006 - £7,684 (approx)

Required as soon as possible

Temporary fixed-contract until 31 August 2018

The Bright Futures Educational Trust (BFET) is a partnership of schools based in the North West. The Trust's core aim is to offer a quality education that guarantees choices for every one of our pupils. There are currently eight schools within the Trust. Our values of hard work, passion and integrity are at the heart of everything we do.

BFET is committed to providing all staff with the training and support they need to be the best in their profession. Benefits include: working cross-phase, knowledge exchange between our schools and the opportunity to work with some of the most inspiring colleagues in their profession.

The school is seeking to appoint a highly organised, enthusiastic and competent professional to work as part of a high achieving and forward-thinking science department in this prestigious school. Experience of laboratory management and IT skills are essential.

This position involves setting up and operating equipment for biology practical lessons. This will include the trial of new practicals in conjunction with the teaching staff, liaising with the other science technicians to ensure equipment is available and ordering of materials and equipment at key times of the year. The Biology Laboratory Technician will work as part of a team of five science technicians in school and will be available to support colleagues in general science technician duties. The successful candidate must be prepared to train as a first-aider.

The science department has thirteen laboratories, with the biology department's laboratories situated on the first floor. There is a science staffroom and each member of teaching staff has an allocated work area. Each laboratory in the school is equipped with a data projector and a networked computer. ICT is widely used to enhance effective teaching and learning.

Main Responsibilities

- Be aware of the hazards and risks associated with having chemicals and biological materials on the premises and the problems of handling and working with them.
- Be responsible for your own safe working and be aware of issues of safety in procedures suggested by others. Use HAZCARDS and CLEAPSS and ASE publications appropriately.
- Ensure that chemicals are stored safely and securely.
- Dispose of waste chemicals and biological materials responsibly with reference to recommended guidelines.
- Label laboratory chemicals and biological materials with the appropriate hazard warning symbols and dates of purchase.
- Clear up chemical spillages safely and appropriately.
- Assume general responsibility for all resources and apparatus for biology lessons. Have an oversight of equipment booking and inform staff of any timetable clashes e.g. colorimeters.
- Distribute all class trays with appropriate materials to the labs at the start of each day and relocate to P6 at the end of the day.

- Organise trays for each class and teacher for each academic year and back-up trays for next topic worksheets throughout the year, ensuring that photocopied resources are produced in anticipation of their use.
- Check the laboratories (L3, L4, L5, L6 and L7) at the end of every day, paying particular reference to gas taps, water taps, windows and ICT equipment.
- Ensure that laboratories are locked when teaching staff are not present and that the chemical store is locked at all times.
- Test practical procedures for feasibility when requested.
- Maintain laboratory equipment, carrying out minor repairs and organising major repairs where appropriate.
- Maintain the annual audit of chemicals. Liaise with the Head of Department regarding the ordering of chemicals and apparatus.
- Maintain the records of textbooks issued to students. Put a school stamp and issue label into new books as they arrive.
- Record the arrival of new equipment and chemicals into the department. Return invoices to the office.
- Wash goggles every half term.
- Check the stock of stationery and liaise with designated technician if more is needed.
- Organise photocopying of material for lessons efficiently and cost-effectively and oversee its filing or distribution to classes. As new resources are compiled by staff, stream-line to minimise photocopying costs and copy numbers as required.
- Organise with the Reprographics Assistant the copying of end of term examination papers and distribute to staff as appropriate.
- Organise the storage of spare work sheets in filing cabinets, file away master copies where appropriate.
- Ensure that IT equipment is available for biology lessons when requested.
- Liaise with the Physics Technician regarding the booking of laptops and data loggers.
- Supply resources and apparatus as requested by science clubs.

Additional Responsibilities

- Organise the biology prep rooms to provide a safe working and storage environment.
- Be aware of updates to safety information and relevant legislation.
- Communicate effectively with the other biology lab technician working using an agreed method.
- Make up of standard solutions for chemical practicals.
- Set up practicals and demonstrations.
- Advise staff on use of new or unfamiliar equipment.
- Assist with open evenings.
- Act as a first-aider.
- Compile orders. Monitor Biology Department purchases and petty cash accounts.
- Check and maintain Biology Department First Aid boxes.
- Make local purchases.
- Apparatus and chemical stock control.
- Maintain supplies of laboratory chemical stock consumables.
- Advise the Junior Science Technician on biology requirements.
- Ensure accident/incident forms are completed as appropriate and sent to the office.
- Arrange for classes to be moved between laboratories in accordance with teaching requirements and available laboratory facilities.
- Be aware of work left for absent science teaching staff and take control of finished work.
- Issue text books and maintain records.
- Assist with book return days.
- Make visual checks on all electrical equipment used in laboratories.
- Provide support in practical lessons as required.
- Report repair requirements to the Buildings and Estates Manager.
- Any other reasonable duties as requested by the Head of Science or Principal.

Absent Staff

- Find out which member of staff is sitting for an absent colleague teaching biology, lock/unlock laboratories as required and ensure that all materials are available.
- Collect together teaching aids, books etc to be used for work for classes whose biology teacher is absent. On occasion, to use knowledge of syllabus to collate suitable work for a class subject to Head of Science or Head of Biology's approval.

Trainee Teachers

- Provide support to trainee teachers with regard to health and safety, resources etc particularly when not teaching their main discipline.

Training and Development

As a Teaching School, we are committed to the professional development of all staff. The Biology Laboratory Technician will participate in the school's appraisal arrangements and an experienced appraiser (line manager) will be appointed to assist in the laboratory technician's development.

Probationary period

Your appointment is subject to a six month probationary period. At the end of this period, providing your service has been satisfactory, your appointment will be confirmed. If your service is not satisfactory your employment may be terminated within the probationary period. The school requires six weeks written notice to resign from the post.

Please return your application to Mrs C Williams at the school by midday on Thursday 21 September 2016. Interviews are to be held in the week beginning Monday 25 September. Applicants who are not contacted during this period may assume that they have not been successful but are thanked for their interest. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants who are not called for interview.

Please note that due to equal opportunities and safeguarding regulations, applications will be accepted by application form only. Please do not send CVs. Supporting documents/letters of application are welcomed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information about the school, a copy of the school's prospectus and the most recent OFSTED inspection are available from the school's website.

AGGS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake a CRB check by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
<i>Qualifications, Training.</i>	Relevant qualifications.	Experience in a school environment. A qualification in Science.
<i>Relevant experience.</i>	Experience of laboratory management.	
<i>Knowledge, skills, abilities.</i>	Excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent organisational skills. A total commitment to issues of confidentiality and ensuring that others do so. Ability to work efficiently at speed. Ability to be self-motivating. Ability to work under pressure. Ability to work as part of a team. Ability to plan, organise and prioritise work schedule. Physically agile. Very good ICT skills	
<i>Safeguarding</i>	Commitment to demonstrating a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. DBS clearance.	
<i>Others</i>	Commitment to the aims and ethos of the school. Willingness to carry out duties at school afternoon or evening events and occasionally at the weekend. Willingness to train as a first-aider. Self-confidence and the ability to deal with difficult situations. A thorough, meticulous approach to all tasks. Smart, professional appearance. Ability to show tact and discretion. Willingness to represent the school. Willingness to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Flexibility and a willingness to be involved in change. Commitment to further training and development. A genuine commitment to improving the quality of provision for pupils in our school. A positive approach to challenges, which seeks solutions to problems and addresses difficulties with good humour.	