

Candidate brief for the position of Head of Music

Welcome from the Head



Dear candidate,

Thank you so much for taking the time to explore this opportunity and for your interest in joining our teaching team. I hope you find the information in this pack helpful as you consider the role.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a wonderful school. Bassett House is a vibrant and successful, co-ed, non-selective IAPS preparatory school based in Notting Hill.

We believe in helping every child become the best that they can be. Our founding motto from 1947, *Quisque pro sua parte – For each, the best – remains at the heart of our mission today.*

We focus on what children can do, recognising that achievement comes in many forms. Whether our pupils go on to London's most academically selective schools or find success in other ways, we celebrate each unique journey. As an arts-rich school, we place huge value on art, drama, and music, knowing that creativity is key to a well-rounded education.

Our pupils are encouraged to be rounded and grounded – to show humility, tolerance, and gratitude. As a small school with a big heart, we foster a welcoming and caring environment that feels like a home-from-home.

There is no more important job than finding the right people to join our team. If you share our passion for education and believe in making a difference in children's lives, we would love to hear from you.

We hope the information here gives you a sense of what makes Bassett House so special, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to our school.



Christopher Woodward
Head



The Role

We are seeking an inspirational and dynamic Head of Music to lead and develop the musical life of Bassett House. This is a truly exciting opportunity for the right candidate to shape and expand a well-established and much-loved subject, with the flexibility to bring fresh ideas and new approaches. Music is at the heart of our school, and we are looking for a passionate educator who can ignite a love of music in every child and make a real difference in their school experience. With exceptional facilities, a strong foundation, and endless possibilities for growth, this role offers the chance to lead a thriving department and further enrich the creative life of our school community.

The School

Established in 1947, Bassett House School is a vibrant and successful, non-selective IAPS preparatory school based in Notting Hill. We are small enough to be bespoke but big enough to thrive, with up to 180 boys and girls, aged 3 to 11, educated across three sites in W10. The school has an excellent reputation locally and in its February 2024 Independent Schools Inspectorate report received the highest accolades across every aspect of its work, including a 'significant strength' in recognition of its pupils' social education and their contribution to society.

Bassett pupils are reminded daily to be the best that they can be. When founded in 1947 the motto was much the same, albeit in Latin: 'Quisque pro sua parte' For each the best. We focus on what children can do because we know that achievement comes in all forms. We are an arts-rich school where we place huge importance on the learning of art, drama and music.

We teach Bassett pupils to be rounded and grounded: our pupils are balanced. They are taught to show humility, be tolerant and always thankful for what they have. We are a smaller school and so Bassett pupils create a palpable feeling of a school that is welcoming with a big heart; it is caring and full of charm. We are also true to our founding vision in remaining a house school: our home-from-home atmosphere is a particularly special quality that we cherish. And finally, our team of teachers are genuinely committed to working together to give the very best to Bassett pupils. For each the best.



What do we do well?

We focus on what children can do: achievement comes in all forms. All our pupils reach their individual potential (as was identified in our 2024 ISI Inspection Report). We send children to London's most academically selective schools (St Paul's Boys/City of London Girls/Latymer), and also less academically selective schools, but where children are happy and parents are delighted. We celebrate each child's success but do not limit academic potential.

We teach Bassett pupils to be rounded and grounded: our pupils are balanced. We are not interested in the snobbery or elitism that can sometimes sit alongside the independent school sector. Instead, we focus on the very best of what an independent education offers: outstanding adult to pupil ratios; a creative curriculum, full of music, drama and art; and a breadth of cocurricular clubs and activities to maximise the value of the school day.

We are an arts-rich school: we place huge importance on the learning of art, drama and music. As children's lives become ever-more dominated by tech, we believe that the precious prep years are ones in which children should learn skills that they will love later in life. At Bassett House the teaching of these three subjects by specialist teachers engages children with the arts from the very beginning of their learning.

We are a smaller school and celebrate the fact that boys and girls are known by all our teachers. We are small enough to be bespoke and big enough to thrive. We celebrate our founding as a house school in 1947 with our first teacher and founder, Sylvia Rentoul, beginning a vision for a home-from-home atmosphere. We hold true to this today for our pupils in 2025. The feeling is palpable when you visit: it is welcoming with a big heart; it is caring and full of charm.

We have a team of staff that work together with brilliant effect. As parents, you will know that working relationships with colleagues have a hugely positive impact on productivity, well-being and sense of purpose. We have an outstanding team of staff that are each united in giving the very best to Bassett pupils.



