



Our Lady's Abingdon

Independent Catholic day school for girls and boys aged 3-18



Teacher of Music (part-time)

Information for prospective
members of staff

Message from the Principal, Stephen Oliver

Thank you for your interest in Our Lady's Abingdon. I hope that what you read here will inspire you about our school and help you decide whether applying to join our community is the right move for you.

This is an exciting time to be working at OLA. Formerly a convent school run by the Sisters of Mercy, we are now fully coeducational and governed by a board of lay trustees. As such, we have a unique position in the Oxfordshire independent schools' landscape. Our Senior School offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with pupils taking ten or eleven subjects at GCSE/IGCSE. Pupils have a positive and purposeful approach to learning. Behaviour is excellent and our small class sizes mean we are able to challenge and support according to individual need. Our Sixth Form, which has grown in numbers in recent years, offers a curriculum that includes more than twenty A level choices, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and a well-planned enrichment programme.

Our Catholic ethos defines us and is at the heart of all we do. It inspires our mission, directs our work of teaching and learning and offers us a vision for the goal of human life. Across the curriculum respect is given to the dignity of every human person. We connect the teaching of the faith to the pupils' own lives through our programme of assemblies, retreats and liturgies, providing them with the opportunity to reflect on their personal experience of the love of God. We are proud of our distinctive family atmosphere, which fosters a tangible sense of community and happy relationships between staff and pupils.

OLA aims to develop the individual talents of each pupil, every child being seen as a unique human being, created by God with gifts to be recognised, valued and nurtured. Students are encouraged to have high aspirations. They are expected to contribute fully to school life and participate in the wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer. As a result, pupils leave OLA as well-rounded, confident and well-qualified young people, ready to face the challenges of the adult world.

If you choose to apply for this post, we will give your application all the seriousness it deserves. OLA is a wonderful, vibrant and happy environment in which to teach, with a palpable sense of belonging among our staff. The role we are looking to fill is central to the flourishing of the school and I hope you will feel that you are the person to fill it.

Stephen Oliver
Principal



A profile of the Principal is available in the September 2018 issue of the Independent Schools magazine (p28-29), accessible via the link below:

<http://www.independentschoolsmagazine.co.uk/issues/files/downloads/September%20Magazine%20WEB.pdf>

JOB DESCRIPTION

We seek a part-time teacher of Music for this busy and thriving department. The successful candidate will teach classroom Music at KS3, GCSE and A level, and will play a full part in directing ensembles and school performances.

Essential qualities

- Qualified to degree level in Music
- An accomplished musician, both academically and practically
- A skilled teacher, able to deliver engaging and practically based lessons to all levels of ability, so that pupils make excellent progress
- Able to organise and direct very good rehearsals, to achieve high levels of enjoyment and good musical outcomes
- Committed to playing a full part in co-curricular musical activities and performances

Desirable qualities

- A recognised teaching qualification
- A high level of keyboard skills on the piano/organ – able to accompany A-level recital and high-grade ABRSM exams
- Experienced in accompanying Mass/Liturgy on the organ or keyboard

Although keyboard skills would be desirable, candidates who can demonstrate a high level of musical and teaching skills, but are not first-study pianists, are by no means excluded from consideration. The post is likely to be 0.5 of a full-time teaching timetable and will commence at the start of the new academic year in September 2019.

The Department

Music is a popular subject on the school curriculum, and many pupils also participate in co-curricular musical activities. The department is staffed by one full-time and one part-time classroom music teacher and fourteen visiting instrumental or singing teachers. Ensembles and choirs run during most lunchtimes and after school on several days of the week. There is one major musical performance each term, plus a number of smaller events. The department also plays an important role in support of the liturgical life of the school, providing music for the cycle of assemblies, masses and services.

Music is part of the core curriculum in Years 7 and 8, with all pupils receiving two lessons per week. The KS3 curriculum is practical in focus, and is built around a range of performing and composing activities, in diverse styles. Music is an optional subject in Year 9, and is generally chosen by about half the pupils. At KS4 and in the Sixth Form pupils can opt for GCSE and A level Music (Edexcel specification), where we usually have small groups of keen and fairly advanced musicians. The department values performance and aims to get as many pupils as possible involved in school concerts, often including large ensemble items from Year 7 and 8 Music lessons, as well as items by more advanced pupils and groups.



