

## Diocese of Norwich Undergraduate Training Scheme

### School Chaplain – Thorpe St Andrew High School

There is a growing appreciation of the role of school Chaplains within secondary schools and of the important bridge they can create between the educational and church environments.

The parishes of Thorpe St Andrew, Brundall and Blofield in the Diocese of Norwich are working together to enhance the work of the chaplaincy team through the undergraduate training scheme.

The ecumenical chaplaincy Team at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form has always identified three strands to their work: support for pupils (pastoral and spiritual), support for staff and support in the growth of disciples within the school.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and innovative undergraduate who will be willing to join the team and contribute to its development - extending the ministry that we are able to offer within the school and beyond.

Our work currently involves providing a 'space' each week where questions of faith are explored and also more informal contact as members of the team move around the school. We would like to see the role of the chaplaincy extended to supporting our local primary schools which feed into the high school and with which we have excellent relationships. We have identified the transition from year 6 to year 7 as a key focus for us.

Office space and comprehensive support will be provided.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact Peter Leech (01603 715136 or [peter.leech@live.co.uk](mailto:peter.leech@live.co.uk))

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

<b>Hours during term</b>	17 hours per week
<b>Hours during vacations</b>	17 hours per week
<b>Financial Arrangements</b>	Salary of £16,157.56 pro rata College travel expenses Work related expenses Course registration costs Course residential costs
<b>Holiday entitlement</b>	22 days per year, + Bank Holidays pro rata.
<b>Length of Professional and Ministerial Practice Agency</b>	Three academic years

**Job Description:****Diocese of Norwich Undergraduate Training Scheme****Role Title: School Chaplain**

**Location:** Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, alongside the feeder primary schools and cluster parish churches. Desk space can be made available in the Parish Office at the St Andrew's Centre, next to the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Parish of Thorpe St Andrew. This is ideally situated close to Thorpe St Andrew School. Further details can be provided by the local incumbent on request.

**Purpose:** The incarnational nature of chaplaincy is to simply 'be there', especially for individuals who require additional support, space for reflection, a listening ear or someone to pray with them in times of crisis.

To be a positive Christian presence, to serve and enable others to be open to the possibility of Faith.

To be a resource and provide pastoral support.

Our vision is to develop a chaplaincy role which will provide the opportunity for local churches to support the young people who attend Thorpe St Andrew school and sixth form. The role of the school chaplain is to develop relationship, enable questions of faith to be explored and to offer support which will build resilience, raise self-esteem, and help to promote mental wellbeing.

The school chaplain will also enable us to build on the existing strong links that we have with the primary schools within the cluster of parishes.

The school chaplain will have the opportunity to act as a bridge between the world education and the Church.

The school chaplain will work as part of the existing Chaplaincy Team (an ecumenical group of volunteers). They will have the opportunity to enhance the current work as well as the opportunity to develop new initiatives.

To be part of the Diocesan Children, Youth & Families Team

The student will also be expected to attend an agreed local church during the length of the placement and visit other churches in the school catchment area as appropriate.

**Support:** Line Management will be provided by the Diocesan Youth, Children and Families Development Officer. Academic support will be provided by Ridley Hall. Day-to-day support and management will be provided by one of the incumbents within the cluster parishes. We will also provide spiritual support and nurture and nourishment. An element of mentoring will also be provided by the clergy team.

**Safeguarding:** The appointment of a chaplain will be subject to a DBS check. They will be expected to work within the schools (and Diocesan) Safeguarding policies and procedures. They will be expected to have due regard for the safety and well-being of themselves, the students and the staff.

### **Principle Duties and Responsibilities:**

To work with the current Chaplaincy team in order to:

- be available to students, staff and governors (where appropriate) in a pastoral capacity.
- develop an accessible timetable during the school week for pastoral support, but also be available in times of crisis.
- develop faith based extra-curricular activities during lunchtime and after school that are appropriate to the needs of the students.
- liaise with the RE Department and provide input as appropriate.
- signpost those from other faiths to appropriate networks for support.
- work with the school at the point of transition with feeder schools.
- occasionally to be involved in church-wide and diocesan initiatives and events.
- build links with cluster churches.
- strengthen communication with cluster churches.
- be a role model of Christian discipleship within a contemporary educational environment.

### **Skills, Aptitude, Knowledge and Experience:**

Essential:

- Some experience of working with young people in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Sensitivity to school systems and processes. Effective written and verbal communication skills. Effective inter-personal and listening skills.
- Pastoral sensitivities to both student and staff needs.
- Awareness of issues relating to children/young people.
- Have an understanding of Safeguarding (particularly in a school context). To be self-aware and willing to engage in mature reflective practice.

Desirable:

- Experience of setting up and running activities for young people.
- Experience of mentoring.
- Experience of working in partnership with others (ecumenical and secular).
- A good knowledge and understanding of the Bible, prayer and worship so as to lead and nurture others.
- Some knowledge and understanding of other world faith / religions.

### **Personal Qualities:**

Essential:

- Able to build and maintain professional relationships.
- Able to develop mutual trust and respect with students and staff. Able to be a good Christian role model to students.
- Able to work as part of a team.
- Be approachable, friendly and non-judgemental. To be sensitive to those of other faiths and none.

Desirable:

- Self starter who is creative, motivated and can work on their own initiative.
- Sensitive, caring, patient and resilient nature.
- Have lots of energy and enthusiasm to motivate students, especially in areas relating to faith.
- A sense of humour.
- Be open to the ideas and thoughts of others and able to ask for help when required.