



School Counsellor at More House School

Part-time (two days per week, term-time only), permanent position, starting January 2022.

A committed and highly professional BACP training accredited Counsellor, with previous experience of counselling children and young people, is sought to join our Pupil Counselling Service Team in the role of Therapeutic Counsellor. The skills and accreditation to address through counselling post-adoption support-needs will be considered a particular advantage.

Our Counselling team are committed to offering a dedicated and ethical counselling service which contributes to the wider pastoral provision of the school, helping to transform the futures of pupils with additional needs, by empowering them. The role is primarily to provide one to one counselling to pupils, in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, ensuring consistency of care.

www.morehouseschool.co.uk

The School:

A nationally celebrated charity, More House School provides an exceptional, mainstream education for boys with Specific Learning Difficulties and Developmental Language Disorders. Providing a transformative education repeatedly recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted over more than a decade, we offer a specialised learning environment for 490 day and boarding boys from Year 4 to Year 13. Our pupils are taught to recognise their strengths and develop their self-belief so that they achieve independence and extraordinary results at GCSE, BTEC and A Level, above the national averages. A majority of our Sixth Form leavers progress to their university of choice.

Delivering a mainstream independent-school experience, both academically and socially, the very broad curriculum affords all pupils the opportunity to discover their strengths, challenging them to fulfil their academic and extra-curricular potential. All boys who attend More House are individually timetabled, with many receiving support through the on-site Learning Development Centre and its qualified therapeutic staff. Judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in its last five school inspections, our most recent inspection (March 2019) graded More House School 'Outstanding' overall, and 'Outstanding' in each of the sub-sections of the report. More House is CReSTeD approved, listed in their Specialist Schools category, and is a member of the Independent Schools Association and the Boarding Schools' Association.

Approximately 60% of pupils have their places at the School funded by a local authority, and are the subject of an Education, Health and Care plan. Currently, more than thirty different local authorities have pupils placed in the School. The remainder of pupils' places are funded privately by parents and extended families.

The School is set on a wooded hillside in nearly thirty acres of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Hampshire/Surrey border, and attractive modern facilities lie above the playing fields. London Waterloo is one hour away by train from close-by Farnham railway station, and there is easy access to the M25, M3 and A3 major routes. Guildford is twenty minutes' drive away.

In recent years, the School has refurbished and extended its boarding facilities, refurbished its eight Science laboratories, built its School of Engineering and CAD facilities, and opened a new Humanities block and School Chapel. Autumn 2017 witnessed the completion of our brand-new library and Media Studies centre, and growth in learning support facilities. 2018 saw the expansion of the campus and the conversion of a large domestic building into our new Sixth Form centre, which was opened in January 2019, improving further the facilities for both teaching, and independent study. In the current academic year, we hope to commence work on a substantial project to improve the School's facilities for sports.

This project forms one element of a much more ambitious strategic development plan realising our organisation-wide commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of our provision, including the campus, and expanding our outreach work training other professionals. In particular, during the 2022-23 academic year, we expect to extend our School medical-surgery facilities, and develop a bespoke therapeutic counselling suite.

The School provides a high level of support and training for all staff, promoting employees' career-development and efficacy in helping pupils to overcome the potential barriers to achievement posed by their difficulties and vulnerabilities. The School also provides training for many other external professionals and other schools, and on behalf of the Independent Schools Association.

The Department:

More House School has a comprehensive pastoral support capability in place, comprising dedicated form-tutors and residential housemasters and mistresses, year-group pastoral leads (Heads of Year), the School surgery and its Registered Nurses, a Lay-Chaplain, the Safeguarding team, a Director of Pastoral Care, and senior leaders, including the Deputy Head (Pastoral). Vital within the School's offer to pupils is the provision of one-to-one counselling for those pupils who are identified as benefitting from such specialist support. The School has provided such support for several years, and the service is well-established. We work to a flexible model of provision with an initial offer of 12 weeks, regularly reviewed, and with the option to work in a more open-ended way according to identified need. The Counselling Team has recently implemented a Sixth Form self-referral service and has plans to offer this to all 16-year-olds whilst also offering parents the ability to refer directly. We currently work out of dedicated counselling rooms and are anticipating a new counselling suite as part of the School's next stage of building development.

About this post:

The Headmaster seeks to appoint an enthusiastic, resilient, open-minded and highly professional individual to work alongside our two current School Counsellors – Christine Sanderson (Lead Counsellor) and Charlotte Monkman. The role is primarily to provide one-to-one counselling to pupils in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, ensuring continuity of care; to maintain appropriate records; to liaise regularly with the counselling team and with other professionals as necessary; to report any concerns of significant harm to a child to the Designated Safeguarding Lead; to consistently demonstrate the professional attributes and competencies associated with the post.

