



LEAD PRACTITIONER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

LP2-LP6

Candidate Information Pack
01 September 2025

Welcome from the Chief Executive

Welcome. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to you from our academy trust.

Providence Learning Partnership is a new trust, initially established with Durham Sixth Form Centre who will be joined by Durham Mathematics School in the near future. Based in Durham City centre, Durham Mathematics School will be a specialist academy for A level mathematicians who also have a keen interest in computer science and / or physics. We continue to work very closely with the Department of Education and Durham University in realising DMS and look forward to making further announcements about it in the coming months.

Our Trust is dedicated to empowering students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers and compassionate leaders. We value:

- High quality, inspirational teaching and learning.
- Excellent support, care and guidance.
- Personal and professional integrity.
- Ambition and progress for our students, our communities and ourselves.

Together, we embark on a journey that prioritises academic achievement, nurtures talent, and promotes a holistic approach to education. Through collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision, we aspire to create an environment where every individual can thrive and reach their fullest potential. Our students are placed at the heart of our decision making which is reflected in our Vision and Aims.

Trust vision | Our Trust prioritises excellence in teaching and learning, recognising the uniqueness of each student in celebration of diversity and inclusion. Working collaboratively, we embrace expertise and innovation, contributing to the North of England through the cultivation of lifelong learners.

Trust aims | We enable our vision through the following aims, which are supported by actions in our Trust Development Plan.

- **Student success:** We will empower our students to achieve their full potential in a nurturing and inclusive environment underpinned by high-quality, inspirational teaching and learning. Through fostering a culture that emphasises wellness, resilience and challenge, we will support our students to both consistently achieve above the national average and develop the skills needed to thrive in a dynamic educational landscape.
- **Educational excellence:** We will lead and champion excellence through the development of extensive and sustainable educational partnerships and networks and through local mathematics, arts and literacy outreach programmes which enhance engagement and enrich our community.
- **Responsible growth:** We will expand our Trust responsibly and with integrity, mindful of the need to maintain alignment with our values.

Our collective efforts continue to shape the future of our education provision, embracing diversity, inclusion, and the pursuit of knowledge. As a community, we value the input, creativity, and expertise of each member, understanding that it takes a collaborative effort to create an exceptional educational experience.

I encourage you to actively engage, share your ideas, and contribute your skills to our shared mission. Together, let us inspire, support, and empower one another, laying the foundation for a brighter tomorrow. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to the incredible journey of growth and success that we will potentially undertake together.

Ellen Beveridge
Chief Executive



Additional Information

We are excited to share the following information with potential applicants as it highlights our Trust's forward-thinking and evolving journey for A Level Computer Science.

Background

The maths school programme was launched by the government in response to national and regional concerns about maths education in England. More highly skilled graduates are needed in mathematics-related disciplines, and many students who have the potential to flourish in maths – particularly those from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups – do not have the opportunity to do so.

Funded as post-16 free schools, maths schools are like no other, responding to a very specific brief.¹ All schools must involve a leading university in governance, curriculum and “stretch” activities. All students must take Maths and Further Maths, and at least one further A Level in a related field such as Computer Science or Physics. Curricula must be innovative and engaging, cultivating intellectual curiosity, deep learning and career-related skills. In collaboration with schools, universities and local authorities, maths schools are to undertake extensive outreach and professional development, raising standards and improving life chances for young people across the region.

In response to the government's invitation, DMS was proposed in 2019. Building on the experience of existing maths schools, and adapting to the unique needs of the region, Durham University (DU) and Durham Sixth Form Centre (DSFC) proposed a school that would serve as a lead for improvement in the region, promoting excellence in an area that has consistently lagged in key school metrics.

DMS is one of eleven members of the University Maths School network. No more maths schools are planned. When opened, DMS will be the only maths school to serve young people living in a broad region that includes County Durham, Cumbria, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Teesside and the North Yorkshire coast.

DMS is currently in the “pre-opening” phase. The original opening date was 2022, but site challenges delayed the funding agreement until after the most recent national election. These obstacles have been overcome. The original business case has, over time, become even more compelling. Persistent attainment gaps have widened, as has the gap between the region and the rest of the country, further restricting life opportunities and limiting economic development. Although the maths school is under review with the current government, alongside the Free School programme, it is hoped the school will be opened in 2028.



To find out more about Durham Mathematics School please visit us:

www.durham-mathematics-school.org.uk

www.umaths.ac.uk



¹ Department for Education, “How to apply to set up a maths school for 16 to 19 year olds,” March 2018.

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Durham Sixth Form Centre and thank you for your interest in the advertised post. I hope the following information gives you an insight into our school.

