

THE DEPARTMENT

The Music Department currently comprises of four full-time academic teachers, two part-time academic teachers, the graduate music assistant, music co-ordinator, conductor-in-residence and around twenty-five visiting instrumental teachers covering all orchestral instruments, including the harp, as well as piano, guitar, singing and percussion.

All pupils take Music as a compulsory subject from Reception until Year 8. As well as the traditional GCSE route, we also offer an accelerated GCSE, starting in Year 9, with the opportunity to take the Silver Arts Award in Year 11. Our results are high, with 100% of GCSE grades at 7-9 and 100% A/A* at A level. Many of the students who take A level continue on to read Music at university, including Cambridge and Oxford. Over half of the school take individual music lessons on site and the schools hosts ABRSM and Trinity Examinations every term.

STAHS has a lively co-curricular music scene which caters for all musical genres, as well as aiming for the highest standards in musical performance. Choirs are open to all girls from Year 1 up to Year 13 and are organised by age group. There are also three auditioned choirs: STAHS Singers for Years 5 - 6, Junior Chamber Choir for Years 6 - 9 and Senior Chamber Choir for Years 10 - 13.

We have six large ensembles that take place on Thursday afternoons at the Senior School: Townsend Band (Grades I-III), Ringwood Band (Grades IV-V), Concert Band (Grade VI +), Intermediate Orchestra (Grades III-V), Symphony Orchestra (Grade VI +) and Chamber Orchestra (Grade VII+). Other groups that rehearse during the week in the Senior School include the Early Music Ensemble, Swing Band, Salsa Band,, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, Lower Strings Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, two Brass Ensembles, Saxophone Ensemble, and Pop Bands. At the Prep School our weekly ensembles include: Junior Orchestra, Woodwind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Lower Strings Ensemble, New String Band, Recorder Club and Brass Ensemble.

Chamber Music is strong at both the Prep and Senior Schools and there are currently around twenty-five string, wind, brass and piano trios/quartets/quintets & octets. All music scholars are expected to play in a chamber group as part of our scholars' programme. We also have a large number of pupils who are members of ensembles at national level including: the National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and National Youth Concert Band.

The department aims to offer a large number of ambitious performance opportunities across the Prep and Senior Schools including our ensemble concerts, musicals and plays, as well as regular solo recitals and concerts. The department also runs a regular masterclasses series, competes in national competitions and regularly tours abroad. The Senior Chamber Choir won Barnados National Choral Competition in 2022, performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra last year and we won the CEO Award for Excellence Cup for the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival in 2023.

The Music Department is committed to developing partnership work in the future with local primaries and secondaries as this forms a big part of the department's development plan: we hope potential candidates will be keen to get involved.

THE ROLE

At STAHS the role of Graduate Music Assistant will be to assist on a day-to-day basis with the co-curricular side of the Music Department both at our Senior and Prep School sites to help further enrich our successful department.

Duties and responsibilities will include rehearsing and accompanying pupils on a regular basis both on their own and in ensembles. The Graduate Music Assistant is expected to model the core school values of scholarship, keep abreast of developments within their discipline and challenge, support and inspire pupils in line with the strategic direction of the School and Music Department.

This is a two-term, fixed-term position, starting in January 2025, offered on a full-time basis, 39 hours per week, 22 weeks per year (Term Time plus 1 week). The working hours will be 8.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Thursday and 8.00am – 4.00pm on Friday with a one-hour unpaid lunch break. In addition, there will be some weekend, after school and one-off events during the holiday period as part of the Music Department's Calendar, which include concerts, trips and masterclasses. The role is based across the School's two sites and the successful candidate must be able to travel between both.

The preferred start date for this position is January 2025.

This position involves contact with children and will amount to regulated activity as defined by Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) for safeguarding children and safer recruitment.



RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities for this post are detailed below;

- Rehearsing and accompanying pupils in preparation for exams and assemblies.
- Rehearsing and accompanying pupils in preparation for school plays or musicals at the Prep & Senior schools.
- Accompanying the Prep School choirs (and if able the Senior School choirs) in concerts.
- Assisting with staffing the Joint Schools' Choral Society choir and orchestra rehearsals in the Lent Term.
- Supporting sectionals for choirs and ensembles on a weekly basis.
- Tutoring a chamber group as part of our scholars' programme.
- Teaching weekly aural classes.
- Responsibility for running our "Tea & Music" Recital series.
- Responsibility for stage management in concerts.
- Preparation and set up Thursday afternoon rehearsals.
- Assisting the Director of Music and Music Department Co-ordinator with concert organisation and the day-to-day administration of the department.
- Attendance at weekly Music Department meetings
- Organisation of practice parts for our large ensembles.
- Responsibility for keeping music ensembles lists up-to-date.
- Organisation & cataloguing of the music library as well as responsibility for the department noticeboards.
- Ensuring practice rooms are appropriately resourced and tidy.
- Accompanying staff on school Music trips.
- Assisting with academic music lesson lessons when appropriate.

In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head, Bursar or Director of Music.

The High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

STAHS is a vibrant school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with disabilities.

The successful candidate will be required to fulfil all of the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies which are essential to this position:

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Excellent degree and/or postgraduate qualification in Music.
- Experience of running musical ensembles or chamber groups.
- Experience of working with young people in a school or university environment is desirable, but not essential.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- Excellent organisation and planning skills.
- Excellent communication & rehearsal skills.
- Familiarity with all basic Office programs e.g. Excel, Word.
- Ability to play an instrument to a high standard.
- Excellent keyboard skills.
- Familiarity with DAWs are desirable, but not essential.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- A personal love of music.
- A genuine interest in the musical development of young people.
- Personal warmth and good rapport with pupils and colleagues.
- Flexible attitude and ability to adapt to changing priorities.
- Self-motivated with a positive attitude and a logical approach to work.
- A willingness to learn new skills.
- A willingness to fully engage in the life of the school.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children.
- A commitment to the ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- Strong support for the School's mission and values.
- Ability to be a good role model.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support Health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in them