



9th September 2026

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Deputy Headteacher** here at **Presfield High School and Specialist College**. I am incredibly proud to lead this wonderful school, and I am delighted that you are considering joining our team at such an exciting time in our journey.

Presfield is a truly special place. We are a dedicated community for young people aged 11–19 with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC), and our absolute priority is ensuring that every single student thrives both academically and socially. We believe in looking at the whole child, celebrating their individual strengths, and providing them with the structure, understanding, and encouragement they need to build independent, fulfilling futures.

Because our environment is so beautifully unique, we are looking for a Deputy Headteacher who brings something a bit different to the table. In our school, adaptability is everything and no two days are ever the same. We need a leader who can think on their feet, stay calm under pressure, and pivot creatively when unexpected situations arise. This role requires an agile mindset—someone who can manage rigorous whole-school systems while remaining deeply flexible, resilient, and responsive to the sensory, emotional, and learning needs of our pupils.

If you are an exceptional practitioner who combines high expectations with a genuine heart for SEN, you will find Presfield to be an incredibly rewarding place to lead. You will be supported by a warm, passionate, and collaborative staff team who truly support each other, and you will see the direct, life-changing impact of your work every single day.

If you love an environment filled with energy, purpose, and the freedom to innovate, I would love to hear from you. We highly encourage prospective candidates to visit us or get in touch for an informal conversation to experience the unique warmth of Presfield firsthand.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Kind Regards

Lucy McLoughlin

Headteacher

Thank you for your interest in the position of Deputy Headteacher at Presfield High School and Specialist College.



Presfield is far more than just a place of learning; it is a vibrant, deeply supportive community where young people aged 11 to 19 with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) truly belong. Based in the coastal town of Southport, we are a co-educational specialist school dedicated to changing the narrative around what autistic young people can achieve. From the moment you walk through our doors, you will feel the warmth, the joy, and the profound sense of purpose that defines daily life here.

The Presfield Way: Our Heart and Soul

At the absolute core of our school is "The Presfield Way." We don't just teach; we advocate, we collaborate, and we build lasting resilience. We view autism as a unique way of experiencing the world—one to be celebrated, understood, and nurtured.

Our team works tirelessly to create a safe, low-arousal, and highly inclusive environment where pupils feel secure enough to take positive risks, learn from mistakes, and discover who they are.

We put no ceilings on potential. Whether a student is learning to navigate public transport independently or sitting their GCSEs, every milestone is met with collective celebration.

Our Curriculum and Pathways

To ensure that every child's education is as unique as they are, we deliver our curriculum through three distinct, flexible pathways. Each pathway seamlessly integrates academic progress, personal growth, and individual EHCP targets:

- **Skills for Life Pathway:** Centred on practical independence, functional communication, and the vital life skills needed for meaningful adult living.
- **Parallel Pathway:** A carefully balanced approach that marries core academic progress with intensive, therapeutic social and emotional support.
- **Formal Pathway:** A traditional, rigorous academic route that empowers pupils to achieve formal qualifications, GCSEs, and technical certifications.

A Launchpad for the Future

Our commitment to our pupils doesn't end at Year 11. Presfield's Sixth Form acts as a nurturing bridge to adulthood. Through a highly personalised transition package and robust partnerships with local colleges, businesses, and training providers, we prepare our young people for the world beyond our walls. Our students leave us as confident, active contributors to their communities, ready to take on the world.

Why Join Us as Deputy Headteacher?

As our Deputy Headteacher, you will be joining a dedicated, compassionate, and highly skilled staff team who are fiercely proud of their school. You will find a community that genuinely cares for one another, where staff well-being is prioritised, and where professional collaboration is woven into everything we do.

If you are a leader who leads with the heart, who values relationships above all else, and who is ready to champion our incredible young people, Presfield is the school where your leadership will truly shape the futures and transform the lives of our incredible young people



Job Title:	Deputy Head teacher
Grade:	Standard National scale in line with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document
School:	Presfield High School
Salary Scale:	Leadership Scale L15-20
Responsible to:	The Head teacher, the governing body
Supervisory responsibility:	The senior leadership team and ultimately all school staff
Principal responsibility:	The appointment is subject to the current conditions of service for Deputy Head Teachers contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and other current education and employment legislation. In carrying out their duties the Deputy Head Teacher shall consult, when appropriate: the Head teacher, the Governing Body, the Local Authority, the staff of the school, the parents of its pupils.

At Presfield High School and Specialist College, our mission is simple: Shaping Futures. Changing Lives. We are a dedicated specialist community where young people aged 11–19 with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) truly thrive. We don't just teach; we care deeply about the holistic growth of every single student, valuing both academic success and social fulfillment equally. Through our three tailored educational pathways—Skills for Life, Parallel, and Formal—we ensure our pupils achieve their full potential in an inclusive, nurturing environment where passion and dedication drive everything we do.

To help lead this extraordinary setting, we are seeking an exceptional **Deputy Headteacher** who thrives in a fast-paced, ever-changing environment. In a specialist school like ours, adaptability is not just a skill—it is a mindset, no two days are ever the same, no two hours are ever the same. This role demands a leader who can think on their feet, embrace unpredictability, and seamlessly pivot their approach to meet the evolving needs of our pupils and staff. We need an agile, collaborative leader who balances rigorous school systems with the flexibility required for a dynamic SEN setting. If you are a resilient, excellent practitioner who combines high expectations with a genuine heart for SEN, we would love to hear from you.

Why Join Us?

- **A School with a Genuine Heart:** At Presfield, we are more than just a school; we are a community that lives and breathes our values. You will join an incredibly warm, passionate, and dedicated team of staff who support one another and truly love what they do.
- **The Joy of Making a Real Difference:** There is nothing quite like watching our young people make breakthroughs in their confidence, communication, and happiness. Here, you will see the direct, life-changing impact of your leadership every single day.

- A Culture of Nurture and Care: We place authentic relationships and well-being at the heart of everything we do. You will be part of a supportive, collaborative Senior Leadership Team that genuinely cares about your professional growth, your ideas, and your workload balance.
- A Vibrant and Rewarding Daily Journey: If you love an environment filled with energy, creativity, and the freedom to think on your feet, you will thrive here. Our school is a place of continuous learning, laughter, and shared moments of pride where no two days are ever the same.

What are we looking for?

We are seeking an authentic, dynamic leader who understands that in an SEN setting, the best-laid plans require a healthy dose of flexibility. You will be someone who can think on your feet with a smile, turning unpredictable moments into positive opportunities for our pupils.

You will bring a high level of emotional intelligence and self-awareness to the role, serving as a visible, approachable, and warm presence for our staff, students, and families. You must excel at building trusting, authentic relationships, blending a supportive heart with the clear boundaries and gentle accountability needed to help our school thrive. A passionate advocate for your team, you will champion a positive, reflective staff culture that truly values individual wellbeing, welcomes open feedback, and nurtures everyone's professional growth.

Beyond your exceptional classroom practice and robust understanding of ASC, your greatest assets will be your adaptability, emotional intelligence, and resilience. We need a Deputy Headteacher who is as comfortable steering strategic school systems as they are rolling up their sleeves to support a student or colleague in a moment of need. If you are a collaborative, solution-focused leader who leads with both a sharp mind and a big heart, you will find your perfect home here.