Durham Sixth Form Centre is a large post-16 provider based in the North East of England, with approximately 1,700 students on roll. We are situated in the middle of Durham City centre, a couple of minutes walk from both the bus and railway stations. Students generally enrol at Durham Sixth Form Centre from over 60 different secondary schools from across County Durham, Sunderland and into Northumberland.

In 2017 we were graded an 'outstanding' post-16 school, this is reflected in our recent Ofsted monitoring visit report, 2024. Our students have an excellent record of success, which they work hard to achieve. Trends over time demonstrate the following headlines:

In academic qualifications:

- Progress (VA) has been consistently above the National Average (NA) and was graded above average in the 2025 performance tables.
- A Level average point score (APS) is significantly above the NA and places us in the top 6% of schools and colleges nationally.
- 71% of students achieved A*- B A Level grades in the summer 2024.

In applied general qualifications:

- Progress (VA) has been consistently above the NA and was graded above average in the 2025 performance tables.
- Overall attainment (APS) is consistently above the NA and is ranked in the top 2% of schools and Academies nationally.
- 92% of students achieved Dist*-Dist grades in the summer 2024.

We recently celebrated 110 years in education. We are housed in various buildings, often referred to as a mini university setting. Our site comprises a 1913 former girls' grammar school, which was converted to sixth form accommodation in 1983. In addition to the original building, there is now a science specific wing; a 200 seated theatre; our Hunter resource centre; visual arts centre and Freeman's Quay leisure centre. In 2019, we expanded further to include our digital media centre, which houses a grab-and-go café, conference facility, TV studio, small cinema room and additional classroom space. We also have a dedicated Art Gallery on site, the Dead Dog Gallery, with an ever-changing exhibition and community programme in place.

Through sustained effort, and a clear focus and direction, Durham Sixth Form Centre is a truly embracing and dynamic organisation. We are committed to promoting the principles of equal opportunities and we aspire to an environment where all our students and employees can develop their potential. We have a strong professional development programme and have achieved CPD Mark accreditation, Investors in People Gold (we are waiting for the outcome of the IIP judgement against Platinum status) and Governor Mark among others. Our most recent full Ofsted inspection report said 'The Headteacher and the highly skilled leadership team have established a culture in which students flourish and grow. Consequently, there is a healthy appetite for learning and achievement in an environment that demands high expectations for academic, vocational and personal excellence'.

Our school operates according to the Values of our Trust which help determine the culture, ethos and atmosphere of Durham Sixth Form Centre.

If you are energetic and passionate about post-16 education, and have the skills and aptitude required for the role, then we would welcome your application and look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Jo Lain
Principal

Dear Future Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the role of Lead Practitioner of Computer Science — a role we see as central to the continued growth and innovation within our department and our wider faculty. I'm delighted to offer this letter as a genuine welcome and a window into what makes this opportunity so exciting.

At Durham Sixth Form Centre, our students are bright, ambitious, and ready to embrace challenge — and our Computer Science students are no exception. As one of the fastest-growing A Level subjects in the school, Computer Science plays a vital part in our broader vision for academic excellence, digital innovation, and real-world application. With a new Lead Practitioner post, we're looking for someone who can inspire, lead, and champion the subject at a strategic level, while nurturing every learner to achieve their best.

You would be joining a thriving Science, Technology and Mathematics Faculty — one of the most popular and high-achieving faculties in the school, with outstanding progression rates to university, including to top-tier institutions. Our faculty is defined not just by subject success, but by a shared belief in high standards, inclusive practice, and a deep commitment to our students' learning journeys. Our culture is one of collaboration, curiosity, and continuous improvement. We trial new teaching strategies, innovate in curriculum delivery, and pride ourselves on excellent outcomes — our value-added performance consistently ranks well above national averages.

We're looking for someone who is not only an exceptional classroom teacher but who brings strategic insight, creativity, and a strong understanding of pedagogy. Someone who can model best practice, support colleagues through coaching and CPD, and contribute to whole-school teaching and learning. Many in our team hold additional leadership roles, act as examiners or moderators, and pursue academic and professional study alongside their teaching — and you'll be supported to do the same.

But beyond what you can offer us, let me tell you what we can offer you.

You'll join a sixth form school with an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating, a national reputation for excellence, and a team that will genuinely support and invest in your development. We offer tailored CPD, leadership training, access to external networks, and opportunities to lead meaningful outreach and enrichment projects. You'll be part of a Trust that values integrity, collaboration, and ambition — and you'll be heard, challenged, and celebrated.