Candidates with the capacity to provide specialist post-adoption support to clients is considered a particular advantage.

As part the Counselling Team, responsible to the Headmaster and Deputy Head (Pastoral), the School Counsellor will report to, and be supported by, the Lead Counsellor, Christine Sanderson, in order to meet best the needs of his/her clients and the wider School community.

The main duties of the role include:

- To provide an independent and confidential counselling service to boys at More House School, through individual sessions, responding to their personal, social, emotional or educational concerns
- To promote a caring and supportive environment where such concerns may be explored, thereby promoting the mental and emotional health of the community
- To maintain confidentiality (except in those circumstances, in line with BACP practice and the School's Safeguarding policy) where this should be breached
- To uphold good practice as described in the BACP ethical guidelines
- To be responsible for identifying and addressing own Professional Development maintenance, and updating knowledge and awareness through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) with the School's support
- To make referrals, where appropriate and with the pupil's consent, to other agencies
- To liaise, where appropriate and with the pupil's consent, with members of staff
- To liaise, where appropriate and with the pupil's consent, with parents
- To maintain appropriate records and to keep these secure
- To liaise with School staff and other professionals as appropriate to ensure the effective operation of the service
- To be alert to trends and patterns of problems, to identify causes and recommend corrective action
- To play an active role in the Safeguarding of all pupils, and to adhere to School policies
- To maintain a high level of knowledge and awareness of changes and developments in the fields of education and counselling, and their impact on the delivery of counselling
- To ensure that as a Counsellor you are properly and regularly supervised, as required by the BACP
- To contribute in any other reasonable fashion to promote the safety and wellbeing of the boys

- To attend in-service (INSET) training days and other School events as required.

The list of duties above is not exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to perform such other duties as may be, from time to time, deemed necessary by the Headmaster. This is a non-residential post.

A comprehensive induction programme is offered, and ongoing professional development is supported through INSET days and other training opportunities.

An excellent lunch is provided free of charge, daily, as is parking within the School's beautiful grounds.

Relationships:

- The post-holder is responsible to the Headmaster in all matters, is supported by and reports to the Lead Counsellor and the Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- The successful applicant must also interact effectively on a professional level with all colleagues, and seek to establish and maintain productive relationships with all.

Person Specification:

Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	
Post-graduate Diploma or Degree Level in Counselling or Psychotherapy. BACP Registration or Accreditation.	Further therapeutic training or qualification in working with Children and Young People.
Skills and Experience	
Minimum of two years' post-qualification experience.	Experience of delivering school-based therapeutic counselling.
Minimum of one year's experience of working with Children and Young people.	Experience of providing one-to-one counselling support to children with additional needs (such as Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Developmental Language Delay and Dyspraxia).
	Experience of working systemically.
	Approval to address post-adoption counselling needs.
Personal Attributes	
Energy, enthusiasm, flexibility and determination to succeed.	
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills demonstrating an understanding of, and commitment to, professionalism and teamwork.	Demonstrate effective organisational and administration skills.
Ability to work reflectively and reflexively.	
excellent time-management and prioritisation skills, and ability to work under pressure and to deadlines.	
Empathy and patience, maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the face of challenge.	Understanding of own strengths and areas for development.
Strong, secure and personal commitment to the school's ethos and aims in promoting the best possible outcomes for pupils.	

Hours:

08.20-16.00 two days a week during term-time only (any two of Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday).

As an independent school, academic terms are typically shorter than those of the state-maintained sector, affording longer holiday periods.

Attendance at occasional School events outside of normal working hours, from time to time, including Founder's Day and all INSET days. The ability to be able to respond to circumstances with some flexibility in timings is welcomed.

Remuneration and support:

Annual salary: extremely competitive, and in accordance with qualifications and experience.

A comprehensive induction programme is offered, and ongoing professional development is supported through INSET days and other training opportunities.

An excellent lunch is provided free of charge, daily, as is parking within the School's beautiful grounds.

Safeguarding:

This role is deemed to be one of working in regulated activity, meaning that the post-holder may expect to come into unsupervised contact with children and young people frequently in the discharge of their duties on-campus. As such, the expectations of conduct, required of all adults working at More House School, apply to this position, as does a full Safer-Recruitment vetting process of any appointee.

To Apply:

To apply, please submit a completed application form, for the attention of the Headmaster, Mr Jonathan Hetherington, to Mrs Faye Carpenter, the HR Manager, at hr@morehouseschool.co.uk or by post to:

**More House School
Moons Hill
Frensham
Farnham
Surrey
GU10 3AP**

Interested candidates are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school for an informal visit.

Closing date for applications: 29th November 2021

Interviews expected to be held on: TBC

This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS clearance and the receipt of satisfactory references before a formal job offer is confirmed.

More House School is firmly committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.