

# Graduate Musician

*Starting September 2019 for 10 months*

## Information for Candidates

### The School

Oakham is one of the UK's most forward thinking and innovative co-educational boarding and day schools. The school has 1060 students aged 10-18, half of them boarders, half day students. With equal numbers of boys and girls since 1989, the School offers a truly co-educational environment.

Oakham's strength lies in providing a spectacularly wide range of opportunities and activities which sit alongside an invigorating and challenging academic curriculum. At 16+ we offer the choice between the IB Diploma and A-levels and other standalone qualifications. We are currently introducing the IB Middle Years Programme for students in Forms 1 to 3. Over many years, the School has not only been incredibly successful academically, but it is also recognised nationally for its outstanding achievements in sport, music, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

In recent years, the school has made it a priority to develop independent learning through a series of learning habits, which are increasingly embedded across the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. The 'Oakham learning journey' begins in the Lower School (situated on the Jerwoods Site), where boys and girls are admitted through the School's own entrance exam at 11 (there is also a small entry at 10). Students also enter the school at 13+ through the Common Entrance (CE) examination and we have a further major entry point at 16+.

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The School has benefited from significant investment in recent years. The latest improvements include a new classroom block for the Humanities, a stunning state-of-the-art Faculty of Social Sciences, fantastic Science facilities, a purpose-built Medical and Pastoral Centre and a major redevelopment of the Sports Centre.

### Public Examination Results

Academic performance is excellent.

- In the IB Diploma in 2018, students achieved a mean score of 34.6 points, with 65% of all Higher Level grades being 7 or 6 (equivalent to A\*/A at A-level).

- At A-level, 13% of all examinations were graded A\*, and 39% at A\* or A. • Overall, combining across all qualifications, results for the Upper School equate to around 46% A-level grades A\* or A or equivalent.

- At GCSE level, 36% of grades were A\* or equivalent, and 62% at A\*, A or equivalent; 25% of all new '9-1' exams sat achieved the new highest grade of a '9'.



## **Wider Curriculum**

Oakham's total curriculum is particularly rich. The school has a strong reputation in the creative and performing arts. The Music Department has nearly 600 music lessons per week for students learning an instrument and there is a wide variety of orchestras, ensembles and groups, and over 270 children sing in the school choirs. At any one time there are some 45 music scholars in the school. Theatrical productions are frequent in the school's three venues for drama, including the professionally equipped Queen Elizabeth Theatre which is also used by the town and touring professional companies. The Richard Bull Centre houses a diversity of artistic enterprises from design technology to sculpture, textiles to jewellery. Scholarships are available in Art, Drama and Design & Technology. A whole range of societies and activities flourish, from 'dissection club' to chess and from the CCF to conservation.

Students are encouraged to be part of the wider life of the community and to see life beyond the East Midlands. This happens in a number of ways, through community service, through trips abroad, but most effectively through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Around 250 students participate in D of E activities every year and the school has a strong track record of success having achieved well over 5000 awards since first offering the scheme in 1960.

The richness and range of this activity is achieved within a full boarding environment operating seven days a week, with the term punctuated by weekend Leave Outs and Exeats (half term holidays). Term time can be intense, but rewarding: holidays are long. Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the school, helping with games and other activities outside the classroom. Special skills are welcomed but what matters most is a willingness to give time and energy generously.

The pastoral side of the school is outstanding. All our students are members of one of the 16 houses, each with its own Housemaster or Housemistress, and every pupil has his or her own tutor. Tutors are responsible for a group of about a dozen students. All members of staff (including the Senior Leadership Team) have a specific pastoral role at Oakham.

Oakham is a Church of England foundation with an Anglican chaplain and a chapel which is in use every day. The school warmly welcomes those of other denominations. No-one is excluded from appointment on religious grounds but anyone intolerant of Christianity is unlikely to feel comfortable in the Oakham community.

## **Inspection Reports**

Oakham School has recently undergone a very successful ISI Inspection (September 2017). To view the inspection reports go to <https://www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk/Admissions-Home>

## **Position of Graduate Musician**

We are seeking an enthusiastic and accomplished Graduate Musician to join a hugely successful department in one of the country's leading co-educational schools. The successful candidate will be an instrumentalist who will be keen to assist in all aspects of a large and active music department. A commitment to encouraging young people in their musical development is essential.

