

BEDE'S

INFLUENTIAL

TEACHER OF MUSIC

Required from September 2019

About the role

The School is looking to appoint a first-rate musician and outstanding classroom practitioner, with unimpeachable subject knowledge and someone able to work collaboratively within an expanding and forward-looking department.

You will be someone who is passionate in your approach to the teaching of music and determined to achieve excellent results. You will be flexible, and inspire and develop high-attainers who aim to win places at the top universities, but you will also be focused on those who wish to study at conservatoire and helping those for whom music is part of their wider school enjoyment. Ideally, the successful applicant will also be a first-rate accompanist, able to accompany our pupils of all levels of ability and talent. The successful candidate should have the intellectual range and cultural depth to be able to play a major role in both developing our courses and contributing to the wider curriculum.

Above all, enthusiasm for the subject and the ability to both engage and challenge able pupils is essential.

Specific Information

The music department is happy and flourishing, driven by its ethos of creating stimulating opportunities for musicians at all levels. Its strengths lie in its teamwork, its commitment and in the considerable talents both of pupils and teachers. All its activities are thriving, and are characterised both by the high quality of the output and by good numbers participating. There are currently two full-time members of the department, a part-time Music Technician, a Department Administrator and 20 visiting teachers who, between them, deliver about 200 individual lessons a week. The full range of orchestral and other instruments is taught.

The Department runs the following major groups: Chamber Choir, the Bede's Singers, two close harmony groups (jazz choir and barbershop), Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band, BTEC band and various smaller jazz ensembles. In addition to these regular groups, there is a strong chamber music programme. There is a full programme of termly choral and orchestral concerts, recitals and weekly informal concerts, both in the School and outside. Bede's Fest, the school's own outdoor music festival and a major annual event, focuses on contemporary music and showcasing the BTEC bands, who reach very high performing standards. There are about 30 such events a year. In addition, masterclasses, seminars, concert/opera trips and tours regularly take place, the latest being a choir and chamber music tour to Venice and Verona. A future exchange is planned in 2019-2020 with the Sussex County Youth Orchestra, New Jersey, USA. The Department regularly joins forces with the Drama and Legat Departments to produce musicals. Recent productions include *Oliver! The Musical*, *Into the Woods* and *Sweet Charity*.

The school's blue-chip event, 'Cabaret', is a major occasion and sells out within hours. Demand has risen to such an extent that the concert is now offered on two consecutive evenings.

Solid numbers study Music at A-level (Cambridge Pre-U), BTEC and GCSE and there has been significant growth over the past ten years or so with some pupils going on to study music at Oxbridge and others to leading conservatoires in the UK.

A new Performing Arts Centre is in the planning stages and will feature state-of-the-art performing and practice facilities. This new building will enable the music at the school to progress even further and the successful candidate will take a full part in the next stage of development. The current department features 15 practice rooms, including a beautiful recital room for concerts and small events. A studio suite enables students and staff to make professional recordings, from the Recital Room, the Band Room or the vocal recording booth.

Person Specification

This is an exceptional opportunity to join an ambitious, creative and enthusiastic department and to take an active, visible role within it.

The person appointed will have a good degree from a recognised university, experience of working with children or young people, and, most likely, a post-graduate teaching qualification. A proven ability to work as a member of a team and to contribute to the wider life of the School is essential.

Specific responsibilities

For those with ambition and talent, the post is a very rewarding opportunity. The Music Department is busy and diverse, with sufficient breadth to enable the successful candidate to develop their interests. We are looking for an outstanding teacher with first-class musical credentials, able to lead by example and to be organised and creative in their approach in the classroom.

This is a new post, remodelling the department after the departure of one of the academic music teachers, who is leaving to take on the promotion of an extended leadership post. The post could mix a timetable of teaching individual lessons and academic music at all levels if it suited. But the main emphasis must be in leading the academic department and working with the Director of Music to continue to increase the profile of music within the school, both in and out of the classroom.

The successful applicant will be expected to:

Work alongside the Director of Music to plan the direction and future of the department as follows:

- To lead the Year 9, GCSE and BTEC curricula in the department
- Play a full and active part in the co-curricular life of the Music Department and school
- Run large-scale projects and ensembles in consultation with the Director of Music
- Be an excellent administrator
- Be an outstanding musician, sharing recital duties with others on the full-time team
- Deputise for the Director of Music when required
- In addition to teaching, contribute fully to the life of the school through participating in the normal supervisory, pastoral and co-curricular duties undertaken by all members of staff.

In addition, applications from candidates who have experience and strengths in one or more of the following areas would be particularly welcomed:

- Choral Music
- Jazz Band/Big Band leadership
- Contemporary/Popular Music
- Examining for Pre-U or GCSE exam boards

As a member of the School's teaching staff the post-holder will have a responsibility in every circumstance to promote and safeguard the welfare of pupils in the School. The School's procedures and policies for child protection and security are published in the Staff Handbook, of which all teachers are given a copy, and training in these procedures and policies forms part of new teacher induction, as well as on-going staff development.

Main tasks and responsibilities

- to inspire the learning and teaching of Music
- to lead and co-ordinate the Year 9, GCSE and BTEC curricula, in conjunction with the Director of Music
- the academic development plan for the current year
- to maintain a current scheme of work, suitable for pupils at all stages of the school
- to attend to all paperwork in relation to the presentation of candidates for public examinations, organise the setting, production and marking of internal examinations
- to assume responsibility for the ordering, maintenance, safety and development of departmental resources
- to oversee development and maintenance of the department VLE (known as 'MyBede's')
- to track performance of all pupils and offer suitable guidance to pupils and staff to aid raising achievement
- in conjunction with the Director of Music, to hold and record regular departmental meetings, and take minutes of them
- To be a fully integrated member of the music team, to attend meetings, assist in the preparation of departmental academic reports and contribute to the school and department development plans
- to devise and maintain department policies
- to facilitate the exchange of ideas about, and approaches to learning and teaching

Limits of responsibility

- To be ultimately responsible to the Headmaster
- To report to the Director of Music
- To work within School and Departmental Policies and to adhere to them
- To undertake a pastoral role as a Tutor, in accordance with school policy, reporting to the Housemaster/mistress
- To undertake a role in the Co-Curricular activities of the School

Criteria for success

- Evidence that high standards of teaching and learning in the Music Department are being maintained
- Improving, where necessary, or maintaining positive departmental 'value-added' results, year on year
- Maintaining positive relationships with staff and pupils
- Actively supporting the ethos of the school