Music at Bassett

Music is central to the mission of Bassett House, enriching the lives of our pupils and playing a vital role in their school experience. The Senior Leadership Team is fully supportive of the subject, recognising first-hand the impact that a strong musical education has on children's confidence, creativity, and overall engagement with learning. We are committed to fostering a love of music in every child, providing opportunities for performance, instrumental tuition, and creative expression.

There is huge room for development in our already vibrant music offering. At present, we have a team of visiting music teachers providing tuition in piano, drums, and guitar, with the opportunity to expand this provision further. This year, we have invested in new musical instruments to enhance the quality of our teaching and learning, ensuring that children have access to a wide range of musical experiences. Our facilities are exceptional, with a wonderful church acoustic that enhances choral performances, a spacious hall and stage for concerts and productions, and a dedicated basement studio with additional practice rooms for instrumental lessons and rehearsals.

Bassett House has a rich history of music, having followed the Dalcroze eurhythmics method since its founding in 1947. While this has provided a strong foundation, there is no requirement to follow the same path, allowing room for innovation and new approaches. Children regularly take part in Young Musicians' Assemblies each term, where they gain confidence performing in front of their peers. Larger-scale school performances and productions are a highlight for pupils in Years 3 to 6, with major events such as Harvest and Christmas celebrations bringing the whole school together in song. Weekly choirs provide further opportunities for vocal training and ensemble performance, fostering teamwork and a love of music. With such strong foundations and outstanding facilities, the possibilities for developing music at Bassett House are endless.



Dukes Education



Dukes Education is a carefully curated family of exceptional independent schools, nurseries, and colleges, united by a shared commitment to providing the highest quality education. With settings across the UK and Europe, Dukes educates over 20,000 young people. Founded on a belief in nurturing every child's potential, Dukes schools retain their own distinctive ethos and character while benefiting from the support and expertise of a wider network.

Bassett House became part of the Dukes Education family in 2020, joining a network of schools that uphold the same values of warmth, excellence, and ambition. For staff, this partnership brings exciting opportunities for professional development, with access to an outstanding programme of CPD and training. Teachers benefit from collaborative learning, observing best practice across the group, and engaging in training that enhances their expertise. Dukes Education is committed to the growth of its educators, ensuring they are continually inspired, supported, and equipped to deliver the very best teaching and learning experience for their pupils. Being part of Dukes Education provides staff with excellent opportunities for career progression, with the potential for promotion within the group's network of schools

One of the unique strengths of Dukes Education is its model of autonomy within community. Each school maintains its own identity, leadership, and traditions, while still benefiting from the support and shared knowledge of the wider group. The balance between independence and collaboration ensures that pupils and staff alike receive the best of both worlds: a school that feels like home, with the backing of a group that champions excellence in education.



Key Duties & Responsibilities

- › Be an ambassador for music, promoting the subject across the school and wider community, inspiring pupils, staff, and parents to engage with and celebrate music.
- › Teach high-quality music lessons from Reception to Year 6, ensuring an engaging, inclusive, and inspiring curriculum that fosters a love of music.
- › Uphold and promote the Dukes Teachers' Standards, ensuring that all pupils receive an exceptional education. These standards reflect a commitment to academic excellence, pastoral care, and the continuous pursuit of best practice.
- › Lead and develop choirs, providing regular opportunities for pupils to rehearse, refine their skills, and perform at school and external events.
- › Organise and direct major musical events throughout the year, including Young Musicians' Assemblies, Harvest and Christmas celebrations, school performances, and productions in Years 3 to 6.
- › Oversee instrumental tuition, working with visiting music teachers to expand opportunities for pupils in piano, drums, guitar, and other instruments.
- › Develop and grow the music provision, identifying areas for enhancement, new ensembles, and innovative ways to embed music more deeply into school life.
- › Maintain and develop music resources, ensuring that instruments and equipment are well-maintained and used effectively in lessons and performances.
- › Make full use of the school's exceptional music spaces, including the church, hall and stage, basement studio, and practice rooms, to support a varied and exciting music programme.
- › Support cross-curricular links, working with colleagues to incorporate music into other areas of learning, enriching pupils' experiences beyond the classroom.
- › Encourage performance opportunities for all pupils, nurturing confidence and musicality in children of all abilities.
- › Engage in professional development to stay up to date with best practices in music education and continually improve the quality of teaching and learning at Bassett House.



