We are seeking an outstanding musician and teacher to join us in a key role offering particular opportunities for curricular leadership, as well as contributing to the department’s ambitious programme of extra-curricular provision.

**The Music Department**

Music is flourishing at Oakham, and recent years have seen a revitalisation of both the music curriculum as well as the development of an ambitious programme of practical music-making. The large and thriving department has a strong profile within the school, as well as regionally and nationally. The planned capital developments of the school’s music facilities in the coming years will include the building of a medium-scale Recital Hall and first-class spaces for teaching and learning.

The department is led by the Director of Music (Peter Davis), and the core departmental team consists of the Assistant Director of Music, a Teacher of Academic Music, the Organist/Teacher of Music, four instrumental faculty heads (Brass & Percussion, Piano, Strings, and Woodwind) and the Graduate Musician. Essential support is provided by the Music Department Administrator and the Concerts & Music Projects Administrator. There is a strong team of 30 specialist visiting music teachers and up to 500 individual lessons are taught each week, covering a wide range of instruments and styles. The school typically supports over 40 music award holders (scholars and exhibitioners). A scheme exists to offer two terms of discounted tuition on “endangered species” instruments for new starters, and pupils who pass ABRSM Grades 6 to 8 with merit or above also benefit from a discounted tuition scheme which recognises this achievement and their contribution to school music-making.

Curricular provision lies at the heart of our “music for all” philosophy, and class music lessons form part of the academic timetable for every pupil in Years 6 to 9 (Lower 1 to Form 3). In addition to excellent instrumental resources, pupils of all ages benefit from two dedicated computer suites of Macs running Sibelius and Cubase, as well as online subscriptions to the Naxos Music Library and a number of cloud software packages (Focus on Sound, Auralia & Musition). All pupils in the Lower School (Years 6 to 8) have a weekly 50 minute class music lesson, covering a range of topics developing skills in listening, performing and composing. All Form 1 pupils give a massed vocal performance in the Autumn Concert each year, whilst Form 2 pupils showcase African drumming or Samba percussion performances in a Spring Term Lower School concert. Form 3 pupils also have a 50 minute weekly lesson, which includes cross-curricular studies relating to the annual Battlefields trip, and study of music experienced as part of the annual Form 3 Project concert trip, in which the whole year group sings alongside the Chapel Choir. The school Foundation recently funded the purchase of the school’s own Gamelan, which has offered new curricular scope for Year 9, as well as the launch of voluntary activity sessions. A good number of pupils opt to take GCSE Music (AQA) in two sets, and results in all public examinations have been outstanding in recent years. In the Upper School, we have been teaching the Pre-U music course since 2009 instead of A Level music, which has been a hugely successful departure for the department. Pupils can also opt to follow an IB music course, which recently returned to the timetable. Students continue their musical studies
beyond Oakham every year at universities and music colleges. We are regularly seeking to enrich the curriculum with concert visits, particularly for those studying public examination courses.

The school’s vibrant performance programme usually includes up to 80 concerts each year, encompassing weekly lunchtime recitals in Oakham Parish Church, informal solo concerts, chamber music, visiting professional concerts and an ambitious series of major instrumental and choral concerts in Chapel. There are five services (three of which are choral) and a congregational practice every week, and nearly 300 pupils sing with one of the school choirs, around 100 of whom take individual singing lessons. Music theatre productions (accompanied by pupil bands) occur regularly for different age groups, and have included *Sister Act, The Addams Family, Honk!, Cabaret, Chicago, The Last Five Years, Bugsy Malone, Anything Goes, Seussical and Whistle Down The Wind*. The school currently runs five choirs and a community choral society, two orchestras, two wind bands, a big band as well as many training ensembles and chamber groups. There are two well-established annual competitions for performing English Songs and Piano Duets. Termly ABRSM exams take place in school, as well as annual visits for LCM Music Theatre exams and Rock School exams.