Over 100 pupils (approximately one third of the roll) have instrumental or singing lessons at school. Scholarships are offered on entry to particularly promising musicians. Over the past few years, the department has had a successful track record of helping pupils gain places in Higher Education to study music, including an Oxford Organ Scholar, and a scholarship at Trinity College London.

The department has one large teaching room, which is also used for rehearsals and small recitals, a music ICT room housing a suite of iMacs which run Sibelius, Logic and Garage Band, three practice rooms and an office. The school chapel also has a 2-manual organ, and the hall has an excellent Yamaha C5 grand piano.

In a fairly small school, the range of co-curricular musical activities tends to vary, to suit the interests and abilities of pupils in any given year, as well as staff expertise and interests. We always run an orchestra and at least one choir. Other ensembles offered recently include an advanced chamber music club, sixth form choir, percussion ensemble, clarinet ensemble, Music Technology club, and Music Theory club. In recent years we have established the pattern of alternating year by year between a choir and orchestra tour and a whole-school Musical, in collaboration with the Drama department. In summer 2016, we went on tour to Venice, and in 2018 we spent a week in Barcelona. In the Hilary Term 2017 there was a school production of Little Shop of Horrors, and in 2019 we collaborated with the Drama department in a production of Hairspray. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to running co-curricular activities and organising performances in school.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE POST

All teachers are expected to share in supervision duties, attend relevant parents' evenings, staff/departmental meetings, Open Days etc. and to make a contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable	Measured By
A good degree in Music or a related discipline	X		I/A
An accomplished musician, both academically and practically	X		I/A/L
Understanding of current and planned examination requirements	X		I/A
PGCE or equivalent		X	I/A
Experience			
Teaching experience across the full age and ability range of the School	X		I/A/L
Exam Board and coursework moderation		X	I/A
Experience of working in a Catholic School		X	I/A
Involvement with school Music and sharing of responsibility for the wider musical life of the school	X		I/A
Experience in accompanying Mass/liturgy on the organ or keyboard		X	I/A
Skills/ Knowledge and Abilities			
Outstanding classroom practitioner	X		A/L
Ability to deliver engaging and practically based lessons	X		A/L
Ability to organize and direct effective rehearsals	X		A/L
Track record of motivating learners and raising achievement	X		I/A
Team player with ability to work flexibly as part of a diverse team	X		I/A
Excellent written communication skills	X		I/A
Excellent organizational skills	X		I/A/L
Excellent oral communication skills with staff, students and parents	X		I/A
Positive, enthusiastic, flexible with a pro-active 'can do' attitude	X		I/A
Ability to adapt to changing situations	X		I/A
Flexibility	X		I/A
Excellent IT skills	X		I/A
Involvement in departmental planning		X	I/A
High level of keyboard skills on the piano/organ		X	A/L

PERSON SPECIFICATION (continued)

Personal Qualities	Essential	Desirable	Measured By
Sense of humour and genuine understanding and liking for our students	X		I/A/L
Excellent interpersonal skills	X		I/A/L
Enthusiasm	X		I/A/L
Creativity	X		I/A/L
Approachable, open and honest	X		I/A
Dedicated, conscientious and hard working	X		I/A
Stamina and emotional resilience	X		I/A
Commitment to safeguarding and the welfare of students	X		I/A
Willingness to take a part in the spiritual life of the School	X		I/A
Understanding of and commitment to OLA's ethos	X		I/A
Assessment by: A = Application Form, I = Interview, L = Observed Lesson			



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

OLA is a Catholic, co-educational day school located close to Oxford in the heart of Abingdon, welcoming pupils of all faiths and none. We successfully combine excellent academic achievement with huge strengths in the creative and performing arts and a broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom. Exceptional pastoral care and an innovative, inclusive culture underpin all that we do. This provides pupils with the individual focus, resources and confidence to realise their potential in a happy and secure environment, enabling them to become successful members of society.

