**Personal Statement**

My name is Pierce Butler, and I am 23 years old. I recently graduated from a Masters of Common Law at UCD with a 2.1. I am currently working part time as an English Language Teacher at a local Primary School while studying for the FE1 Examinations. Prior experience, through my education and work, has equipped me to embrace tasks on an individual and collaborative level that include analytical thinking, information seeking and leading people in group tasks. I bring experience in research, having spent time in archives and analysing dense texts for research papers that I have written. Such experience has equipped me to identify problems in detailed material and construct resolutions to address them.

**Education**

Masters in Common Law at UCD, 2021 – 2023. 2:1 Honours Degree.

BA Single Honours History at UCD, 2018 – 2021. 2:1 Honours Degree.

6th year: The Institute of Education, Co. Dublin, September 2017 – June 2018.

1st – 5th year: Ratoath Community College, Co. Meath, 2012 – 2017.

**Experience**

**English Language Teacher, September 2023 – present.**

This new position has presented a different challenge than I have experienced before. I have had to further develop my interpersonal skills, empathy and active listening. Through my interpersonal skills, I have had to interact with students in a friendly and confident manner so as to ensure they fully understand each part of their learning and establish a relationship with the students who may not feel confident speaking English. I have also had to further develop my ability to empathise with students who are learning English by trying to see the situation through the student's eyes, placing no judgment on the student and communicating to the student that it is okay to be wrong. Active listening is required to understand if the student is learning or is continuing to struggle with aspects such as pronunciation or grammar, it also forms a stronger relationship with the student who appreciates that you are listening to them and care about their development.

**Substitute Primary School Teacher, May 2021 – July 2023.**

My period as a Substitute Teacher has furthered my ability to lead large groups, communicate effectively, promote active listening and develop my problem-solving. A role has developed vital skills such as public speaking, conflict resolution, interpersonal skills, compassion and empathy and creative thinking. I am experienced in presenting information through interactive materials and various forms of technology to large groups in a clear and coherent manner. The ability to multitask is obligatory to ensure the smooth running of a classroom, this can range from engaging students, providing materials, introducing assignments, giving directions, documenting behaviours and ensuring understanding.

**Additional Skills**

I am proficient in all Microsoft applications. I have experience of both desktop publishing and web editing, in designing pamphlets and posters. During my Master’s I completed modules on Data Protection, Governance and Privacy which ensured I can apply the rules regarding the handling of the primary procedural obligations under the GDPR including subject access requests, data protection impact assessments, objections to processing, data breach handling, recording and documenting of processing activities. I understand the legal and non-legal responses to data protection and privacy and the differing approaches in Europe and Ireland enabling me to apply fundamental principles of data protection and privacy law to factual situations.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

I have played multiple sports from the age of 4, primarily GAA, I have also played basketball and ran cross country and track. I have won an All-Ireland medal in cross country and two All-Ireland hurling medals for Meath. In 2017 I received a bronze medal in the Young Economist of the Year for my project on the economic effects of a united Ireland. I have also learned to play the violin, flute, tin whistle and bodhran. During the final year of my history degree, I wrote a dissertation on the relationship between the Arms Crisis and 1973 general election which received a B+. I led a conference within the School of History examining all dissertations that were being written that year. Due to my history degree and my dissertation topic, I enjoy reading books associated with Irish political history amongst other genres.