Successful applicants are expected to have achieved (or shortly be achieving) a good university or conservatoire music degree, but a formal teaching qualification is not required.

They should be passionate about their music-making, and sharing this passion and enthusiasm with young people across the full age range (10-18) of the school. Good humour and good people skills (including with pupils) are all vital attributes, and it is expected that the Graduate Musician will have strong ICT skills which also embrace music software. We are seeking a musician who shares our dedication to educating the musical enthusiast as much as the musical specialist. Strong administrative and organisational skills are vital in such a busy department, and the ability to work flexibly and take initiative within a large staff team will be important.

The exact job specification will be tailored to suit the expertise and strengths of the successful candidate, and we are seeking a musician who would relish the opportunities that this role would present. It is likely to involve:

- some academic teaching or team-teaching (with support) at a level to be agreed, and the provision of curricular support to individuals outside the timetable;
- opportunities for a very good instrumentalist (and strong sight-reader) who can lead/coach young musicians by example, assisting with rehearsals and performances; good keyboard skills and an ability to accompany would be advantageous;
- advising and supporting pupils with their music practice;
- assisting with aural and theory tuition;
- assistance with a variety of roles within a busy department, including music librarianship, support for music exams, and the setting up for concerts/rehearsals;
- accompanying concert trips away from Oakham;
- recording concerts (no prior experience required);
- other duties to support the work and administration of the Music Department

We would particularly welcome applications from musicians with an interest in composition and music technology. As the Graduate Musician may well be considering a teaching career, we would be keen to offer opportunities for them to observe a range of teaching & rehearsals.

All Oakham staff are expected to take a full part in the life of this busy boarding school. It is likely that the position would have a pastoral element, and may well offer the opportunity to be a resident tutor in a boarding house.

They will be joining a thriving community of learners including a number of fellow graduate teacher. The contract will be for 10 months only, ending 28 June 2019, but with an opportunity to join the Music Department's one week tour in early July. Rent-free accommodation is provided, together with a salary of £11,000 for the 10 months.

### **The Music Department**

Music is flourishing at Oakham, and recent years have seen a revitalisation of both the music curriculum as well as the development of an ambitious programme of practical music-making. The department has a strong profile within the school, as well as regionally and nationally.

The department is led by the Director of Music (Peter Davis) and consists of 3 full time Academic music teachers plus Heads of Brass & Percussion, Piano, Strings and Woodwind, and the school Organist/Teacher of Music. There are also 30 specialist visiting music teachers and well over 500 individual lessons are taught each week, covering a wide range of instruments and styles, and the school typically supports at least 45 music award holders. Essential support is provided by the Music Department Administrator and the Concerts & Music Projects Administrator.

Curricular provision lies at the heart of our “music for all” philosophy, and class music lessons form part of the academic timetable for every pupil in Years 6 to 9 (Lower 1 to Form 3).

In addition to excellent instrumental resources, pupils of all ages benefit from two dedicated computer suites of Macs running Sibelius and Cubase, as well as online subscriptions to the Naxos Music Library and a number of cloud software packages (Focus on Sound, Auralia & Musition). All pupils in the Lower School (Years 6 to 8) have a weekly 50 minute class music lesson, covering a range of topics developing skills in listening, performing and composing. All Form 1 pupils give a massed vocal performance in the Autumn Concert each year, whilst Form 2 pupils showcase African drumming or Samba percussion performances in a Spring Term Lower School concert.

Form 3 pupils also have a 50 minute weekly lesson, which includes cross-curricular studies relating to the annual Battlefields trip, and study of music experienced as part of the annual Form 3 Project concert trip, in which the whole year group sings alongside the Chapel Choir. The school Foundation recently funded the purchase of the school’s own Gamelan, which this academic year has offered new curricular scope for Years 7 & 9, as well as the launch of voluntary activity sessions. A good number of pupils opt to take GCSE Music (AQA) in two sets, and results in all public examinations have been outstanding in recent years. In the Upper School, we have been teaching the Pre-U music course since 2009 instead of A Level music, which has been a hugely successful departure for the department. Pupils can also opt to follow an IB music course.

