



Atelier  
— 21 —

a revolutionary response to school

# Executive Headteacher Candidate Pack

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# Welcome Letter

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Executive Head position at Atelier 21 Future School.

Established in September 2020, Atelier 21 is a pioneering school for children age 4 - 16 years, currently with 120 pupils on roll, with increased capacity available up to 165 pupils - to meet demand for places.

Our success is measured not only by our innovative teaching methodologies but by the respect we've earned in the education realm. Our school focuses on creating a dynamic and engaging educational environment 'fit for our children's futures not our pasts.' Our five interconnected ways in which pupils learn and develop new skills to complement their academic studies are cross-curricular project-based learning, self-directed learning (in areas of personal interest), Workshops, Wild Fridays (outdoor learning) and Entrepreneurship. Our school follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme from age 11.

Our commitment to making learning relevant, meaningful and joyful, reflects in the positive feedback we receive from staff, parents, pupils, and schools worldwide. Our mission is to 'change the lives of a million pupils to start.'

Atelier 21 is one of the pioneering schools taking part in the 'Next Big 10,' a two-year whole school transformation project, run in conjunction with Rethinking Assessment, to inform government legislation around real change needed in education. Atelier 21 is inspired by the world renowned Reggio Emilia Approach which influences its exceptional practise, and looks to evidence-based neuroscience, to inform how children learn best and how curriculums can be more relevant, meaningful and joyful – our overarching pedagogical aim.

We have recently spoken at the Rethinking Education conference and has been selected to speak at the next World Education Summit in March 2024 on our pioneering approach to education entitled 'What's the point of school.'

Guy Claxton, a cognitive scientist and prominent figure in education, serves as the patron of Atelier 21, bringing his expertise in the 'Learning Power Approach' to our school's development and he sits on our school improvement partners board.

We are looking for an Executive Head who can lead the school into a new phase of development, to build on successes and drive further growth. We seek a leader who is a powerhouse of innovation who can adapt the school to the changing educational landscape, embracing flexibility in response to its evolving needs and challenges. This visionary leader will refine the Atelier 21 model, enhance relationships with our community, improve operations, and implement exciting offerings for an enriched educational experience. This person will be able to provide exceptional leadership to meet our high standards and aims.

We are looking for someone who is already a successful educational leader, with the drive and ambition to ensure continued success and the vision and skills to identify and deliver change in the years ahead. Someone with natural gravitas and humour balanced with ambition, experience and sound judgement.

This position does not require experience of leading the IB or pioneering pedagogy, although this would be helpful. However, it does require certain dispositions and personal traits: strategic, highly resilient, passionate, vision focussed with a tenacious desire to affect change in education and impact children's lives worldwide - through scaling the school and sharing Atelier 21's innovative ideas in education, via our CPD company and licensing opportunities.

If this sounds like you and resonates with your aspirations, we invite you to explore the next chapter of our journey.

Yours sincerely,  
Hayley Peacock

Founder and Head of School  
**Atelier 21 Future School**





# About Atelier 21

Atelier 21 is a pioneering school, designed to offer an education fit for children's futures. Based in Broadfield Park, Pease Pottage, West Sussex, the school is the UK's first Reggio Emilia inspired, enquiry-based learning Future School for children aged 4-16 years.

Our school is creating a stir in the educational landscape for its trailblazing approach to education which focusses on teaching children 'how to think, not what to think.' Its aim is to make learning more relevant, meaningful and joyful.

The children at Atelier 21 have a democratic say in the running of the school and this shows in the revolutionary culture which nurtures mutual respect between adults and young people, hence no school uniform and pupils call the teachers by their first names.

Our school is committed to excellence in education and innovation. We are dedicated to shaping the future by empowering our students with the skills, learning powers and 'flex-pertise' they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world.







# Job Description

## Job Title: Executive Headteacher

### *Collaborative Visionary Trailblazer:*

Forge a dynamic partnership with the current Head of School and Proprietor to craft and champion an educational vision that epitomises the groundbreaking ethos of Atelier 21 Future School, whilst celebrating the diversity and values of our extraordinary school community.

Elevate the school's vision to new heights, seamlessly adapting to the evolving needs of the community we passionately serve.

### *Visionary Communication and Cultural Integration:*

Actively share and integrate the school's visionary ethos and values across the entire school community, igniting commitment and understanding from every stakeholder.

Lead by example, embodying these values in day-to-day practices, establishing a gold standard for our revolutionary school culture.





A photograph of four children in a forest. On the left, a boy with curly hair leans against a tree. Next to him, a boy in a grey hoodie sits on a log. To the right, a girl in a grey sweater and black beanie sits on a log, and another girl in a grey hoodie sits next to her. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and foliage.

### *Strategic Implementation:*


Translate the vision into practical objectives, steering the school's trajectory through innovative planning, policies, and procedures that fuel continuous advancement.