Oakham’s music-making also extends beyond the confines of the school. The pupils regularly give concerts outside Oakham in both local venues as well as prestigious national locations. A modern tradition of annual Gala Concerts has seen large numbers of musicians performing at Cambridge Corn Exchange (2018), Birmingham Town Hall (2017 & 2013), the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (2016 & 2012), the Albert Hall, Nottingham (2015 & 2011), and King’s College Chapel, Cambridge (2014 & 2010). Performances have also taken place in Burghley House, Stamford and within the Brandenburg Choral Festival in London. The school has a commitment to overseas tours (incl. a tour to Latvia this coming July), with trips in recent years to Belgium, Northern Italy, Eastern Germany, Northern Spain, Paris, Poland, Dublin, Italy and South Africa. A significant body of music has also been commissioned for the school’s ensembles since the millennium, including works by Sir John Tavener, Will Todd, Gabriel Jackson, Paul Spicer, Gavin Bryars, Cecilia McDowall, Paul Mealor, Thomas Hewitt Jones, Frank Griffith, Anthony Piccolo and Richard Shepard. In November 2017, we published a volume of 35 brand-new piano duets commissioned or written for the tenth anniversary of the school’s Piano Duet Competition. The school’s Chamber Choir has enjoyed significant success in major national competitions, reaching the finals of the BBC Songs of Praise Choir of the Year Competition and the Barnardos National Choral Competition in 2016. There have been notable individual successes in national composition competitions in recent years (including those run by the BBC Proms, Royal Opera House and Aldeburgh Music), and many leading pupil musicians are members of national and regional ensembles.

Our pupils and staff make a strong cultural contribution to the county, and our concerts are well-supported by the local community. The department is a founding partner in the Rutland Music Hub, leading the provision of vocal opportunities in local primary schools. We also work regularly with our key feeder schools, many of whom we welcome to Oakham in large numbers every October for a Prep Schools’ Music Day.

Further information about the department and recent pupil achievements can be found online by browsing the school’s website: [www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk](http://www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk). The termly Arts Calendar can also be found here, which gives an excellent overview of the programme of performances each term.
Position of Assistant Director of Music

The successful applicant for this position will have the expertise, experience and enthusiasm to offer teaching and leadership across the curriculum and extra-curricular programme, and the ability to deputise for the Director of Music as required. Strong administrative and organisational skills are vital in such a busy department, and the ability to work flexibly and take initiative within a large staff team will be important. We are constantly committed to renewing and enhancing our approach to music-making, and would welcome a new colleague with innovative ideas to share.

One of Oakham School’s features is its wide age-range, and the successful candidate would have the opportunity to teach from Year 6 through to Pre-U/IB in the Upper School. We are therefore seeking a teacher with the ability to motivate and enthuse pupils and colleagues in the field of academic music. In particular, we are seeking a teacher who shares our dedication to educating the musical enthusiast as much as the musical specialist. Confidence in the use of ICT and Music Technology in the classroom is vital, and the ability to offer leadership in this area would be particularly advantageous. Experience and expertise in the teaching of composition are also important. The Assistant Director of Music would be expected to take a strong lead overseeing the curriculum across the department, with support from other academic colleagues. Their period load will be reduced in recognition of their responsibilities and non-academic commitments in music.

The ability to inspire high standards in conducting/leading ensembles is an equally vital component of this position. The music department aims to utilise the individual strengths of its salaried staff, and depending on the expertise and experience of the successful candidates, there will be opportunities to run instrumental or choral groups, direct chamber music and/or direct the music for music theatre productions. It is expected that the successful applicant will have adequate keyboard skills for classroom use as a minimum, but strong accompanying skills would be advantageous. It is hoped that the ADoM’s musical experience will allow them to inspire pupils through their own performing ability, and that they will also contribute strongly to our outreach work with feeder Prep Schools.

Application and Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to spend a day at the school and to meet the Headmaster, the Deputy Head (Academic) and Deputy Head (Co-Curricular), and the Director of Music, as well as members of the department and other colleagues from the school. Candidates will be asked to teach a lesson and perform as part of the selection process and further details will be forthcoming should you be shortlisted.

Candidates who wish to apply for this post should send their completed application form, covering letter stating where they saw the advertisement and CV giving details of two referees, either by post to:

Mr Nigel Lashbrook, Headmaster
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6DT

or via email to Jackie Pridmore (Senior Deputy Head’s PA) at jp2@oakham.rutland.sch.uk.
Completing the fillable PDF application form:

If you are sending your application in this format, please complete the application form in Adobe. If you use Preview on a Mac for opening and completing the PDF form, it will corrupt the form and information may be lost. This may result in the school not receiving your complete application.

The closing date for applications is Monday 19 November at noon.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 27 November.

Under current legislation, we are required to advise applicants that this appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. Oakham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service. Details of any criminal record (spent or unspent, due to exemption from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be disclosed at interview. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position at Oakham School. A copy of the Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy is enclosed. For further details, please visit the Disclosure & Barring website.