



January 2020

Dear Potential Applicant,

Thank you for considering a post at BSix Sixth Form College.

To help you decide whether or not to turn initial interest into an application, you may find the following of use.

The college is currently emerging from a period of relative decline and re-establishing itself as an attractive proposition to students in Hackney and beyond. Financial problems, the result largely of a year-on-year fall in student numbers and a failure to reduce costs in proportion to the resulting drop in income, bought us to the attention of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Further Education Commissioner's Office (FEC). Successive Ofsted inspection judgements of "Requires Improvement" have compounded financial problems with questions as to the quality of the education we provide. The combined dissatisfaction of the ESFA, FEC and Ofsted came to a head in the spring of 2018 and prompted the resignation of the Chair of Governors and subsequent departure of the Principal. I have held the latter post since May 2018.

The college's story since those dark days has been far more encouraging and optimistic.

- An Ofsted monitoring visit in February 2019 concluded with two judgements of "Significant Progress" and one of "Reasonable Progress".
- Two FEC "Stocktake Reports" have commented very approvingly on the steps taken by the college to regularise its finances, increase its appeal to prospective students and boost achieved outcomes.
- The ESFA has reduced the frequency of the monitoring meetings it holds with us and expressed approval of the progress made. The Vice Principal Finance and Resources (like the other two Vice Principals appointed under the new regime) has been recommended by the ESFA to advise other colleges about their accounting procedures such is the standard of his tracking and reporting.
- BSix was the subject of a pilot Ofsted inspection in June 2019, held under the auspices of the latest framework, and received very complimentary feedback. It was deemed to be "a very different place" from that visited eighteen months earlier.
- The Summer 2019 examination results were the best in BSix's history with advances made at almost every level.

There remains much to do, not least in cracking the historic reputation which continues to restrict the number of students who want to join BSix. Buoyed by a fresh sense of optimism, we are attending to the many remaining issues with renewed energy and inspiration. Staff morale is extremely high and there is near-universal support for the mission and values of BSix and for the policies adopted to pursue our key objectives. Anyone coming to work at BSix will join an institution still very much a work in progress but on united in a drive to raise standards - seeking to discard once and for all the negative associations of the past and focus on the core business of teaching, learning and student attainment from a position of financial stability and strength.



Some information specific to the area of the college you have applied for is attached. If you would like to discuss anything pertinent to the post, please contact Claire Crook at ccrook@bsix.ac.uk or via telephone on 0208 525 7198.

I hope that my account of past woes and the battles we still have to win if BSix is to achieve its declared aim of remaining an autonomous, stand-alone sixth form college will serve to whet your appetite for stimulation and hard work and not deflate your spirit. If so, I look forward to receiving your application and, if your skills, accomplishments and ambition satisfy our requirements, to meeting you at interview.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Watson".

Kevin Watson
Principal