

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION FOR VMTs

The Music Department currently comprises of four full-time academic teachers, two part-time academic teachers, the graduate music assistant, music co-ordinator, conductor-in-residence and around thirty visiting instrumental teachers covering all orchestral instruments, including the harp, as well as piano, guitar, singing and percussion.

All pupils take Music as a compulsory subject from Reception until Year 8. As well as the traditional GCSE route, we also offer an accelerated GCSE, starting in Year 9, with the opportunity to take the Silver Arts Award in Year 11. Our results are high, with 100% of GCSE grades at 7-9 and 100% A/A\* at A level. Many of the students who take A level continue on to read Music at university, including Cambridge and Oxford. Over half of the school take individual music lessons on site and the schools hosts ABRSM and Trinity Examinations every term.

STAHs has a lively co-curricular music scene which caters for all musical genres, as well as aiming for the highest standards in musical performance. Choirs are open to all girls from Year 1 up to Year 13 and are organised by age group. There are also three auditioned choirs: STAHs Singers for Years 5 - 6, Junior Chamber Choir for Years 6 - 9 and Senior Chamber Choir for Years 10 - 13.

We have six large ensembles that take place on Thursday afternoons at the Senior School: Townsend Band (Grades I-III), Ringwood Band (Grades IV-V), Concert Band (Grade VI +), Intermediate Orchestra (Grades III-V), Symphony Orchestra (Grade VI +) and Chamber Orchestra (Grade VII+). Other groups that rehearse during the week in the Senior School include the Swing Band, Salsa Band,, Flute Choir, Lower Strings Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Senior & Junior Brass Ensembles, Saxophone Ensemble, and Pop Bands. At the Prep School our weekly ensembles include: Junior Orchestra, Woodwind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Lower Strings Ensemble, New String Band, Recorder Club and Brass Ensemble.

Chamber Music is strong at both the Prep and Senior Schools and there are currently around twenty-five string, wind, brass and piano trios/quartets/quintets & octets. All music scholars are expected to play in a chamber group as part of our scholars' programme. We also have a high number of pupils who are members of ensembles at national level including: the National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and National Youth Concert Band.

The department aims to offer ambitious performance opportunities across the Prep and Senior Schools including our ensemble concerts, musicals and plays, as well as regular solo recitals and concerts. The department also runs a regular masterclasses series, competes in national competitions and regularly tours abroad. The Senior Chamber Choir won Barnados National Choral Competition in 2022 and 2024 ,performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and we won the CEO Award for Excellence Cup for the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival in 2023.

## THE ROLE

At STAHS the role of Visiting Music Teaching (Trumpet) will be to deliver high quality teaching to pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 on the Prep School site at Wheathampsted and Year 7 to Year 13 on the Senior School site in St Albans.

Pupil numbers are estimated to be over 15 next year, in addition to teaching group lessons on our Prep Brass Scheme. However, the Music Department are keen to grow these numbers further and are therefore seeking a teacher committed to further developing our brass provision at the school.

Our VMTs are expected to model the core School values of scholarship, keep abreast of developments within their discipline and challenge, support and inspire pupils in line with the strategic direction of the School and Music Department.

This position is offered on a self-employed, sessional basis at a standard hourly rate of £49 per hour. In addition to teaching one-on-one lessons, the role would also include teaching trumpet on our Prep Brass Scheme which runs every two years.

The start date for this position is September 2025.

This position involves contact with children and will amount to regulated activity as defined by Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) for safeguarding children and safer recruitment.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities for this post are detailed below:

- Teach 30, 45 and 60 minute individual lessons up to Grade 8 standard and beyond (usually 30 music lessons per academic year).
- Demonstrate a high level of organisation in the timetabling of lessons, as well as maintain good communication with parents, other VMTs and Music Department staff.
- Communicate pupils' progress to parents on a regular basis through email, parents' evenings and an annual report.
- Provide inspiration to pupils to enable them to perform to their best ability by playing alongside pupils and continuing their own practice as a professional musician.
- Tailor lessons to suit each individual pupil and providing continuity from lesson to lesson.
- Work with young people in an effective manner across both the Prep and Senior Schools.
- Encourage pupils to utilise our school's performance opportunities including Pupil Recitals, Tea & Music Recitals, Solo Platform Concerts and assemblies.
- Encourage pupils to participate in school ensembles.
- Be fully committed to the success of the School's music and its pupils.
- Maintain high professional standards of dress, punctuality and politeness.
- Ensure all elements of music are covered in an engaging manner when teaching, including sight-reading and aural skills.
- Prepare pupils to perform in concerts and other events.
- Prepare pupils for public exams where appropriate.

In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head or Director of Music.

*The High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.*

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

STAHS is a vibrant school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of staff, pupils, parents and alumni. It is important that our staff reflect the diversity of our community, and we therefore welcome and encourage applications from people of all genders and sexual orientation, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with disabilities.

The successful candidate will be required to fulfil all of the duties, as outlined in the job description. In addition to this, the candidate should possess the following competencies which are essential to this position:

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Ability to play to a high-performance standard on their principal instrument.
- Degree level music qualification.
- Demonstrate an ability to work well with young people of varying ages across both the Prep and Senior Schools.
- Ability to teach lessons from beginner up to post Grade 8 standard
- Understanding and knowledge of the Independent school sector would be desirable, but not essential.
- Experience of accompanying.

## **SKILLS**

- Ability to tailor lessons to suit each individual pupil.
- Friendly and professional attitude.
- Excellent written communication skills.
- Excellent organisational and IT skills.
- Positive, enthusiastic and proactive in their approach.
- Ability to inspire pupils to perform to their best ability.
- Ability to multi-task in a calm manner and adapt to changing situations, particularly during busy periods.

## **PERSONAL QUALITIES**

- Approachable, open and honest.
- Dedicated, conscientious and hard-working.
- Self-motivating with a positive attitude and a logical approach to work.
- Be a team-player.

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## PERSON SPECIFICATION (Continued)

### PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection procedures detailed in the School's safeguarding policy.
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children.
- Contribute positively to the overall ethos, objectives and aims of the School.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in this area.