Students continue their musical studies beyond Oakham every year at universities and music colleges. We are regularly seeking to enrich the curriculum with concert visits, particularly for those studying public examination courses.

The school’s vibrant performance programme usually includes up to 80 concerts each year, encompassing weekly lunchtime recitals in Oakham Parish Church, informal solo concerts, chamber music, visiting professional concerts and an ambitious series of major instrumental and choral concerts in Chapel. There are five services (three of which are choral) and a congregational practice every week, and nearly 300 pupils sing with one of the school choirs, around 100 of whom take individual singing lessons. Music theatre productions (accompanied by pupil bands) occur regularly for different age groups, and have included *Sister Act*, *The Addams Family*, *Honk!*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *The Last Five Years*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Anything Goes*, *Seussical* and *Whistle Down The Wind*. The school currently runs five choirs and a community choral society, two orchestras, two wind bands, a big band as well as many training ensembles and chamber groups. There are two well-established annual competitions for performing English Songs and Piano Duets. Termly ABRSM exams take place in school, as well as annual visits for LCM Music Theatre exams and Rock School exams.

Oakham’s music-making also extends beyond the confines of the school. The pupils regularly give concerts outside Oakham in both local venues as well as prestigious national locations. A modern tradition of annual Gala Concerts has seen large numbers of musicians performing at Cambridge Corn Exchange (2018), Birmingham Town Hall (2017 & 2013), the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (2016 & 2012), the Albert Hall, Nottingham (2015 & 2011), and King’s College Chapel, Cambridge (2014 & 2010). Performances have also taken place in Burghley House, Stamford and within the Brandenburg Choral Festival in London. The school has a commitment to overseas tours (incl. a Chamber Choir tour to Belgium this July), with trips in recent years to Northern Italy, Eastern Germany, Northern Spain, Paris, Poland, Dublin, Italy and South Africa. A significant body of music has also been commissioned for the school’s ensembles since the millennium, including works by Sir John Tavener, Will Todd, Gabriel Jackson, Paul Spicer, Gavin Bryars, Cecilia McDowall, Paul

Mealor, Thomas Hewitt Jones, Frank Griffith, Anthony Piccolo and Richard Shephard. In November 2017, we published a volume of 35 brand-new piano duets commissioned or written for the tenth anniversary of the school's Piano Duet Competition. The school's Chamber Choir has enjoyed significant success in major national competitions, reaching the finals of the BBC Songs of Praise Choir of the Year Competition and the Barnardos National Choral Competition in 2016. There have been notable individual successes in national composition competitions in recent years (including those run by the BBC Proms, Royal Opera House and Aldeburgh Music), and many leading pupil musicians are members of national and regional ensembles.

Our pupils and staff make a strong cultural contribution to the county, and our concerts are well-supported by the local community. The department is a founding partner in the Rutland Music Hub, leading the provision of vocal opportunities in local primary schools. We also work regularly with our key feeder schools, many of whom we welcome to Oakham in large numbers every October for a Prep Schools' Music Day.

Further information about the department and recent pupil achievements can be found online by browsing the school's website: [www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk](http://www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk). The termly Arts Calendar can also be found here, which gives an excellent overview of the programme of performances each term.

### **Application and Interviews**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school. Candidates will be asked to perform on their instrument, and teach a short academic lesson as part of the selection process. Further details of this and other requirements on the interview day will be communicated if you are shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, to:

**Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster  
Oakham School  
Chapel Close  
Oakham  
Rutland, LE15 6DT**

Please post your application to the above address or send via email to Jackie Pridmore (Senior Deputy Head's PA) at [jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk).

Initial enquiries should be directed to Jackie Pridmore on 01572 758506.

**The closing date is Wednesday 29 May.**

### **Completing the fillable PDF application form:**

Please complete the application form in Adobe. If you use Preview on a Mac for opening and completing the PDF form, it will corrupt the form and information may be lost. This may result in the school not receiving your complete application. Here is a link to Adobe Reader Free Download:

**Adobe Reader Free Download link [here](#).**

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.