



Head of Strings Recruitment Information

Employment Status	Part Time, Permanent
Required From	January 2020
Job Location	Whole College
Application Closing Date	1200 on Friday 4 October 2019
Interviews Week Commencing	Monday 7 October 2019



WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE

Welcome to St Dunstan's!

We are very proud of this community and believe we offer something genuinely different and exciting for the families and staff who join us. Our Lewisham setting allows us the privilege of working in a diverse and vibrant school that, combined with our co-educational ethos and smaller size, engenders a culture that genuinely cherishes individuality and celebrates open-minded thinking.

Underpinned by a liberal, Christian heritage, we deliberately embellish the values embodied by St Dunstan, using the life of that great polymath to guide our own educational narrative. We are a dynamic institution, encouraging creativity and innovation in all we do. We want all our pupils to embrace the richness of the broad and cutting-edge education we offer here and our staff to be excited by what we are able to provide for the children under our care.

As a Nursery to Year 13 College, we pride ourselves on genuinely knowing our children and families, and we hope that everybody who joins us will feel an important part of this exciting community.

Mr N Hewlett
Headmaster

ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE

The history of St Dunstan's College can be traced back to 1408, making it one of the oldest schools in the country. It still retains strong links with the City of London, from where it originated. For the last 130 years the College has been located in Catford, within the Borough of Lewisham, in South East London. The location of the College is a key element in defining its identity and the College is proud of its reflection of the diverse and vibrant community in which it is located. The Headmaster is a member of HMC (The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) and the Head of the Junior School a member of IAPS (The Independent Association of Prep School Heads). The College Leadership Team, chaired by the Headmaster, consists of the Bursar, the Head of Junior School and the Deputy Heads of Senior School. Admission to the College is competitive at all entry points.

St Dunstan's has a truly coeducational ethos, following the admission of girls in 1994, for over 940 pupils aged from 3 to 18 years. The Pre-preparatory Department was established in 1995 and a Nursery followed in 2008. Both now form part of a flourishing Junior School which sits within the College site and, by extension, is an essential component of College identity. Most Junior School children transfer on to the Senior School as a natural transition. Parents like to commit to the whole-College 'family' and a large proportion of parents have more than one child at the College. The social life of the College is therefore an important feature of its ethos and our 'Friends of St Dunstan's' is as important in name as it is in what it achieves.

The College has enjoyed considerable development and refurbishment over recent years, with an investment of several million pounds and a significant programme of capital works planned for the next few years. The relatively recent acquisition of 30 acres of playing fields, just 500 metres away from the College buildings, provides an exciting opportunity for further development on both sites.

The size of the College is small compared to many of its competitors, offering all pupils cohesive community that celebrates individual talents, strengths and approaches to learning and development within a friendly, inclusive and nurturing environment. The diversity of the College is furthered by the inclusion of international students from a whole range of different countries around the world. The College has a particularly special link with Hangzhou, China.

The ethos of the College is welcoming, without pretence, and draws upon the liberal Christian values of its foundation. Relationships between all members of the community are based upon mutual respect and this is well embedded. St Dunstan's is a happy place in which to learn and teach, where great careers are launched and genuine friendships are forged.



THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is staffed by the Director of Music, a Music Teacher, a Graduate Music Assistant, a Head of Junior School Music, Head of Strings (Part-Time), Head of Brass (Part-Time) and Head of Woodwind (Part-Time). The Department is assisted by a team of over 20 Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) and the Co-Curricular Office which is staffed with a full-time administrative assistant.

The Department runs a busy schedule of weekly rehearsals across the College, including a College Orchestra, Training Orchestra, Community Choir, College Choir (SDC Voices) and Chapel Choir, Big Band, Jazz Ensemble, String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Rock Bands and a range of chamber groups. In the Junior School there is a Junior School Band, Prep Choir, Prep Strings and Chamber Strings, and in the Pre-Prep there is the Pre-Prep Choir, Pre-Prep Strings, and a string class for our Year 1 students. Junior School pupils also have the opportunity to take part in Senior School Ensembles throughout the year, for example as probationers in the Chapel Choir and can be invited to join the College Orchestra in the Arts Festival. We also run the 'SDC Young Maestros' programme, an exciting initiative giving every year 4 pupil the opportunity to learn a woodwind or brass instrument.

A significant number of pupils attend junior conservatoires in London and youth orchestras in the local area. Co-curricular music-making is very popular, with nearly 300 individual lessons taking place each week and a wide range of groups and ensembles on offer. There is a diverse programme of concerts throughout the year, including visits to prestigious venues such as Southwark Cathedral and St Pancras New Church, as well as Chamber concerts in the local area. The Department runs regular Masterclasses with established performers in the industry and for all our instrumental sections.

Musicals are a big feature of the College's calendar and recent years have seen productions of Chicago, Mary Poppins, Guys and Dolls, Parade, Little Shop of Horrors, Made in Dagenham and Hairspray. The College holds an annual Festival, showcasing an eclectic and exciting range of music, art, sport and drama from across the College community and in numerous and wide-ranging venues.