If you believe in the power of education, are excited by the prospect of leading innovation in Computer Science, and want to work with students who are ready to be stretched, this role was made for you. We'd be thrilled to welcome you to our team.

Warmest regards

Kathryn Duffy

Leader of Learning: Science, Technology and Mathematics



The Role

JOB TITLE	Lead Practitioner of Computer Science
CONTRACT TYPE	Permanent
HOURS	Full time (part-time will be considered)
GRADE	LP2 - LP6: £51,280 - £56,593 <small>(Sept 2024 STPCD)</small>
START DATE	01 September 2025

ADVERT

If you would like to discuss this role further or require any more information prior to making an application, please contact our recruitment partner Hays Specialist Recruitment Limited, James Hall on 0191 2613980 or email james.hall@hays.com

We are looking to recruit an **exceptional Lead Practitioner - Computer Science** to join our outstanding sixth form team — where innovation, ambition, and student success power everything we do.

At Durham Sixth Form Centre, we don't just teach A Level Computer Science — we inspire tomorrow's tech leaders, engineers, entrepreneurs and AI pioneers. With a thriving sixth form and a national reputation for academic excellence, this is your chance to shape something truly special.

What makes this role exciting?

- Shape a high-achieving department where Computer Science is one of our fastest-growing subjects.
- Inspire and stretch some of the brightest and most curious minds in post-16 education.
- Drive excellence across the trust as a pedagogical leader, supporting colleagues and developing best practice in teaching and learning.
- Support the development of cutting-edge tech and a future-facing curriculum aligned with university and industry needs.
- Be part of a culture that celebrates creativity, rigour, and real-world application.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is an outstanding classroom practitioner with a proven track record of exceptional outcomes.
- Has the ability to teach A Level Computer Science.
- Has a passion for Computer Science that's infectious and inspiring.
- Thrives in a collaborative, fast-paced environment and is ready to lead innovation and change.
- Brings a deep understanding of pedagogy and curriculum design — and wants to share it!
- Can engage learners from all backgrounds, unlocking their potential and raising aspirations.

Why choose us?

- Join a high-performing sixth form where students achieve and exceed their potential.
- Be part of a team that's ambitious, supportive, and driven by purpose.
- Benefit from personalised CPD, leadership coaching, and genuine career progression.
- Enjoy access to university partnerships, STEM outreach, and enrichment opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

Join Durham Sixth Form Centre as Lead Practitioner - Computer Science. Inspire future tech leaders and drive academic excellence in a high-performing sixth form. We are located in the centre of Durham, which is around 20 minutes to Sunderland and 30 minutes to the centre of Newcastle.

Please remember this position is subject to being closed early so don't hesitate and get in touch with our recruitment partner James Hall on 0191 2613980 or email james.hall@hays.com

Job Description

The Lead Practitioner plays a pivotal role in driving high-quality teaching and learning across our school and supports the wider aims of the Trust, particularly through a commitment to educational ambition that embraces outreach, partnerships, and collaboration.

As an expert classroom teacher, the Lead Practitioner models outstanding practice and uses their expertise to support the professional development of colleagues through coaching, mentoring, and leading high-impact CPD. Lead Practitioners are instrumental in raising standards by sharing innovative pedagogy, supporting curriculum development, and using data to inform and improve practice. They act as catalysts for improvement beyond their own classrooms, contributing to whole-school strategies and often leading on subject-specific or cross-curricular initiatives.

This job description should be read in conjunction with the generic job description for MPS/UPS teachers (available separately).

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Model Outstanding Classroom Practice

- Plan and deliver consistently high-quality lessons that demonstrate innovative pedagogy, academic rigour, and effective differentiation.
 - Serve as a role model for excellence in teaching and learning within the Computer Science department and across the wider school.
 - Embed a culture of high expectations, academic curiosity, and independent learning.
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2. Curriculum Leadership

- Design and develop a rich, challenging, and future-facing Computer Science curriculum at KS5 (and KS4 if applicable), incorporating current and emerging trends such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, ethical computing, and software development.
 - Ensure schemes of work and assessment strategies are aligned with examination specifications and best pedagogical practices.
 - Regularly review and refine the curriculum to respond to student needs, industry developments, and changes in qualifications.
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3. Pedagogical Development and Coaching

- Lead on the professional development of colleagues, sharing best practice in teaching strategies, subject knowledge, and digital literacy.
 - Provide targeted coaching and mentoring to improve the quality of teaching within the department and beyond.
 - Develop and lead CPD sessions, workshops, and lesson study initiatives related to Computer Science and evidence-informed teaching.
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4. Data and Assessment

- Use assessment data rigorously to identify trends, close attainment gaps, and inform curriculum planning.
 - Monitor student progress and provide timely, targeted interventions to ensure all learners achieve their potential.
 - Support staff in using data effectively to personalise learning and stretch high-achieving students as well as those requiring additional support.
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5. Departmental Leadership

- Support the Head of Department / Leader of Learning: Curriculum in implementing a shared vision for Computer Science, contributing to strategic planning and departmental reviews.
- Contribute to the recruitment, induction, and development of new staff.
- Lead or co-lead initiatives aimed at improving departmental performance and student outcomes.

