



# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

FULL-TIME FROM SEPTEMBER 2018



**RYDE SCHOOL**  
WITH UPPER CHINE

*An Island School with a Global Outlook*

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



## THE ROLE

**Ryde School is seeking to appoint a creative and dynamic Director of Music to lead and develop all aspects of music throughout the Senior School and oversee the subject at Junior School level.**

The role involves responsibility for the music curriculum, teaching and learning across the Senior School (11-18), management of the peripatetic music staff team (a role shared with the Assistant Director of Music), organisation of concerts and performance opportunities, supporting performances elsewhere (for example the School Musical) development of the Music Scholarship programme and organisation of external music performances such as the annual European Music Tour. The current Director of Music takes responsibility for the development of Instrumental Music, which complements the work of the Assistant who is also Choral Director. He or she will teach around eighteen lessons of a thirty period week.

The Senior School Music Department at Ryde is a busy, high profile department. Currently it offers two full ensemble concerts, two recital evenings, two carol services, Remembrance and Founders' Day, a Music Tour concert, an annual School Musical, performances at fetes, social occasions and charity events and assisting and encouraging rock groups to perform in 'Live Lounge' events. All members of the senior school, staff and pupils, take part in the competitive and highly anticipated annual House Song competition. This year will see the 23rd annual Music Tour with sixty four musicians travelling to Croatia (13% of pupils in the senior school) ; an opportunity to rehearse and perform together and develop friendships across the year groups. In the recent carol services, around 10% of the senior school sang in the choir.

The department offers weekly rehearsals for Choristers, Concert, Chamber and Yr 5-8 orchestras, Swing Band, Junior Singers, String, Flute, Brass and Percussion groups, Jazz Combo and Vocal Trio. Theory classes run for beginners up to Grade 5 and pupils taking Grade 6 - 8 exams are given aural training. A weekly lesson is given

to Music Scholars covering topics and skills relevant to each pupil. These opportunities are complemented by the Junior School with a number of productions and concerts throughout the year. There is a music specialist in the Junior School whom the Director of Music oversees and supports. The twelve peripatetic staff members work across the whole 3-18 school and the oversight allows us to develop a coherent growth plan in choral and instrumental provision across the School.

At year 7 - 8 all pupils study music for one hour per week. In year 9 the subject becomes an option, currently chosen by around half the year group, with two hours per week. Around 10 pupils select music at GCSE and 2 - 3 at 'A' Level or IB. The Department has extended in recent years adding a computer suite and purpose built soundproof drum room. Oxford Lodge has three floors housing two classrooms with keyboards, a sixth form teaching room, department offices and rooms for peripatetic music lessons or breakout spaces for practical work. Pupils are encouraged to use the facilities at lunchtime or after school to practise individually or in groups and many pupils past and present comment on the friendly, "homely" feel of Oxford Lodge. Larger rehearsals take place in the nearby Studio. A new Music Department / Performing Arts space is under consideration and the successful applicant would be very much in the forefront of planning, developing and implementing these plans though they are very much medium term plans. For the moment, the main concerts take place in All Saints Church.

Over the last five years pupils have gone on to read music at Cardiff, King's London, Southampton, Edinburgh, Durham and Royal Holloway. A good number of old Rydeians are now working in the music profession as conductors, accompanists, musical directors, composers, opera singers, teachers and lecturers.



## RYDE SCHOOL WITH UPPER CHINE

Ryde School, situated on the Isle of Wight, minutes from the mainland and international links yet also minutes from the beach, is a wonderful and rewarding place to work. The School is set in grounds of 17 acres in the town of Ryde, with beautiful views across the Solent. It is within walking distance of the terminals which link Ryde to Portsmouth by hovercraft (10 minutes) or catamaran (20 minutes). London Waterloo is only two hours away by train from Ryde.

