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# Head of Computing



**Contract Type:**

**Permanent**

**Required for:**

**April 2021 or sooner**

**Closing Date for applications:**

**10:00am, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Interview date:**

**w/c 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

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This is an outstanding opportunity to join Buckinghamshire UTC, a 14-19 Secondary School in Aylesbury.

Buckinghamshire University Technical College is a unique school offering the very best of technical education with outstanding links to our specialist employer sponsors. Our UTC specialises in Computing and Building Studies with Health being introduced as a new specialism from September 2022. Our curriculum embraces the core subjects at Key Stage 4 coupled with an innovative focus on our specialisms which is then further developed into our Sixth Form.

The UTC joined Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust on 1st November 2021. This has enabled an even sharper focus on professional development for staff with excellent support for teaching and learning, staff wellbeing and support. Shared practice across our schools lies at the heart of our Trust ethos and is already having an impact at the UTC.

We are recruiting in a number of areas and are looking for colleagues who are passionate about their subjects, are committed to supporting young people and are keen to buy into the vision of what makes a successful UTC. We are seeking future school leaders who see working in our context as another step on their professional journey and who are committed to our trust value of "**making a difference**".

Bucks UTC is a growing, non-selective school with students aged 14-19 who come from a very wide area including Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. We have an excellent reputation for supporting young people from diverse backgrounds in their pursuit for **purposeful destinations**. Our students successfully secure competitive University places, apprenticeships and employment positions. Importantly, we gain huge satisfaction from seeing students successfully joining local job sectors. We are proud of the careers focus throughout the school and we aim to support young people no matter what their chosen pathway.

Students enjoy a huge range of **employer engagement** opportunities such as work placements, mentoring, guest speaker, workshops, site visits and industry-specific projects. We have strong links with large multi-national and local organisations alike and we are particularly proud of the excellent working relationships with the local community.

Students predominantly complete vocational courses as these provide more flexibility than academic courses and opportunities to gain valuable **technical qualifications**. We review courses regularly to ensure that specific modules and qualifications match our students' and industry needs, giving students the strongest possible start to their careers. We are very fortunate to have **industry-standard facilities** which are frequently commented upon by visitors and students as being inspiring. Throughout the curriculum there are industry links and practical

applications to ensure that students leave us with the experience and techniques to be able to thrive in their next steps.

Our students join us because they have a passion for the Computing, Building Studies or Health sectors and they want to specialise in one of these. We are an **inclusive** school in a selective Buckinghamshire educational landscape and are determined to serve its local community well. Students of all abilities thrive at Bucks UTC and we pride ourselves on ensuring that every student fulfils his or her potential.

Staff – both teaching and associate – are happy at Bucks UTC. Professional development is important to us and our programme is varied but also bespoke to support individual needs and priorities. Our annual two-day Teaching and Learning Conference is probably the highlight of this programme. We embrace the inevitable challenges of working with young people and staff are supportive of each other. It is an excellent place to work and we are committed to staff wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance for all our colleagues.

This post would be ideal for someone with experience of leading a Computing department to achieve strong outcomes for the students it serves but we also recognise that it may be right for someone who is looking to make a mark in the early stages of their career.

## Computing at Bucks UTC

### Curriculum:

Students join at Year 10 or Year 12 and complete Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications respectively. In addition to English, Maths and Science, current Computing qualifications that students take are:

Key Stage Four	Key Stage 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Computer Science (OCR)</li></ul> BTEC Technical Award in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Information Technology</li><li>• Creative Digital Media Production</li></ul>	BTEC Extended Certificate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computing</li><li>• Information Technology</li><li>• Creative Digital Media Production</li></ul>

Key Stage Four students are also currently given the opportunity to study a BTEC Technical Award in Enterprise.

Our curriculum is largely vocational since this provides an element of flexibility not possible with academic courses. It means that staff can choose to focus on modules that best suit student needs and an ever-changing computing employment sector. There is an expectation that learning is frequently 'project-focussed' and that employers have an input to ensure content is relevant to industry.

### Facilities:

Bucks UTC has a very well-resourced Computing department which is the envy of many schools. This includes 3 dedicated computer suites, an 'Apple Mac Lab', demo server room, hardware room, 3D printer, digital media equipment and green screens. Students and staff look after these resources very well knowing that they play a key part in the successful completion of courses. Our students also have the opportunity to visit industry settings in the UK and abroad.

### Team:

The successful applicant would be part of a two-person department, but this is likely to grow with increasing student numbers in the coming years. There would be an expectation to predominantly teach the Computer Science / Computing qualifications with some shared teaching of IT.

## Selection Criteria

The successful candidate will be able to meet the following person specification criteria:

### Person specification

Criteria	Qualities
<b>Qualifications and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualified teacher status</li> <li>Degree or equivalent qualification in relevant field</li> </ul>
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching experience with students in KS4-5 at all ability levels with a particular focus on Computing / Computer Science</li> <li>Leadership of a course or department</li> <li>Involvement in self-evaluation and development planning</li> <li>Experience of conducting training / leading INSET</li> <li>Experience in line-management</li> <li>Experience in leading change</li> <li>Strategic work: planning, decision-making and successful implementation</li> <li>Worked in a UTC previously</li> </ul>
<b>Skills and knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert knowledge of KS4 and KS5 level Computer Science and IT curricula</li> <li>Sound knowledge of Level 2 and Level 3 vocational qualifications in Computing-related courses</li> <li>Understanding of high-quality teaching and learning strategies in Computing, and the ability to model this for others and support others to improve</li> <li>Awareness of local and national organisations that can provide support with delivering the subject</li> <li>Data analysis skills, and the ability to use data to inform planning</li> <li>Ability to build effective working relationships with staff and other stakeholders</li> <li>Ability to adapt teaching to meet students' needs</li> <li>Ability to build effective working relationships with students</li> <li>Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children</li> <li>Effective communication and interpersonal skills</li> <li>Ability to communicate a vision and inspire others</li> <li>Knowledge of Computing industry and related pathways outside of education</li> </ul>
<b>Personal qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils</li> <li>Uphold and promote the ethos and values of the school</li> <li>Commitment to equal opportunities and securing good outcomes for pupils with SEND</li> <li>Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively</li> <li>Maintain confidentiality at all times</li> <li>Commitment to safeguarding and equality</li> </ul>

## General Duties

Buckinghamshire UTC is part of Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust. At 'MTOAT' we pride ourselves on providing a safe and happy environment where young people can flourish and we want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their full part in it. This job description should be read in conjunction with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and the provisions of that document will apply to the post holder. Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to DBS checks along with other relevant employment checks.

You will be expected to carry out the professional duties of a Head of Computing as outlined in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document currently in operation, or any subsequent legislation. The performance of all the duties and responsibilities will be under the reasonable direction of the Principal, or other Senior Manager if appropriate, who will be mindful of his/her duty to ensure that the employee has a reasonable workload and sufficient support to carry out the duties of the post.

- Further information and an application form can be found on our school website at [www.buckinghamshireutc.co.uk](http://www.buckinghamshireutc.co.uk)
- For more information or to arrange a visit to the school (strongly encouraged), please contact [reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk](mailto:reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk)
- Please email all completed applications to: [recruit@wallingfordschool.com](mailto:recruit@wallingfordschool.com) (our Trust HR team)

**Closing date** for completed application forms is **10:00am, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Interviews** are planned for **w/c 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**