6. Student Engagement and Enrichment

- Champion Computer Science across the school community and actively promote the subject's relevance in a digital world.
- Organise and lead extracurricular opportunities such as coding clubs, hackathons, computing competitions, university outreach, and industry engagement.
- Support students with applications to STEM-related university courses, including Oxbridge and top-tier institutions, offering subject-specific guidance and preparation.

7. Cross-School and Whole-Institution Contribution

- Collaborate with leaders across departments to embed digital literacy and computational thinking throughout the curriculum.
- Contribute to whole-school priorities such as teaching and learning strategy, digital transformation, or equity and inclusion.
- Represent the department in relevant leadership meetings and contribute to school self-evaluation and improvement planning.

8. Professional Learning and Subject Expertise

- Stay up-to-date with developments in Computer Science education, technology, and pedagogy, and ensure these inform practice.
 - Build links with external organisations, networks, and professional bodies to enhance the department's work and student experience.
 - Reflect on and refine your own practice as a classroom teacher and leader, modelling lifelong learning for colleagues and students alike.
 - Work with the Trust, including other Lead Practitioners, to further develop the outreach programme.
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GENERIC ASPECTS OF THE ROLE

- Lead and model the values, ethos and vision of the school in pursuit of excellence and equity, valuing individual achievement.
- Help build, communicate and implement a shared vision.
- Role model and actively promote high expectations for all members of the school community.
- Inspire, challenge, motivate and empower others within the organisation.
- Be a role model to students through personal professional presentation and professional conduct.
- Arrive in class, prior to the start of the lesson, and to begin and end lessons on time.
- Be familiar with school, Department and Faculty handbooks, policies and protocols.
- Establish effective working relationships with colleagues and associate staff.
- Contribute to student transition arrangements at appropriate times throughout the year.
- Keep an up-to-date understanding and knowledge of educational and career progression routes for students which is shared at relevant times throughout the year.
- Maintain a working knowledge and understanding of teachers' professional duties as set out in the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document, and teachers' legal liabilities and responsibilities relating to all current legislation, including the role of the education service in protecting children.
- Undertake any reasonable task as directed by the Leader of Learning, Head of Department or member of the school's Senior Leadership Team including the Principal.
- Be aware of the role of the Governing Body / Trust of the school and to support it in performing its duties.
- Be aware of the responsibility for personal health, safety and welfare and that of others who may be affected by individual action/inaction.

N.B: Every teacher will undertake performance management in line with the school's Performance Management Policy.

The Person

- Sets consistently high standards for themselves and others.
- Communicates with clarity and precision, both in writing and through active, thoughtful listening.
- Possesses exceptional organisational skills and the ability to manage time effectively to deliver high-quality outcomes.
- Acts as a positive ambassador for the school and Trust, embodying its core values and ethos.
- Inspires and guides others with strong leadership, fostering a collaborative and motivated team environment.
- Contributes enthusiastically to team efforts, showing adaptability and a willingness to go above and beyond.
- Demonstrates excellent interpersonal and team management abilities.

Person Specification

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING	Essential	Desirable
A degree in Computer Science or a related field and Qualified Teacher Status, QTLS or QTS FE.	*	
Familiarity with programming languages such as Python, Java, or SQL.	*	
EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE		
A track record of outstanding teaching and excellent student outcomes.	*	
Experience in curriculum planning and development at KS4 and/or KS5.	*	
Exude passion for teaching, learning and subjects taught.	*	
Strong understanding of current educational research, especially around pedagogy and assessment in STEM.		*
Awareness of emerging trends in Computer Science education, including AI, cybersecurity, and data science.		*
Experience in delivering enrichment or outreach activities.		*
SKILLS		
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing to a diverse audience.	*	
Ability to see the bigger picture with attention to detail and professionalism.	*	
Aptitude to evaluate, monitor and prioritise work and to use IT competently in your role.	*	
Demonstrate outstanding interpersonal skills, even if/when working under pressure.	*	
PERSONAL QUALITIES		
Ability to learn from your mistakes, listen and to 'bounce back' with positivity.	*	
Demonstrate energy, positivity and calmness in fulfilling the role and model a 'can do' approach.	*	
Inspire, lead and challenge colleagues with the energy and drive to bring out the best in everyone.	*	
Exemplary health, attendance and punctuality.	*	
Demonstrate flexibility in the role and a vision for outreach work beyond the subject.	*	
COMMITMENT, EQUALITIES AND SAFER RECRUITMENT		
Commitment to upholding and promoting the trust values with honesty, loyalty and fairness.	*	
Promote and safeguard, at all times, the welfare of children and young adults.	*	
Demonstrate a commitment to the principles of Equalities and to be able to carry out duties in accordance with the appropriate policies.	*	
Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of forming and maintaining appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with young people and colleagues.	*	

