



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 7 - 18 AND SIXTH FORM GIRLS



Teacher of Music (Junior and Senior School)
Fixed Term Contract (20th April – 31st July 2020)

Closing date: Midday, Thursday 30th January

Interviews: Tuesday 4th February

*Please indicate in your application if you also wish to be considered for the permanent Teacher of
Music post from September 2020*

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Introduction from the Master, Helen Pike

Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint. Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of extra-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.



Magdalen College School was founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website (www.mcsoxford.org) including the recent [News](#) will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

H. L. Pike



Introduction from the Head of the Junior School, Tim Skipwith

The Junior School is a remarkable corner of Magdalen College School. We are housed in School House, a stunning Victorian building overlooking the Rose Garden and Cherwell River. This offers us immediate access to the Senior School facilities whilst retaining our own independence for the younger boys; we are blessed here to be essentially two schools with one heart. We are selective from the outset with a view that any boy joining us should leave the school after completing their 6th Form. All of our boys sit the 11+ and it is rare for a child not to progress at that stage; indeed, in the previous two years all of our boys passed, gaining a significant number of awards at this transition point.

Our boys are vibrant, lively and have an inherent “can do” approach. There is a wonderfully warm atmosphere in School House and at the heart of this is simply the nature of the boys. They are kind and emotionally articulate, and this forms an underlying camaraderie of mutual support and respect. They are also bright, academically ambitious learners, which makes teaching here exciting and dynamic. We have a particularly cohesive team of staff with twelve of us permanently based in School House, and a number who regularly join us from the Senior School. Staff genuinely share a passion for developing every aspect of our children; we also feel that a significant part of this should be fun for all involved. We work very closely with our Parental body and events such as the Family Supper, the J1 Family Sleepover and Family Festival of Sports reflect how important we feel these links are.



We are nothing if not busy here and a brief look at our annual publication [Views from the Bridge](#) will give you a flavour of Junior School life.

Thank you for your interest.



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TEACHER OF MUSIC (JUNIOR AND SENIOR SCHOOL) – FIXED TERM CONTRACT

The School

Magdalen College School, founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete, is one of the country's leading independent day schools. It is situated in an enviable location at the heart of Oxford beside the River Cherwell. It educates boys from 7 – 18, and girls in the Sixth Form.



The Role

Magdalen College School is seeking to appoint a bright, capable musician to join its Music department, teaching across the Junior School (Year 3 to Year 6) and Senior School (Year 7 and Year 8) from 20th April 2020 to 31st July 2020. It is expected that the successful candidate will be involved with the extra-curricular music programme in the Junior School, and practical expertise, whether instrumental or choral, will be essential. The standard of music in the Junior School and Senior School is extremely high and this post is a wonderful opportunity for the successful candidate to work with some very talented musicians. The successful candidate will be particularly closely involved in Junior School productions and concerts, which this year features a community opera written by Bob Chilcott especially for the school. It is also expected that the successful candidate will become involved more widely in Junior School life.



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Application Process

Candidates should submit the Application Form for Teaching Staff which can be found on the Job Vacancy link of the website (www.mcsoxford.org). To access [click here](#). This should be emailed, together with a CV and covering letter of application, to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter (applications@mcsoxford.org). All documentation should be sent by **midday on Thursday 30th January**. Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 4th February** and shortlisted candidates will be contacted by telephone. The school's preferred method of communication is by email and it will not be necessary to send a hard copy of the documents by post. **References may be taken up in advance, although this does not necessarily mean that a candidate will be called for interview. If you do not wish references to be called for at this stage, please make that clear on the reference section of the application form.**

Candidates short-listed for interview will be asked to teach an observed lesson when they come to the school. They will also be required to bring with them the necessary ID documentation and degree certificate(s), all of which must be originals. Further information on the observed lesson and documentation required will be provided with the invitation to interview.





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The Department

The Music Department is a thriving department with a wealth of talented musicians and an exciting musical programme.



The Director of Music leads a team consisting of an Assistant Director of Music, a Head of Instrumental Music, a Teacher of Music, a part-time accompanist, a full time administrator, a Waynflete Academic and 38 visiting instrumental teachers. There is a close connection between the Junior School and Senior School in the Music Department and there are many opportunities for pupils from both areas to collaborate for projects.

Academic music lessons are taught for two periods per week in J1-J4 (Years 3 to 6) and in the Second and Third Form (Years 7 and 8). Music becomes an optional subject from Lower Fourth (Year 9). There are over 450 instrumental lessons each week (over 100 in the Junior School) and many pupils reach Grade 8 or Diploma level by the time they leave the Senior School. Every year a number of pupils go on to university to read Music (currently 6 in the Upper Sixth) and a number of pupils gain organ and choral scholarships to Oxbridge colleges each year. The Junior School also educates Magdalen College's choristers and members of the Music Department liaise regularly with the Tutor to the Choristers and the College's *Informator Choristarum* about the musical development of the choristers and their participation in the musical life of the school.

