



Graduate Music Assistant Full time Term Time

Reporting to: Director of Music
Type of position: Fixed term 1 year (term time only) commencing September 2020

Introduction

Epsom College is on an exciting trajectory with academic performance notably advancing in recent years, the Senior Leadership Team shortlisted in the Outstanding SLT category of the 2019 TES Awards, recognised as runner-up as Best School for All-Rounders (2017), Best School for Co-Curricular Activities (2018) and Best School for CCF (2019) in *The Week Independent School Guide*. A sister school recently opened in Malaysia, a Lower School opened in September 2016 and a plethora of dynamic new Heads of Departments and senior teachers appointed since 2012 under the Headship of Jay Piggot.

The ISI Inspection report in February 2019 adjudged the College to be excellent in all areas with no recommendations for improvement. The report observed that pupils 'demonstrate commitment to excellence in all areas of learning; do not settle for mediocrity and express confidence in the culture of the school that inspires them to be the best they can be.' Similarly, the recent 2019 'Good Schools Guide' concludes 'You feel you are part of a school that's really going places. Led with real vision, this school offers an exciting learning environment within an extensive, top-notch campus and the students are among the most inquisitive and delightful we've come across.'

The College is now seeking to appoint a talented and inspirational musician to assist the operation of the department, providing support for staff and pupils.

The Music Department

Music is central to the all-round ethos of the school and large numbers of pupils are involved in making music on a regular basis each week. Music has purpose-built facilities on the edge of the campus. The department is inclusive and facilitates music making amongst all pupils. A wide-ranging series of concerts occur throughout the academic year.

All pupils have access to a wide range of musical opportunities, through teaching in the classroom, co-curricular activities, trips, concerts and events. Pupils flourish within the department due to the range of opportunities available, the supportive attitude of their peers, and the direction of inspirational staff. Participation in the department's activities challenges pupils to develop their talents and broaden their interests, to become confident in themselves, and to be tolerant and appreciative of others.

Academic Music is taught from Year 7 to Year 9. A healthy number of pupils continue on to GCSE (Edexcel) and A Level (Edexcel). Pupils regularly go on to study music at university and conservatoire level. A large number of pupils take ABRSM, Trinity, LCM and RockschooL examinations, many beyond grade eight to diploma level.

The Music Department consists of the Director of Music, three Teachers of Music, a Graduate Music Assistant, over 30 Visiting Music Teachers and a Music Administrator.

Co-curricular Music

There is a large co-curricular programme on offer at Epsom College. Chapel Choir is the school's foremost vocal group, leading the music in Chapel each week, and for special services. This large choir covers an enormous repertoire of sacred music during an academic year and is also given opportunities to perform outside school, most recently in St Pauls Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral. The auditioned Chamber Choir aims to further develop the musicianship of the strongest singers and sings both sacred and secular repertoire. More informal and inclusive vocal ensembles include the Girls Acapella Group, Barbershop Chorus and Lower School Choirs, which perform throughout the academic year.

The large-scale Concert Band is a central and inclusive community for instrumentalists, where the participation of a Year 7 pupil is as valuable as that of an experienced 6th former. The Symphony Orchestra offers progression to more advanced players. Recent repertoire includes Sibelius' Finlandia and Vaughan Williams' Folk Song Suite.

Jazz studies are increasingly popular at the College. The Big Band offers a number of performance opportunities for the College's finest musicians. Popular events in the calendar include the College Jazz Night, Big Band Concert and performances at external venues such as the Hideaway Jazz Club.

The percussion department is particularly strong and many of the school's percussionists join together to form the Percussion Ensemble. Specialist facilities are available for pupils whose interests lie in the area of contemporary music. A fully equipped band room is available to pupils, and they are trained with the equipment during Band Workshops.

In collaboration with the Drama Department, significant pieces of musical theatre are staged annually in both the Senior and Junior School. Most recent productions include Evita, Jekyll and Hyde and Cabaret. The Music Department stages two major competitions each academic year. The Instrumental Competition is a music festival with classes for all instruments, and all pupils who learn an instrument or voice in school, or outside, are entered. The winners of each class perform in a separate concert. The Choral Competition involves performances by every pupil in the school, each House provides a programme, including a soloist, an unaccompanied part-song, and a unison song.

Role Summary

The College is looking to recruit a Graduate Music Assistant to support the Music Department with the weekly programme of music activities, instrumental practice sessions, events and concerts.