Person Specification:

Qualifications & Education:

- › A degree in Music, Music Education, or a related field.
- › Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or an equivalent recognised teaching qualification is desirable.
- › Proven experience in teaching music across primary or prep school levels, ideally from Reception to Year 6.
- › Be a confident and experienced performer, ideally a pianist, with the ability to lead musical performances, accompany singing, and inspire pupils through live music.
- › Evidence of continued professional development in music education, curriculum development, or instrumental teaching.
- › Strong understanding of current music pedagogy, including practical musicianship, performance, and composition.

Skills & Knowledge:

- › Ability to teach high-quality, engaging music lessons that inspire a love of music in all pupils.
- › A confident performer with experience leading music in an educational setting, ideally with strong piano skills to accompany performances and lead classroom singing.
- › Strong choral and ensemble leadership skills, with experience directing choirs and musical groups.
- › Proven ability to organise and lead musical performances, including assemblies, productions, and major school events such as Harvest and Christmas celebrations.
- › Experience working with visiting instrumental teachers, developing and expanding instrumental tuition within a school setting.
- › Knowledge of different music methodologies (e.g., Kodály, Orff, Dalcroze, Eurythmics) is desirable.

Personal Attributes:

- › Passionate about promoting and developing music within a school community.
- › Highly organised, creative, and proactive, with the ability to develop a dynamic and forward-thinking music programme.
- › A collaborative team player, willing to work with colleagues across departments to enhance the creative arts within the school.
- › A strong communicator, able to inspire pupils, parents, and staff through a positive and engaging approach.
- › Committed to inclusivity, ensuring that all children, regardless of ability, are given opportunities to engage in music.
- › Flexible and adaptable, with a growth mindset and enthusiasm for developing the school's musical provision further.
- › A confident and enthusiastic ambassador for music, dedicated to making music a central and celebrated part of school life.

Why work at Bassett House?

- › **Part of Dukes Education** – As part of Dukes Education, staff benefit from professional development, training, and career progression opportunities. Being in a wider network allows for collaboration, sharing best practices, and strong support for both new and experienced teachers.
- › **Well-resourced house school** – Bassett House is a nurturing and welcoming school with a true home-from-home atmosphere. Our small size allows us to focus on each child while maintaining excellent facilities that support high-quality teaching and learning.
- › **Wonderful pupils** – Our children are curious, kind, and engaged, making teaching here a joy. With a focus on personal development, creativity, and academic growth, pupils are encouraged to be their best in a supportive environment.
- › **Committed staff team** – At Bassett House, you will be part of a dedicated and supportive team of professionals who share a passion for education. Our teachers work together to inspire and challenge pupils, fostering shared learning and continuous improvement.
- › **Exciting stage in the school's history** – This is a great time to join Bassett House as we launch our new STEAM Centre. This will enrich our curriculum by integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics to develop problem-solving and creative thinking.
- › **A culture of creativity, excellence, and community** – Bassett House values academic success and personal growth, ensuring children become confident, well-rounded individuals. Our culture of innovation, inclusivity, and pastoral care makes this a special place to work.



Terms of Employment

- › This is a part-time (2 to 3 days per week), permanent position, starting in September 2025. For the right candidate, there is flexibility in both the number of days worked and the specific days scheduled.
- › The Head of Music will report to the Deputy Head and they will work closely with the whole staff team depending on the particular time of year and needs of the year group(s).
- › Annual salary will be highly competitive and dependent on experience
- › The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service
- › Bassett House is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.
- › This post is subject to a probation period of one year. The School may, at its discretion, extend the probationary period for a further period.

Appointment Process

- › To apply, please complete the application form on [TES.com](https://www.tes.com). You may choose to attach a CV detailing your relevant experience and a covering letter. Please include your current salary details.
- › All applications will be acknowledged upon receipt.
- › The closing date is **Monday 10th March** at 9.00 am.
- › The School reserves the right to interview and appoint this position ahead of any advised application closing date should an appropriate candidate be found. Therefore, it is advisable to submit applications as early as possible.
- › Candidates invited to attend an interview will be asked to complete the School's application form.
- › Candidates invited for interview will be contacted on **Monday 10th March**, with first-round interviews held via Teams on **Wednesday 12th March**. In-school interviews will take place on **Friday 14th March**.
- › If you have any queries about the application process please contact Holly Smith, Head's PA via hpa@bassetths.org.uk.





BASSETT HOUSE
SCHOOL

