



**Thomas's Battersea
Appointment of Director of Music
September 2019**

We welcome applicants for the above post, to take up the position at Thomas's, Battersea in September 2019.

The School

Thomas's Battersea is a selective co-educational school which admits pupils between the ages of four and thirteen. It is part of Thomas's London Day Schools, a family-run group of schools. There are also Thomas's schools in Clapham, Kensington and Fulham, as well as a Kindergarten in Battersea.

According to its latest Ofsted inspection (May 2018), "Thomas's Battersea provides an outstanding quality of education". It has high academic standards, a broad curriculum and excellent facilities. The most important school rule is "Be Kind".

Thomas's Battersea is housed in a former (now extended) grammar school and has 581 pupils on roll aged from four to thirteen. The year groups from Reception to Year 8 consist of three classes, with a maximum of twenty-two children in each (Reception has a maximum of twenty-one). Thomas's Battersea is a Christian school open to pupils of all faiths.

Pupils are taught in three departments, each of which is run by its own Head. The Lower School has pupils from Reception to Year 2, the Middle School pupils from Year 3 to Year 5, and the Upper School pupils from Year 6 to Year 8. Music, Drama, PE, Art and ICT are taught by specialist teachers throughout the school.

The school has a lively and enthusiastic teaching staff of about 80, gap year teaching assistants each term as well as administrative staff, a catering department, an IT department and a team of school bus drivers. Staff enjoy comfortable facilities, a large staffroom with IT access and excellent food. Staff are expected to share duties, many take part in games and activity programmes and also offer after school clubs according to their own enthusiasms.

The school boasts two large and airy art studios, a pottery studio, a spacious playground, a fine hall for drama productions, two class music rooms, two ICT suites and a large ballet room. Classrooms are also equipped with interactive whiteboards.

The Candidate

We are looking for candidates whose dynamism, commitment, energy, professional expertise and experience qualify them to take on this exciting and challenging role. The successful candidate will be a first rate musician, ideally with excellent keyboard skills, a first rate choir trainer, an excellent classroom teacher, an excellent communicator, capable of giving effective and inspiring direction to pupils and colleagues, and will fully understand the commitment required of all staff in this busy school.

The Post

Music at Thomas's Battersea is both popular and strong with a large percentage of pupils receiving tuition in at least one musical instrument. There are currently over 430 individual music lessons taught in the Music Department on a weekly basis. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Headmaster for the day to day running of the Music Department, management of a large staff of visiting music teachers, teaching Music from Reception to Year 8 and coordinating the music for school worship, organising regular recitals and other musical events. The Director of Music is assisted in the department by an Assistant Director of Music, a Part Time music teacher and a full time Music Administrator. The Music Department joins forces with the Drama Department to put on eight year-group productions each year.

The successful candidate will:

- Be an outstanding musician, ideally a choral specialist;
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner, implementing lesson plans and the regular assessment of pupils;
- Promote the learning and excellence of Music throughout the School, ensuring high levels of performance and achievement, particularly in senior school scholarship examinations;
- Encourage and develop the professional standards of the department;
- Support school events, performances, and other occasions positively.

The Music Department

In April 2015 Thomas's Battersea opened a brand new state of the art Music Department. The building comprises of nine fully sound proofed practice rooms, two large class teaching/rehearsal rooms with MAC Music Technology. The Music Department also makes use of Cadogan Hall, the Great Hall and nearby St Mary's Church for more formal concerts.

Class Music

Pupils in Reception to Year 4 receive two class lessons per week, whilst those in Years 5-8 receive one. Class music time is used for a variety of activities such as singing, preparation for school productions and assemblies, music theory, composition, history and analysis of music.

Choirs

The Music Department currently runs five choirs:

- Unicorn Choir – for children in Years 1 and 2
- Phoenix Choir – for children in Years 3 and 4
- Centaur Singers – for children in Years 5-8
- Girl Choristers
- Boy Choristers

The above choirs rehearse once per week and are open to all children who wish to participate.

The Choir of Thomas's Battersea

Our main auditioned choir in the school consists of the Boy and Girl Choristers, who rehearse and perform as independent choirs. The Boys and Girls are currently trained by the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music, respectively. They share the responsibility for weekly school services, each choir singing an anthem on alternate Thursdays. For special services, such as the Service of Remembrance and Festival of Readings and Carols, the choristers combine and are joined by professional altos, tenors and basses, many of whom are current or former choral scholars. The Choristers rehearse three mornings per week at 0800 and also enjoy an extended Saturday rehearsal once a term. They recently recorded part of the soundtrack for the Mission Impossible film, 'Fallout'. Future engagements include the prestigious Great Ormond Street Carol Concert at St Paul's Knightsbridge and an exciting Choir Tour to Florence and Tuscany in the summer.

Instrumental Ensembles

There are three Orchestras, a Jazz group, Brass Group, two Guitar Groups, Percussion Group, Music Theory Clubs, Music Technology Clubs, Music Appreciation Club, Flute Groups, Clarinet Group, Recorder Group, numerous Pupil Rock Bands and various chamber ensembles. The School is fortunate to have very close links with the Southbank Sinfonia, who regularly give workshops and joint concerts with the School Orchestra.

Concerts

Pupils are given many opportunities to perform in public. There is a regular *Music for Lunch* concert series which aims to include twice a year every pupil who receives instrumental lessons in school. There are more formal recitals for Lower, Middle and Upper School which occur twice a year. Performances can also take place when the need arises during assemblies, services and class music lessons. The annual Music Competition takes place during the Summer Term which involves soloists and a breadth of ensembles, concluding with the finalists round judged by an outside adjudicator and a Winners' Recital towards the end of term. The school year ends with a Celebration and Farewell Concert at Cadogan Hall. This is a large-scale event which showcases our main ensembles and is led and directed by the Director of Music.

Pay and Conditions

An attractive salary will be determined in accordance with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Method of Application

Applications comprising a School Application Form, letter of application and curriculum vitae.:

Mrs Vanessa Pickett, Music Administrator, Thomas's Battersea, Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3JB.

Please note that referees will be contacted prior to interview.

Simon O'Malley
Headmaster

September 2018

This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.