Over recent years, the subject has proved increasingly popular within the curriculum, with increased uptake at KS4 and KS5. In KS3, the programme of study is currently based on, but not restricted by, the National Curriculum. The course for each year group includes a range of topics that include classical, pop and world music, as well as music technology, with an emphasis on practical music making. At GCSE, the students study the OCR specification. At A Level, students study the AQA specification.

The subject is enriched actively beyond the College, with trips and visits to concerts, masterclasses and museums. There are also regular residential trips. In the summer of 2016, members of the choir travelled to New York and performed at St John the Divine and the United Nations and in February 2018 the choirs went on tour to Rome, singing formal concerts at Sant'Eustachio and St Paul's Within the Walls, impromptu performances at the Colosseum and the Pantheon, and Mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Students of all ages participate in a wide variety of educational trips organised through the Department.

THE ROLE

The College is seeking a dedicated, talented and passionate String specialist to take on a key role in the continuing development of an already thriving Music Department.

The successful candidate will have a clear vision for what an exceptional Instrumental Music education looks like for all levels and abilities in the Junior and Senior School. He or she will be adept at generating and importing new, creative ideas that best serve the future needs of the String department at a forward-thinking school and in doing so contribute to an exciting co-curricular programme. They should have a proven track record in raising achievement and will have the skills and attributes necessary to motivate colleagues and students to realise their full potential.

He or she will be an energetic, creative and inspiring practitioner with an infectious love of their craft who is excited by contributing to a fast-paced, ambitious and aspirational environment as an excellent team player, whilst also having the self-belief to work autonomously in this vital part of the College co-curriculum.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Responsible to: Director of Music

General

- Developing and enhancing String playing throughout the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools
- Formulating a clear vision for the Strings Section through effective development planning
- Recruitment and retention of string players in the Junior and Senior schools
- Working to provide a good balance of numbers learning each string instrument
- Co-ordination of the String Visiting Music Teacher panel, in conjunction with the Director of Music, to ensure the smooth running of administrative matters between visiting teachers and their pupils and parents/carers.
- Monitoring the attendance and progress of String pupils
- Taking an ambitious and innovative approach to teaching and learning
- Monitoring and supporting string teaching across the department, including the encouragement of good practice
- Supporting the interests of the string-playing music scholars and exhibitioners, internally and externally
- Attending and contributing to fortnightly departmental meetings
- Maintaining a strong personal profile as a performer and teacher both within and outside the school

Teaching

- Individual instrumental teaching in the candidate's specialism throughout the school in a manner appropriate to students' ages and abilities
- Helping to prepare pupils for ABRSM and Trinity examinations, as well as the practical elements of GCSE and A level examinations
- Identifying potential applicants for national ensembles and conservatoires/universities, giving appropriate guidance and support
- Maintaining professional skills through INSET and professional development
- Being proactive in exploring innovative ways of using ICT to enhance teaching and our co-curricular programme

Other

- Fostering strong links with feeder Prep Schools
- Managing departmental sheet music and teaching resources
- Overseeing the stock, regular maintenance and pupil hire of St Dunstan's string instruments
- Assisting the Director of Music when interviewing and recommending string teachers
- Assist the Director of Music in Scholarship auditions involving string players as required
- Other delegated departmental duties as agreed with the Director of Music

Ensembles and Performances

- Conducting or directing ensembles and sectional rehearsals as required by the Director of Music
- Developing new performance opportunities for pupils of all ages and abilities to support the philosophy of participation in ensemble music-making
- Liaising with the Director of Music with regard to concert planning, repertoire and rehearsal schedules
- Arranging masterclasses and opportunities for pupils to participate in external events and competitions
- Performing in school concerts as required

Professional Attributes

The following professional attributes are expected from all staff:

Courtesy, consistency, discretion, energy and stamina, resilience, enthusiasm, flexibility, initiative, sound judgement, patience, integrity and honesty, self-awareness



PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

The following Experience and Skills are Essential/Desirable

	Essential	Desirable
A performance Diploma on principal instrument	x	
A Good honours degree (or equivalent) in Music or Music performance	x	
Broad knowledge of string instruments, performance and associated repertoire	x	
An unstinting enthusiasm for the development of first rate co-curricular Music	x	
Previous experience as a Visiting Music Teacher within a Junior or Secondary School	x	
Experience of managing Visiting Music Teachers		x
An outstanding string teacher committed to developing their own practice	x	
An inspirational performer with an active performing career	x	
Knowledge and experience of ABRSM, Trinity and other exam boards		x
The ability to lead ensembles with a wide range of abilities	x	
Excellent written and verbal communication skills	x	
Excellent administrative skills, effectively managing commitments and deadlines	x	
Ability to accompany students on the piano		x
A wide network of professional contacts within the string world that may be utilised for the benefit of our students	x	

THE PACKAGE

Salary: £10,404 per annum (0.2)

Pension: Contributory Pension Scheme ISPS (DC)*

Benefits: Means-tested tuition fee remission and no registration fees*
Private Health Care Insurance (50% paid by employer)
Free lunch and beverages during term time
Staff Accommodation (subject to availability)
Free off road parking
Reduced health club membership
Salary Sacrifice Schemes
Season Ticket Loan
Free winter and summer social events
Annual flu immunisation
Use of College leisure facilities including gym, tennis courts and pool**

**Conditions apply and permanent staff members only*

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