



**Thomas's Battersea
Appointment of Full Time Assistant Director of Music
September 2019**

We welcome applicants for the above post, to take up the position at Thomas's, Battersea in September 2019.

The School

Thomas's Battersea is a selective co-educational school which admits pupils between the ages of four and thirteen. It is part of Thomas's London Day Schools, a family-run group of schools. There are also Thomas's schools in Clapham, Kensington and Fulham, as well as a Kindergarten in Battersea.

According to its latest Ofsted inspection (May 2018), "Thomas's Battersea provides an outstanding quality of education". It has high academic standards, a broad curriculum and excellent facilities. The most important school rule is "Be Kind".

Thomas's Battersea is housed in a former (now extended) grammar school and has 581 pupils on roll aged from four to thirteen. The year groups from Reception to Year 8 consist of three classes, with a maximum of twenty-two children in each (Reception has a maximum of twenty-one). Thomas's Battersea is a Christian school open to pupils of all faiths.

Pupils are taught in three departments, each of which is run by its own Head. The Lower School has pupils from Reception to Year 2, the Middle School pupils from Year 3 to Year 5, and the Upper School pupils from Year 6 to Year 8. Music, Drama, PE, Art and ICT are taught by specialist teachers throughout the school.

The school has a lively and enthusiastic teaching staff of about 80, gap year teaching assistants each term as well as administrative staff, a catering department, an IT department and a team of school bus drivers. Staff enjoy comfortable facilities, a large staffroom with IT access and excellent food. Staff are expected to share duties, many take part in games and activity programmes and also offer after school clubs according to their own enthusiasms.

The school boasts two large and airy art studios, a pottery studio, a spacious playground, a fine hall for drama productions, two class music rooms, two ICT suites and a large ballet room. Classrooms are also equipped with interactive whiteboards.

The Candidate

We are looking for a candidate whose dynamism, commitment, energy, professional expertise and experience qualifies them to take on this exciting and challenging role. The successful candidate will be a first rate musician, with very good keyboard skills, excellent choir leader, an outstanding classroom practitioner, a superb communicator, capable of giving effective and inspiring direction to pupils and colleagues, and fully understands the commitment required of all staff in this busy school.

The Post

Music at Thomas's Battersea is both popular and strong with over 90% of pupils receiving tuition in at least one musical instrument. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Director of Music and assist in the day to day running of the Music Department, teaching Music from 4 to 13 year olds. The Music Department includes the Director of Music, the Assistant Director of Music, a part time Music teacher, 21 Visiting Music Teachers and a PA (who is part of the school's administrative team). The Music Department joins forces with the Drama Department to put on numerous year-group productions.

The successful candidate will:

- Be an outstanding musician with very good keyboard skills
- Be an confident and inspiring choral conductor (This role will involve leading the 35 strong Boy Choristers)
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner, implementing lesson plans and the regular assessment of pupils;
- Promote the learning and excellence of Music throughout the School, ensuring high levels of performance and achievement.
- Be keen to develop his/her own career and professional standards within the department;
- Support school events, performances, and other occasions positively.
- Be an organised and highly efficient administrator.

The Music Department

In April 2015 Thomas's Battersea opened a brand new Music School. The building comprises of nine fully sound proofed practice rooms, two large class teaching/rehearsal rooms and a MAC Music Technology suite. The Music Department also makes use of the Great Hall and the nearby St Mary's Church for more formal concerts.

Class Music

Pupils in Reception to Year 4 receive two class lessons per week, whilst those in Years 5-8 receive one. Class music time is used for a variety of activities such as singing, preparation for school productions and assemblies, music theory, composition, history and analysis of music.

Choirs

The Music Department currently runs six choirs:

Unicorn Choir – for children in Years 1 and 2

Phoenix Choir – for children in Years 3 and 4

Centaur Singers – for children in Years 5-8

The above choirs rehearse once per week and are open to all children who wish to participate.

The Girl and Boy Choristers of Thomas's Battersea

The main auditioned choir in the school consists of the Boy and Girl Choristers, who rehearse and perform as independent choirs. The Boys and Girls are currently trained by the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music. They share the responsibility for weekly school services, each choir singing an anthem on alternate Thursdays. For special services, such as the Service of Remembrance and Festival of Readings and Carol, the choristers combine and are joined by professional altos, tenors and basses, many of whom are current or former choral scholars. The Choristers rehearse three mornings per week at 8am and also enjoy an extended Saturday rehearsal once a term. They recently recorded part of the soundtrack for the Mission Impossible film, Fallout. Future engagements include the prestigious Great Ormond Street Carol Concert at St Paul's Knightsbridge and an exciting Choir Tour to Florence and Tuscany in summer 2019.

Songbirds

Songbirds an invitation only ensemble of up to 12 leading singers from Years 5-8. Repertoire for the group presently includes Kindness by Bob Chilcott, The Beat of a Different Drum by Sarah Quartel, and an arrangement of Libertango by Piazzolla. Often working in up to 4 part harmony, this ensemble provides a heightened challenge to our more advanced singer's musical awareness.

Instrumental Ensembles

There are three Orchestras, a Jazz group, Brass Group, two Guitar Groups, Percussion Group, Music Theory Clubs, Music Technology Clubs, Music Appreciation Club, Flute Groups, Clarinet Group, Recorder Group, numerous Pupil Rock Bands and various chamber ensembles. The School is fortunate to have very close links with the Southbank Sinfonia, who regularly give workshops and joint concerts with the School Orchestra.

Concerts

Pupils are given many opportunities to perform in public. There is a regular *Music for Lunch* concert series which aims to include at least once a year every pupil who receives instrumental lessons in school. There are more formal recitals for Lower, Middle and Upper School which occur twice a year. Performances can also take place when the need arises during assemblies, services and class music lessons. The annual Music Competition takes place during the Summer Term which involves over 200 young musicians being judged by external adjudicators. The school year ends with a Celebration and Farewell Concert at Cadogan Hall. This is a large-scale event which showcases our main ensembles.

Pay and Conditions

An attractive salary will be determined in accordance with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Method of Application

Applications comprising a School Application Form, letter of application and curriculum vitae.:

Mrs Vanessa Pickett, Music Administrator, Thomas's Battersea, Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3JB.

Please note that referees may be contacted prior to interview.

Simon O'Malley
Headmaster

December 2018

This role falls within the category of regulated activity, therefore you will be required to have an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check. Should you receive any cautions or convictions whilst in our employment these must be reported immediately to your line manager.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and work in accordance with our child protection policies and procedures.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's policies at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school, he/she must report any concerns to the school's Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.