**Secondary Music Specialist | Ark Schools**

*An exciting opportunity to shape the development of Ark’s music support to secondary schools.*

**About us**

Ark is an education charity and one of the country’s top performing academy operators. Our academies are situated in areas of high disadvantage, with over 30% of Ark pupils eligible for free school meals, compared with 16% nationally. We currently work with 36 primary and secondary schools across London, Hastings, Portsmouth and Birmingham. Our vision is to create a group of outstanding schools that radically improve our pupils’ life chances.

We know that education isn’t simply about passing exams; it’s about enabling students to learn the skills and qualities they need to be successful at school and beyond. To support this, our schools ensure that alongside setting high expectations for academic progress, we also focus on creating well rounded individuals who understand their own passions and interests and can thrive in any environment.

The central music team exists within Ark to support music-making across the network. We believe that a high quality, progressive and diverse education in music is the entitlement of every child, regardless of their background. Our mission is to ensure that every pupil in an Ark school is set-up to enjoy a lifelong relationship with music and the many holistic benefits that brings. We want our young people to leave school knowing that they are creative musicians who belong to a vibrant artistic community.

**Main purpose of the job**

We recognise there are many challenges facing music teachers in secondary schools in the current education landscape. We have sought to face these challenges head on through creating an integrated approach to curriculum, teacher training and enrichment.

Following a successful two-year pilot of the secondary music programme, we have recently received funding to develop and expand our work at second level. We are now looking for an exceptional leader and teacher educator to join our team and help us realise our ambitions in the next phase of our secondary programme development. As secondary music specialist, you will help teachers to inspire pupils to participate in, excel at, and enjoy a range of music-making activities within the classroom and beyond. You will work closely alongside the Director of Music and Primary Music Specialist to ensure a joined up approach to music education across the Ark network and in so doing, support our network of schools in achieving excellent outcomes for their pupils both within and beyond the classroom.

**The ideal candidate will:**

* have a genuine passion for and a belief in the potential of every young person
* have an outstanding record of leading the improvement of music provision in a variety of settings
* be an outstanding teacher and facilitator
* have enthusiasm and passion for music and the development of the music curriculum
* have demonstrable experience of significantly raising attainment through training and coaching of others

Our programme seeks to represent and equally value different kinds of music and musician. We are keen to ensure the rich diversity of our Art form is represented in our team and in turn, that our team is reflective of the communities we serve. We actively encourage candidates from a variety of backgrounds, particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) applicants. If you have a disability and would like to discuss reasonable adjustments for this role, please indicate this on your application and we will be in touch with you.

**Start date:** as soon as possible, latest September 2018

**Closing date for applications:** 12 noon on Monday 21 May 2018

**Contract**: 2-year fixed term, 30 hours per week (0.8 FTE)

**Salary:** £42,000 - £46,000 pro rata

**Location**: Holborn, London, with frequent travel to our schools

**Reports to**: Director of Music

To apply for the role, please go to: <https://goo.gl/Y68tVP> . Please submit your application by **12 noon** on **Monday 21 May 2018.**Interviews will be held on Thursday 24 May 2018.

If you would like to discuss the role, or have any queries, please contact the recruitment team at [recruitment@arkonline.org](mailto:recruitment@arkonline.org).

*Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in our academies. In order to meet this responsibility, we follow a rigorous selection process. All successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.*

**Key responsibilities**

**Secondary Music Programme (SMP)**

* Lead the Secondary Music Programme, supporting schools to establish a core programme of curriculum and enrichment activity at KS3 through to KS4
* Develop Ark’s secondary music curriculum and assessment model so as it continues to yield improved pupil progress, attainment and participation across the network
* Provide support to school and subject leaders to create the conditions in which the SMP can be implemented successfully, and seek to address weaknesses in specific classrooms/phases of underperforming schools
* Lead a programme of professional development for teachers delivering the SMP curriculum that leads to high quality learning experiences for pupils in the classroom (both through in-class coaching and CPD training)
* Identify best practice locally, nationally and internationally in order to inform/refine SMP activity
* Reference/link work to the Primary Music Programme as appropriate, ensuring pupils benefit from a joined up learning journey.
* Work collaboratively with the Director of Music to develop a strategy and business plan that supports the expansion of the SMP within the Ark network (and beyond)
* Monitor and evaluate the impact of the SMP, and report outcomes to the Director of Music/Ark’s senior management team.

**Beyond the SMP**

* Champion Ark’s community of practice including leading on Head of Department meetings, Network days and cluster-based moderation of coursework where appropriate
* Develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships both across SMP schools and the secondary network more broadly
* Work collaboratively with the Head of Assessment to develop the network approach to assessment in music (Assessment +), and plan/lead the linked moderation days
* Work to ensure student achievement is showcased and celebrated through media and public performance
* Support broader music programme training, rehearsals and network events.

**What else is required of you?**

* Some evening and weekend work as required to facilitate the programme and meet important deadlines
* Willingness to travel within the UK, using public transport whenever practicable
* Willingness to undertake training and being open to receiving feedback
* A hunger to do things better and a continuous desire to know more about curriculum, pedagogy, practice and music
* Identify as a musician – you must love music-making for yourself as much as for our pupils
* Commitment to equality of opportunity and the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils
* An ability to communicate our work and our mission to teachers, senior stakeholders and the community

**Person Specification: Secondary Music Specialist**

**Qualification Criteria**

* Right to work in the UK
* Qualified Teacher Status
* Senior leadership experience in a school or equivalent education setting

**Values**

* Genuine passion and a belief in the potential of every young person
* Desire to recognise and equally value all types of music and musician
* Personal vision is aligned with Ark’s high aspirations and expectations of self and others
* Motivation to continually improve standards and achieve excellence above norms.

**Experience**

* Outstanding teacher, experience working as a senior leader or AST/Lead Practitioner
* Experience of developing curriculum and assessment frameworks that offer pupils joined up learning pathways informed by research and best practice.
* Evidence of raising attainment and participation of all pupils within a challenging environment
* Ability to reflect on own practice and the practice of others with insight in pursuit of improved pupil outcomes
* Experience of drawing on a broad range of musical genres to create a rich a varied pupil experience
* Evidence of raising attainment through data analysis and assessment
* Experience of working with a range of schools in a variety of contexts to improve the quality of teaching and learning
* Experience of leading/driving the professional development of teachers at different career stages, including working with leadership teams to address performance issues, coaching and mentoring individual staff and delivering wider staff training
* Experience of leading inclusive youth ensembles (desired but not essential).

**Skills and abilities**

* An expert in music education at the secondary level, with experience of using lesson observation and feedback to teachers to improve student outcomes
* Up to date knowledge of the current music curriculum and assessment requirements
* An effective coach and developer of adults and young people
* Excellent communication and presentation skills
* Ability to consider both the detail and the ‘bigger picture’
* Highly effective management style that is both consultative and influential
* Effective time management and organisational skills
* Performance orientated – sets and achieves high standards for self and others
* Flexible and adaptable – responding positively to changing demands
* Effective team worker and leader

**Other**

* This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.