Ryde School was founded on 25 April 1921. Having merged with Upper Chine Girls' School in 1995 and Bembridge School in 1996, the School now has around 750 pupils between 3 and 18 years of age and is fully co-educational. There are approximately 60 boarders in the School, most of whom live on a beautiful 117-acre site in Bembridge with a small number of Sixth Formers living in a converted Georgian townhouse close to the School in Ryde. The remainder are day pupils from the Island with a small number commuting on a daily basis from Portsmouth. The Junior School shares part of the same site and all key facilities whilst Fiveways lies just across the road accommodating pupils from Foundation to Year 2.

The School aims to serve the local community as a whole which makes for a rich variety of skills and abilities amongst its pupils; in the last three years, for example, thirteen pupils secured offers at Cambridge and Oxford but other children will have over-achieved if they gain 5 GCSEs at A\* to C. Pupils enjoy not only academic success but success across many areas. In recent years we have had pupils selected for national sailing squads, RADA and the Marines Band for example and enjoyed national success in Maths, Debating and Engineering competitions. Unsurprisingly for such a setting, the School enjoys particular success in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme with 15 pupils securing their Gold Award last year. The Headmaster is a member of HMC and the Head of the Junior School of IAPS. Ryde is a Christian faith school whose visitor is the Bishop of Portsmouth and has close and growing links to our local parish church, All Saints. Pupils, parents and staff often comment on the supportive, friendly and positive atmosphere in the School and we have a strong reputation on the Island for academic standards, engineering and the arts.

Whilst serving a traditional community on the Island, the School's strategic planning, encouraged and supported by an ambitious governing body, is creative and global in its thinking. In 2015 we became the first independent school to offer the IBCP, a 16-18 qualification combining professional and academic learning and around a third of sixth form pupils now follow IB programmes. We have created a rich and challenging enrichment programme and teach five languages, including Mandarin, across the School. Years 7 and 8 follow a progressive new curriculum based on the Prep School Bacc and all have a weekly 'Ryde Global' session that includes sailing and watersports. Boarding provision is growing and we recently announced plans for a new boarding house on site which will expand numbers to 90. We are developing pioneering programmes of pastoral care based on coaching and are in the middle of significant investment in teaching spaces. This is a good time for creative and innovative teachers to join the School.



## BENEFITS OF WORKING AT RYDE

The benefits of working at Ryde School are many. The school occupies a 17 acre site overlooking the Solent with a range of traditional and listed buildings alongside award-winning contemporary architecture. Competitive salaries, pension and health scheme memberships and fee reduction for children attending school alongside access to sailing, golfing and gym facilities and a daily lunch prepared in house are amongst the benefits enjoyed by staff, whilst working in a happy, rewarding and innovative environment focused on our pupils and their achievements.



Ryde School teachers are gifted individuals who are able to inspire pupils with their enthusiasm and subject knowledge. They are committed to providing high quality teaching as well as playing a full and purposeful role in the school's wide range of extra-curricular activities, some of which occur at weekends and during school holidays. We encourage teachers to continue their professional development and will support where possible teachers wishing to develop their experience and academic qualifications.





## MOVING TO THE ISLAND

**We have more and more children joining the School as a result of their parents deciding to take advantage of Island life. The benefits of moving to the Island are clear – clean, open beaches, sailing and outdoor adventure and a real feeling of a safe, family environment in which to raise children, yet only minutes from the mainland where many parents choose to work either in London or other southern cities. As a member of staff you will also be able to enjoy all the Island has to offer.**

The uniqueness of the Island is the diversity of landscapes within it. Bustling towns, hills and farmland are combined with open beaches and sailing locations such as Cowes, the international home of Sailing. Known as the UK's Holiday Isle, the UK's Dinosaur Isle (due to the large number of dinosaur fossils found here on a regular basis) and an idyllic place to bring up children, the Island has a huge amount to offer our pupils and staff both in and outside of the school day.