OLA's values and ethos enable pupils to develop in mind and spirit. The strong moral standards we promote encourage pupils to be polite and articulate with a high degree of self-worth. Outstanding pastoral care ensures that pupils flourish academically and in all the activities they undertake. We provide an all-round education, within a broad curriculum, which results in a sound and balanced foundation for the world beyond school. Excellent facilities and small class sizes make this possible, meaning that our pupils, whatever their talents, are stretched to do their very best to succeed.

Our co-educational ethos provides an atmosphere where pupils are at ease with one another and natural relationships are fostered. OLA is a purposeful, outward-looking school with a happy, family atmosphere which gives children the freedom to develop within a structured framework. As our school motto says: *age quod agis* – whatever you do, do it well.



OLA offers outstanding pastoral care to all its pupils. We have a justified reputation for being a caring and nurturing school with a calm, purposeful environment that gives all pupils the opportunity to thrive. Pupils at OLA feel safe, well-cared for and known by all their teachers. We place great value on care and support for the individual and our pupils interact with each other positively and with genuine care and compassion.

Academic and personal progress is closely monitored throughout a child's time in the school to ensure that the experience of all pupils is a happy and positive one. Year 7 has a dedicated pastoral head in charge of transition to senior school life, after which pupils are placed in the care of a Year Tutor who guides them through Years 8 to 11. In this way they receive the best possible individual support, enabling them to make the most of their GCSE years. Alongside this they receive expert guidance from our Careers staff and form teachers as they make important decisions about the subjects they wish to study for A Level.

Hand in hand with pastoral care goes spiritual nourishment, promoted by all staff but particularly by our dedicated chaplaincy team who arrange retreats, assemblies and liturgies. Our beautiful school Chapel is a real centre for prayer and our Catholic ethos ensures all pupils, whatever their background, have opportunities to step back from the busy school day to enjoy times of quiet and reflection.

OLA prepares children for life. Students leave us at 18 as young men and women not only equipped academically for university, but as well-balanced individuals with the confidence to make their way successfully in the world beyond school. Following their chosen path with enthusiasm, they can use the skills they have acquired at OLA to exploit their abilities and make them count in society.



WORKING AT OLA

Salary

OLA has its own salary scale. Experience and qualifications are taken into account when considering starting salaries.

Benefits

There is a well-equipped, attractive Staff Room at the centre of the school along with quiet departmental workspaces throughout the school building.

Lunch is provided at no cost during term time, with tea and coffee available throughout the day. Snacks and light meals are provided to staff who are required to work in the evening for school events.

On-site parking is available at no cost subject to a valid school parking permit being displayed.

CPD and training are encouraged and the school has an exciting annual INSET programme for staff.

Staff have access to the school's 25 metre indoor swimming pool during designated staff swimming sessions.

Pension

The School participates in the DfE Teachers' Pension Scheme.

School Fee reduction

Teaching staff benefit from a staff discount on basic tuition fees of 50% for full-time staff, pro rata for part-time staff.

Non-contractual benefits are given at the discretion of the Governing body and can be withdrawn without notice.

Location

The school is located in Abingdon-on-Thames, an historic market town situated eight miles to the south of Oxford with its world renowned reputation as a centre of academic excellence. The town has a lively community and has undergone recent development to upgrade the central shopping area. There is a good selection of restaurants, cafes and bars situated a just few minutes walk away from the river and gardens of Abbey Meadows. The town supports a mixed international community and has excellent bus links to Oxford, which is just a 15 minute ride away and provides a wealth of social and cultural opportunities.



Selection Process

- Applicants are asked to submit a completed application form online via the TES website (<https://www.tes.com/jobs/employer/-1030286>). No other form of application will be accepted.
- Please ensure that the online form is completed in full, ensuring that no gaps are left in your employment history.
- When explaining why you should be considered for the role please refer to the Job Description and Person Specification provided in this document.
- Two referees should be provided, one of which must be your current or most recent employer. References will be taken up before interviews take place.
- The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in addition to other necessary safeguarding measures.
- **The deadline for applications is midnight on Sunday 17th March 2019.**
- Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held on Monday 25th March 2019.
- Our Lady's Abingdon is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
- Should you require any further information please contact the Principal's PA, Mrs Julie Braley at principalspa@olab.org.uk

