



WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Head of Music

Main Pay Spine (Outer London) + TLR 2b

Woodford County High School is an 11-18 selective girls' community school. It is set in attractive grounds and offers a very pleasant and friendly working environment. Hitherto a four form of entry school (4fe), we took our first 6fe cohort into Year 7 in September 2016. Building work associated with the school's expansion was completed for use this past September – one of many exciting developments as the school approaches its centenary (2019).

Music is taught to all pupils in Key Stage 3 and is offered as an option at both GCSE and A-Level. (From September 2016, AQA has been taught at GCSE, and Edexcel at A Level). Teaching at Key Stage 3 is practically based, and covers a wide breadth of classical, popular and world musics. For the past three years, Year 8 have followed a whole-class ensemble tuition programme, learning brass instruments, in conjunction with tutors from Redbridge Music Service. At Key Stages 4 and 5, students are prepared for national examinations through practical activity, written work and discussion, with the aim of taking them beyond the confines of the GCSE and A Level syllabi. Uptake at GCSE is regularly well above the national average, while A Level numbers are more variable – but it is anticipated that, with the ongoing expansion of the school, these will grow in due course.

Music plays a vital part in school life and a full programme of extra-curricular activities provides many opportunities to showcase student talent at all levels. The school's various ensembles (including orchestra, choirs, bands, brass band and a variety of student-led ensembles) perform at termly concerts and showcases, while individual students are encouraged to perform at Recital Evenings. External performance opportunities in recent years have included joint concerts with Ilford County High School for Boys and Churchfields Primary School, the Redbridge Schools Choral Festival at the Royal Albert Hall, the Youth Makes Music Festival at the Royal Festival Hall and a variety of performances in our local community. Additionally, the Music department recently undertook their second international performance tour to the Black Forest region of Germany, performing at a variety of well-attended concerts and events.

Students at Woodford are given regular opportunities to take part in school visits to concerts and performances both in the local area and in central London, and to work with external musical partners in school, which recently have included the London Symphony Orchestra, the Jazz at Lincoln Centre Youth Orchestra and the 'Oompah' Brass Ensemble.

We require a well-qualified and enthusiastic colleague to lead this two teacher team. Accommodation for the department comprises two classrooms, four practice rooms, a sixth form workroom and an office. The classrooms and workroom are equipped with PCs running Sibelius and Cubase software, and music technology is used in lessons with all year groups. A candidate with experience of using these, or similar, computer programmes for sequencing and recording would be at an advantage. The department has recently benefited from a significant grant from the Parents' and Friends' Association, which was used to purchase a wide variety of classroom instruments and equipment, and as such the department remains very well equipped for practical music-making at all Key Stages.

Currently 118 students have instrumental lessons provided on site by the Redbridge Music Service and a number are tutored for the higher grades and diplomas at the Redbridge Music School. It is estimated that some 50% of students in the main school have private instrumental lessons either in or out of school. Voice, piano, strings and flute are the most popular western instruments, while the introduction of more popular-style performances such as an annual Battle of the Bands competition have enabled recent growth in the number of students learning popular instruments (such as guitar and drum kit). Considerable skill in Carnatic music is demonstrated by students throughout the school, many of whom have graduated through the prestigious Arangetram ceremony, and students are regularly encouraged to share their Carnatic musicianship with peers through performing in the school's Recital Evenings as well as performing and composing in a Carnatic style for GCSE and A Level assessments.

We are looking for an energetic and creative colleague who will enjoy playing a full part in the life of the school. We are committed to the promotion of the Arts here and welcome applications from professionals keen to work innovatively with colleagues in other departments to this end.

Website: www.woodford.redbridge.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: *Interested candidates please contact Christina Thompson (Head's PA)*