Ryde is one of the principal towns on the Isle of Wight and sits on the shores of the Solent roughly opposite the City of Portsmouth. Its development owes much to the move in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century of Queen Victoria to nearby Osborne House and has some impressive Victorian architecture. Island life combines a fascinating history and architecture with a modern vibrancy rich in bars, restaurants and culture. There are many farms and restaurants offering fresh food in contemporary settings. The Island is famous for its festivals; not just Cowes Week, the Isle of Wight Festival and Round the Island Race but also the Garlic Festival, Sweetcorn Festival and the many town carnivals each August.

Whilst the Island enjoys a distinct identity, it is easily connected with the south east of England and many residents commute daily to Portsmouth, London and the South East. Hover travel from the mainland is at most 10 minutes to Ryde and train links from Portsmouth and Southampton take around 90 minutes to London. Gatwick and Heathrow are around 90 minutes by car and there is a direct train link from Portsmouth to Gatwick Airport. Southampton airport has an ever-increasing number of international destinations.

The main Boarding house is situated on the edge of the thriving village of Bembridge, close to the sea and beach and twenty minutes' drive from the main school in Ryde.

Pupils and staff travel daily from towns and villages across the Island and some each day from Portsmouth. There is a wide range of accommodation available on the Island and often offering considerable value compared to housing on the other side of the Solent.



## THE CANDIDATE

### PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Will combine excellent inter-personal skills (there is a need to work sensitively but honestly with parents, staff and pupils), with a rigorous work ethic, stamina and a good sense of humour. Will be ambitious for pupils, expecting rigour and high standards of them and the Music Department. Will be reflective of his or her practice, recognising that in schools we are all part of a learning community. Will be highly organised and possess a strong strategic view, a willingness to embrace and lead change and a flexible and open mind. Will want to engage with the wider Island community and share opportunities for music making across the Island.

### ACADEMIC

Will be a well-qualified graduate in Music, ideally with both performance experience and an excellent reputation as a classroom teacher. Will be an able or at least competent pianist. Will be computer literate and recognise the opportunities of new technologies. Specific experience of IB is not necessary though might be an advantage. Is likely to have prepared pupils for the further study of Music after school and will have conducted and produced concerts and performances.

### PASTORAL

Will be interested in, and ambitious for, staff and pupils alike, with a good understanding of the paramount importance of safeguarding and an interest in getting the very best out of all our pupils.

### VALUES

Will be sympathetic to the School's Christian ethos and value the intellectual curiosity and debate that comes from a liberal education. Will recognise the importance of developing in all pupils the ability to think critically and independently. Will share the view of the IB that all learners should be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective and will have those ambitions for him or herself.

Will value the diversity that comes from international students and students with a wide range of skills and abilities and will want to ensure that music caters for a range of interests and is interested in both participation and performance.

### INTERESTS

Will be a person of wide, varied interests and will want to be involved in the extra-curricular life of a busy day and boarding school, able to participate in many areas of school life and appreciate, value and promote the myriad talents and diverse backgrounds our pupils possess. Will recognise the importance of extra-curricular clubs and activities and appreciate that a role such as Director or Music inevitably involves engagement outside normal school hours. Will be sympathetic to the idea that our children achieve their best inside the classroom when they are active, happy and successful outside it.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Full-time teachers at Ryde are expected to play a full part in the extensive extra-curricular programme.

Ryde School is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Offers of appointment are subject to satisfactory references, confirmation of qualifications and DBS clearance.

Applications, which should include a short handwritten letter of application, should be addressed to Mr M A Waldron, Headmaster, by post, fax or email with a fully completed Ryde School Application Form, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees including the current employer.

If you have any further questions or require further information about this post please contact Mrs Helen Mason on 01983 617925 or [hjm@rydeschool.net](mailto:hjm@rydeschool.net)

Closing date for applications: midday, Wednesday 31st January. Interviews will take place in Ryde on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February and will include a chance to visit the School and meet pupils and staff. Provision will be made for families of candidates to visit at the same time.