Application Guidance

APPLICATION FORM

The Application Form should be completed using either the [GoogleForm](#) or using our Word Document emailing it to staffvacancies@durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk. (both are also available on www.durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk/vacancies/).

APPLICATION LETTER

The supporting Letter of Application should be no more than two sides of A4 and should set out the particular strengths that you would bring to the post and how you feel you meet the criteria outlined in the job description and person specification. The supporting Letter of Application should be uploaded in the relevant section on the GoogleForm.

RECRUITMENT DATES

CLOSING DATE	8am, Tuesday 5 May 2025 This position is subject to being closed early.
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Should you need any further assistance please contact louise.feasey@durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk.

Applications received after the closing date/time will not be considered.

AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

If you have not heard from us within 4 weeks please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

Shortlisted Candidates Guidance

REFERENCES

All appointments will, in accordance with statutory guidance, be subject to a comprehensive checking process including references from current and previous employers. References will be requested prior to interview, except for support staff roles where there are exceptional circumstances, and the applicant does not give consent to do so on the application form.

DIGITAL CHECKS

Online searches may be conducted as part of the Trust's due diligence checks. [Section 226. KCSIE 2024.](#)

DBS

Providence Learning Partnership is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment. We conduct pre-employment checks in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and the Trust's Safeguarding Policy which is available on our website.

An application for a DBS certificate will be submitted for all candidates once they have been offered the position. For posts in regulated activity, the DBS check will include a barred list check. During the recruitment process, any offences, or other matters relevant to the position will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Appointments will have a right to work in the UK check, an enhanced DBS check and a further check against the appropriate barred list. Please note this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Pre-occupational health checks are an essential part of the selection and recruitment process to assess if any reasonable adjustments are required.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are an equal opportunity employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applicants from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be granted an interview if the essential job criteria are met. As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required.

Staff Benefits

At our Trust, we deeply value the health and wellbeing of our staff, recognising that a happy, supported team is essential to delivering the best outcomes for our students. We are committed to fostering a positive working environment where staff feel cared for, empowered, and equipped to thrive both personally and professionally.



Pension scheme

All contracted members of staff will be automatically enrolled into either the Teachers' Pension Scheme or the Local Government Pension Scheme (whichever is appropriate).



National terms and conditions

We offer national terms and conditions in line with the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions document (STPCD) and Burgundy Book for teachers or the NJC Green Book for support staff.



Training and development

Professional development opportunities aimed at the continuous process of enhancing your skills, knowledge and competencies discussed with your appraiser on an individual basis.



City centre parking

Durham City Centre barriered private parking for staff whilst at work which extends to free all year round parking, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Staff wellbeing working group

For the staff, by the staff, our wellbeing working group meet at least 3 times a year and is open to all members of staff. To date the group has raised money for charity, built a Staff Wellbeing portal, organised socials, sporting events and family days out.



Healthcare services

All staff benefit from a range of comprehensive health and wellbeing services including: GP service which gives staff the access to a General Practitioner around the clock, 24/7, access to nurse support services and physiotherapy provided face-to-face at times, dates and locations convenient to our staff.



Live webinars

Online webinars for Mental Health First Aid and Stress Coaching are available to staff which run frequently throughout the year with a choice of dates and times.



Health and Wellbeing

Free Flu vaccines, menopause counselling and access to financial wellbeing coaches through our staff absence insurance policy.



Daily breakfast

We provide a selection of hot drinks, cereals, croissants, toast and jams complimentary each morning in the refectory for staff and students.



Lifestyle

Our lifestyle benefits include shopping discounts with hundreds of online and high street retailers, discounted gym membership and cycle to work schemes.



Free Will Writing Service

Organised through the Financial Guys, all staff are provided with a free single basic Will which also includes a 50% discount for partners.



Blue Light

Blue Light Card have now added Teaching and Support staff to the list of careers that are able to apply for their card. When applying please upload your staff ID badge as evidence.