



LLOYD WILLIAMSON  
SCHOOLS

# Head

Candidate Information

# Introduction

On behalf of the Trustees of the Lloyd Williamson Schools, we would like to begin by thanking you for your interest in applying for the position of Head.

Educating children up to the age of 16+, this is a unique, split-campus school which requires a leader who relates wholeheartedly to the vision for personalised learning and who has the knowledge and experience to fulfil that promise.

We are looking for a dynamic and passionate Head of School to lead and expand a truly unique educational experience. If you're an inspiring leader with a drive to make a lasting impact and an ambition to take the schools on a successful journey into the future, this is the exciting opportunity for you.

The following information will give you some background to the schools. Please do contact us directly for a confidential discussion if this is a role you believe fits your own passions.



**Angela Short** and **Diana Watkins**  
RSAcademics Ltd





## History and Overview

Lloyd Williamson Schools (LWS) was founded in 1999, encapsulating the inspiration and vision of Lucy Meyer, who has led the school since that time. Lucy had a passionate ambition to create a school where every child feels valued and is given the encouragement to become the best that they can be. Over the years, she and her dedicated colleagues, with the support of a very generous benefactor, have created a wonderful place of learning that is a demonstrably caring and nurturing environment – and one that is far from being a ‘one-size-fits-all’ school.

Based in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, LWS has built an excellent reputation in the city for high-quality, personalised, holistic learning. Currently, the school is arranged over two sites, with the secondary school having recently moved into a newly refurbished, inspiring and welcoming building. Each is characterised by small classes, individual attention and a love of learning. The schools have extended opening hours, competitive but realistic fees and all-year-round provision, including holiday clubs.

LWS is a unique, small and supportive family school where everyone is known and everyone belongs. Equality and diversity permeate the fabric of this extraordinary place, which sits proudly at the heart of a very special community in a vibrant urban setting.

It offers a wonderfully aspirational and personalised learning environment to all pupils, celebrating childhood and encouraging each pupil to thrive in a challenging and stimulating setting that ignites a passion for life and learning.

LWS has high expectations of its pupils, and indeed, they achieve great things at IGCSE and in all aspects of school life. However, what makes LWS so special and distinctive amongst competitor schools is a recognition that each pupil will take their own individual path to success, together with an appreciation that there are many different ways of getting there. In the highly competitive educational landscape of London, LWS offers a warm, welcoming and safe haven as a school where children have an innate sense of belonging, are cared for personally and are encouraged to take risks.

The curriculum is unapologetically distinctive yet mainstream. Core subjects are tackled from every angle with the approach throughout the schools being holistic and genuinely child centred. Literacy and reading for pleasure are given particular credence, supported by an excellent library.

Pupils can be prepared for exams at any point. Some are prepared for 11+ entry to independent schools, though the majority who leave at this point go to state schools, such as Holland Park. Those who choose to continue through to 16+ benefit hugely from the avoidance of the often-overwhelming pressure of going through the 11+ transfer process. At the end of IGCSEs, most pupils go on to state or independent sixth forms or tutorial colleges.



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*“Neither alternative nor a soft touch but a genuinely inclusive, perfectly mainstream school, underpinned by a personalised approach, small classes and a pragmatic kindness that helps everyone in the school community to thrive.”*

The Good Schools Guide

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# The Opportunity

This is a tremendous opportunity for a current or aspiring Head who would relish the chance to become the Head of a small and distinctive school with its own unique and special personality. The role would suit a warm and engaging leader with the energy and desire to be fully involved in the future growth and development of the school: someone aligned to the school's special mission in this distinct part of London.

The last few years have brought very significant challenges to all schools socially, politically and economically, but these trends have given schools many new opportunities, too. For LWS, this is an important moment for a new leader to take the helm, building on Lucy Meyer's outstanding pioneering work as the founding Head and leading the school on a continued upwards trajectory. Never has there been a greater need for schools offering an outstanding pupil-centred and individualistic education.

The Trustees are looking for somebody with a real and demonstrable passion for education and the skills to reinvigate, shape and develop the school in the next

exciting stage of its journey. This will require energy and determination, strategic vision and the ability to think creatively and see the bigger picture. It is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic, motivated and robust individual to lead LWS, its dedicated and caring staff and the aspirational families who entrust the schools with their children's education.

The new Head will have the opportunity to strengthen LWS's distinctive brand, promoting it vigorously in the local and wider community. The Head must be ambitious for every child, never selling them short, with the ability to establish positive working relationships with parents and all stakeholders.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a clear understanding of the culture, values and mission of LWS. They will have knowledge and experience of secondary education and a good understanding of 11+ and 16+ transfer. Above all, the new Head will appreciate why LWS is different, championing the belief that there are many different routes pupils may follow on their journey to success.

## The Role

The role and the job description will be discussed at interview. There is an expectation that the Head will run the school smoothly, efficiently and to the highest possible professional standards, with exemplary attention to detail, including fulfilling all the statutory responsibilities expected of any Head. The new Head of LWS will be given the opportunity to have some input into the creation of their own job description in discussion with the Trustees.





## The Person

Amongst a wide range of other skills, the new Head will need to be:

- a forward-thinking, outward-looking leader with experience in the practical aspects of growing a school
- passionate about delivering the best possible all-round education for every pupil, ensuring outstanding academic, co-curricular and pastoral care
- dedicated to achieving the best possible outcomes for all pupils, especially with regard to all aspects of their wellbeing
- a natural and easy communicator with pupils, staff, parents and prospective parents, quick to win trust and confidence
- an exceptional team leader, able to motivate and inspire all
- able to appoint and develop the very best people, empowering all staff members to develop personally and professionally
- adept with the softer skills, too – the ability to listen, empathise and show compassion
- an analytical and imaginative strategic thinker
- skilled at the many and varied aspects of change management
- an inclusive leader who values and promotes diversity amongst the pupil and staff body
- financially and commercially astute
- able to promote a compliant, safe, nurturing, encouraging and welcoming environment
- a resilient and courageous person who enjoys challenge and debate
- a warm and engaging person, with a sense of fun, optimism and joy in education.

# Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to contact RSAcademics to arrange a confidential discussion with one of the consultants handling this appointment:

- Angela Short, Head of Search:  
[angelashort@rsacademics.com](mailto:angelashort@rsacademics.com)
- Diana Watkins, Senior Advisor:  
[dianawatkins@rsacademics.com](mailto:dianawatkins@rsacademics.com)

Applications will be considered as they are received, and selected candidates will be invited to preliminary interviews.

**N.B. Safer recruitment checks will be made at all stages in the recruitment process.**

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Founded in 2002 by Russell Speirs, RSAcademics has advised and supported over 700 schools and educational organisations in the UK and worldwide. Through our working partnerships with heads, leadership teams, boards, staff and parents, we specialise in supporting schools in five main areas: strategy, marketing and research; equality, diversity and inclusion; operational improvement; leadership and governance and philanthropy. We enable schools worldwide to thrive by finding and developing senior leaders, guiding decision makers, making connections and shaping debate. We are known for the calibre and spirit of our people. We exist entirely to serve schools because we believe that the world needs thriving schools. Please visit [www.rsacademics.com](http://www.rsacademics.com) for more information.

RSAcademics is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in schools and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