There are over 35 ensembles, which run each week and approximately 70 concerts given each year, ranging from informal Teatime Concerts to high-profile choral and orchestral concerts in The Sheldonian Theatre and other venues in the city of Oxford. Ensembles include:

- 4 Orchestras (1 Junior School Orchestra of over 50 pupils)
- 6 Choirs (including 2 Junior School Choirs)
- Wind / Brass / Percussion / Guitar Ensembles
- 2 Jazz Bands
- Numerous chamber groups

The department regularly takes pupils on tour to Europe, the most recent being to Italy in 2019.



In addition, there is an instrumental scheme in the first year of Junior School, which teaches pupils the basics of learning an instrument and the opportunity to discover which family of instruments would be most appropriate for the individual. There is an enormous amount of singing in the Junior School and all pupils sing in concerts and services throughout the year. The Music Department is housed in the Quinn Building, but has practice rooms across the school site, including in the Junior School where there is also a music classroom. Most pupils learn an instrument during their time at MCS - some at school and some privately.

The Junior School

The Junior School, for boys aged 7-11, is a happy and highly successful part of one of the country's leading independent day schools. It currently has 140 pupils in eight forms. Although the school has grown substantially in recent years, the intimate size helps to create a family-like atmosphere, where boys demonstrate a spirit of respect and tolerance. We aim to provide an education which enables each boy to acquire an independent and searching mind, to develop a broad range of extra-curricular interests, and to take pleasure in the life of ideas. Key dispositions such as kindness, perseverance, resilience and teamwork underpin all aspects of Junior School life.



Whilst following the broad outline of the National Curriculum, we seek to enrich and extend boys' interest and achievement in a variety of subject areas. Specialist staff and facilities help boys to reach their potential. Entry is now predominantly at 7+ starting with two small classes to which we add at 8+ and 9+. Boys take the school's 11+ tests and almost all pupils move on to the Senior School.

One of the many strengths of the school is the level of pastoral care. This is provided primarily by the form tutor, who is the first point of contact for boys and parents. Each boy is also in one of six Houses in the Junior School: regular opportunities to meet and take part in House events enable boys to work together with pupils from different year groups. The Junior School Council, with representatives from each form, has an important role to play in the running of the Junior School.



Benefits

MCS currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are substantially more generous than those in the maintained sector. The school also operates a cycle to work scheme, and travel loans are available. The school offers private medical cover (permanent staff only) and subscribes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, in which all teaching staff are auto enrolled – there is, of course, an opt out, should this be preferred. School fee remission for full time staff sons (from Junior School through to Sixth Form) and staff daughters (Sixth Form) who pass entrance tests for the school is currently 50%; this operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff. In addition, Headington School currently allows full time staff daughters who pass entrance tests for the school a 20% remission. (Headington fee remission also operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff, and is only available to staff with a Full Time Equivalent of 50% or over).



The school has a fully equipped gym which is available for staff use, and staff may also enjoy access to the University of Oxford's Rosenblatt Swimming Pool. Tennis courts are available, and there is a comprehensive programme of staff sports clubs, including football, climbing, yoga, pilates, and badminton. Staff also have the opportunity to join choirs and music groups, and to get involved in drama productions.

Staff are encouraged to make use of the Senior Common Room within and after the school day, as an area for relaxation and shared discussion outside departments. There is also a quiet room located close to the SCR where staff can work and study. Tea and Coffee are served in the SCR at morning break, and cakes and cut fruit are available in the SCR at the end of the school day. Staff socials, guest nights and Master's Drinks are regular features of each term.



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Professional Development

The school places a significant emphasis on the professional development of all staff. A half termly CPD & Teaching Newsletter is distributed by email, which aims to highlight educational research and practical ideas, to share ideas from courses and conferences attended, to offer guidance on opportunities for CPD, and to highlight the work of colleagues in the area of teaching and learning. All colleagues are encouraged to attend at least one external CPD course each year, and also to visit another school, place of work or university, where appropriate.

The Teaching & Learning group meets before school twice per half term. Its purpose is to consider developments in educational research, to facilitate discussion of teaching and learning, to offer a forum for the sharing of good teaching practice, and to support colleagues in experimenting with new teaching techniques. There is also a programme of Learning Lunches each term for colleagues to share good practice. Colleagues who have been teaching for more than seven years (including a minimum of three years' service at MCS) may make an application for study leave for the second half of the Trinity Term.



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Waynflete Teaching Certificate

The School aims to offer teaching staff joining the school without a teaching qualification (UQTs) the opportunity to develop their teaching craft and reflect on their professional practice through a structured programme of training and support. For such colleagues, the school offers the Waynflete Teaching Certificate, which may ultimately lead to Qualified Teacher Status through the Assessment Only route offered by the University of Reading.

Safeguarding Policy

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire and sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).

Additional Information

Please note that MCS is an inner-city school, with limited parking. Candidates who have been offered a post will be invited to make representations in the term preceding their arrival to the Usher (Senior Deputy Head) for a parking space. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Recruitment Officer: 01865 253401.