Ensure that these objectives resonate with our unwavering dedication to progressive, learner-centric, enquiry-based education.

### *Cultural Leadership:*

Inspire and connect with our dynamic teaching staff, pupils and the wider community, cultivating a shared culture that breathes life into the school's educational vision and values.

Foster a positive climate that incubates collaborative learning and sparks innovation.

Three stylized green trees with brown trunks, positioned at the bottom of the page. They are simple, pixelated-style trees of varying heights and shades of green.





## Responsibilities

### *Strategic Leadership:*

Provide visionary leadership, ensuring excellence in education and student care.

Develop and implement a distinctive unparalleled curriculum that addresses individual pupil needs, nurturing their holistic development and empowering them to unlock their limitless potential.

### *Inclusive Environment Creation:*

Establish a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere, promoting a sense of belonging, respect and emotional well-being throughout our vibrant school community.

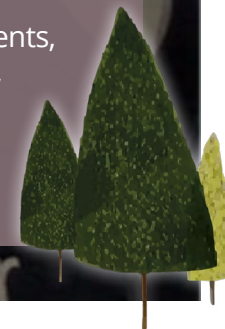
### *Team Leadership and Development:*

Lead and empower a team of educators and staff, propelling professional development, teamwork and an unwavering commitment to student achievement.

Cultivate an environment steeped in mutual respect, dedication, perpetual learning and shared objectives.

### *Community and Stakeholder Engagement:*

Build and sustain robust connections with parents, external agencies and the broader community, amplifying educational experiences and supporting seamless student transitions.







### *Compliance and Safety Assurance*

Oversee the unyielding adherence to educational standards, regulations and safeguarding protocols, ensuring an environment that is not only safe but conducive to a pioneering learning environment.

### *Financial and Resource Management:*

Manage the school's budget with ingenuity, optimising resource utilisation and exploring innovative funding avenues to propel our transformative school initiatives.

### *Professional Growth and Awareness:*

Embark on a continuous journey of professional evolution, staying at the forefront of innovations in special education, educational technology and cutting-edge research to elevate our school's educational offerings continually.





# Person Specification

We're seeking an extraordinary Executive Headteacher to embody the spirit of Atelier 21 Future School's groundbreaking ethos. We need a visionary leader, a true powerhouse of innovation who thrives on challenging the status quo with professionalism, gravitas, and conviction. This role requires someone with the character to refine our educational model, inspire the community, and navigate the evolving educational landscape with adaptability and composure.

The ideal candidate is not just an educational leader but a collaborative visionary trailblazer. They should forge dynamic partnerships, championing an educational vision that celebrates diversity and values within our school community. More than developing and implementing strategies, we seek a leader with the dispositions of a sense of humour, determination and persuasiveness balanced with ambition, experience and sound judgement.

In this role, the Executive Headteacher will be the living embodiment of our school's visionary communications, actively sharing and integrating our ethos across the entire community. They will cultivate a shared culture that breathes life into our educational vision, fostering a positive climate for collaborative learning and innovation. If you're a successful educational leader with the character to lead with innovation, humour and a commitment to transformative change, we invite you to help us shape the future of education at Atelier 21 Future School.







# Person Specification

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced academic qualifications with a demonstrated track record of success in academic management</li><li>• Proven success in fostering relationships across diverse stakeholders and building high-performing teams</li><li>• Expertise in managing financial and physical resources, including strong financial acumen</li></ul>
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outstanding communication skills, both written and verbal</li><li>• Inspiring leader with intellect, passion and energy to motivate staff and students</li><li>• Dedication to achieving academic excellence and maintaining the highest standards</li><li>• Strong commitment to partnership working and engaging meaningfully with the wider community</li><li>• Business-savvy with an understanding of fundraising, PR, marketing and legal matters</li><li>• Exceptional decision-making and problem-solving abilities</li></ul>
PERSONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal commitment to pupil happiness and wellbeing</li><li>• Passion for innovation in education with excellent judgement and integrity</li><li>• Charismatic, confident and assured communicator</li><li>• Strategic, forward-looking and adaptable leader - both robust and enthusiastic</li><li>• Warm, caring and empathetic, maintaining excellent interpersonal skills</li><li>• Visible and approachable leadership style</li></ul>







# How to Apply

If you would like to discover more about this exciting opportunity, need any further information or you wish to have an informal discussion, please contact our retained consultant at Academicis, Caroline Olsen:  
colsen@academicis.co.uk or  
01223 907979 / 07500 889504

Please email your application to:  
Caroline Olsen: colsen@academicis.co.uk  
with a comprehensive cover letter showcasing your educational philosophy and profound alignment with Atelier 21's visionary mission.

**Closing date:** 22nd January 2024 at noon

**Shortlisting date:** 24th January 2024

**Interviews:** 31st January & 1st February 2024

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