The job description will be tailored to skills and talents of the successful candidate. Applications from candidates with strong keyboard skills and an interest in composition/arrangement are particularly welcomed.

Candidates considering a career in teaching, will be provided with opportunities to assist in the classroom and observe a range of lessons and rehearsals.

Key responsibilities:

- Assist in the preparation and delivery of the weekly programme of music activities,
- Coach pupils and act as a musical role model which includes taking rehearsals, sectionals or accompanying where appropriate;
- Support pupils in their instrumental practice and musical development;
- Teach theory and aural lessons;
- Assist in the administration of trips, musical events and initiatives in the Department;

- Support the Music Administrator in the administration of individual music tuition;
- Assist Academic Staff in the classroom (if interested in developing a career in education);
- Assisting with administrative tasks as required;
- Supervise Saturday afternoon practice sessions (1.00pm-3.30pm) in the Music School as well as one evening a week (6.30pm-7.30pm);
- Undertake any other reasonable tasks required by the Headmaster and/or Director of Music in association with the above role.

Epsom College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Essential

- Hold or will soon hold a relevant degree in Music from a good university or conservatoire;
- A proven track record as a highly capable instrumentalist;
- An ability to communicate a passion for Music to young people;
- Demonstrate outstanding administrative and organisational skills with a high degree of attention to detail;
- Display excellent written and spoken communication skills;
- Display energy, commitment and enthusiasm necessary for assisting with the smooth running of a busy Department;
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and a willingness to go the extra mile and a 'can do' approach;
- Evidence of being a good team player, capable of working positively under pressure with a flexible outlook that supports the rest of the team;
- Professional appearance and a friendly approach and a recognition of the need to be an ambassador for the College;
- A proven ability to identify and complete work independently, demonstrating flexibility and adaptability in meeting changing needs and priorities;
- Demonstrate evidence of diplomacy, discretion, professionalism and an ability to keep one's counsel as required.

Desirable

- Experience in arranging music and/or an interest in composition;
- Good keyboard skills and experience as an accompanist;
- An interest in pursuing a teaching career in music;
- Experience coaching/leading ensembles;
- Experience of working with children within an education environment.

The selection panel reserves the right to enhance any or all of the desirable criteria to attain a manageable field

Terms and Conditions

Hours: Full time, in line with the school timetable needs, Monday to Saturday during term time. In addition, there will be some additional evening work attending organised events and activities.

- Salary:** The salary offered is £15,000 per annum. Free accommodation and board available during term time.
- Holidays:** Other than an expectation to attend any staff induction days the Graduate Music Assistant would not be required to work during Epsom College school holidays.
- Pension:** There is an automatic enrolment into the Epsom College Automatic Enrolment Scheme. The Scheme is administered by the Pensions Trust. The Employee will be required to contribute a minimum of 5% of Basic Salary and the College will contribute 4%.

Employee Benefits include:

Life Assurance: Members who are automatically enrolled or who choose to opt into the College Pension Scheme will be provided with free life assurance cover at two x contractual annual basic salary.

Dining Facilities and Refreshments

Whilst at work a free meal and refreshments are available when the dining room is open

Health Fitness and Wellbeing

Free use of Fitness suite and swimming pool are available to staff at certain times

Cycle to Work/Parking

Following a qualifying period and condition, the College offers a cycle to work loan scheme

Free car parking for staff is available on campus

Computer Loan

Following a qualifying period and conditions, the College offers a computer loan scheme

Free parking on site

Offer of Post: The post will be offered subject to receipt of written references, pre-placement medical assessment, proof of appropriate qualifications, and Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service and overseas police check if appropriate all satisfactory to Epsom College, as well as confirmation that the successful candidate is able to work in the UK. Please note whilst the Enhanced DBS check will be paid by the College if an overseas police check is required it will be at the cost of the successful applicant.

Method of Application

Application

Applicants are required to complete the Application for Employment Form available from our website www.epsomcollege.org.uk. To comply with safeguarding procedures when working in a school, CVs will not be accepted. Applicants should refer to the Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure policy on the College website.

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt and interviews may occur at any stage after applications are received. Please apply as soon as possible. Applicants can contact the Director of Music, Paul.Johnson-Hyde@epsomcollege.org.uk for an informal chat.

Closing date 16th February 2020