



THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music plays an integral role in life at STAHS Prep. All pupils are taught music from Reception and over two-thirds of the girls take individual music lessons on site. With access to an ever-increasing number of Visiting Music Teachers, breadth is wide, and achievement is high. Many girls reach Grade VI and beyond by the time they leave the Prep School, with plenty picking up music scholarships to the Senior School each year.

The Music Department traverses both the Prep and Senior School sites, and we are proud of our comprehensive co-curricular offering which caters for all. We aim to generate a love of Music, as well as the highest standards in musical performance. Choirs are open to all girls from Year 1. There are also three auditioned choirs across the whole School.

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. In order to encourage new musicians, we run string, brass and reed schemes to give pupils the opportunity to experience different instruments. Some of our most able Prep musicians are invited to Senior School ensembles and choirs.

Chamber Music is strong at STAHS and there are currently over 25 wind, brass and piano trios/quartets/quintets & octets across Prep and Senior. We also have a large 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. Many pupils attend Saturday Music Schools at various prestigious conservatoires.

The department offers many performance opportunities across both the Prep and Senior Schools, including ensemble concerts, musicals and plays, as well as regular solo recitals and concerts at impressive venues such as St Albans Cathedral.



THE ROLE

This position offers an exciting opportunity for an inspirational and creative Music teacher to lead the high-achieving Music Department at STAHS Prep. The successful candidate will have overall responsibility for ensuring that we provide an engaging, varied and successful Music programme for pupils in Reception to Year 6, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the wider life of music at STAHS across both Prep and Senior.

The **Director of Music (Prep)** will have the ability to inspire other members of the department through both their leadership and teaching. They will be highly-motivated, organised and passionate about the teaching of Music at Prep School level, building musical foundations and enjoyment of music, identifying and nurturing young talent, and training young singers and instrumentalists.

The Director of Music (Prep) will be responsible for the strategic direction of Music at the Prep School, ensuring that there are both high levels of pupil engagement and success. They should have first-rate administrative and organisational skills to ensure the smooth and effective running of the Department. They will work closely with the Senior School Music Department to ensure that music lessons and co-curricular opportunity at the Prep School form part of the through-school music journey. The Prep School Director of Music is expected to get involved in provision at the Senior School.

Working closely with the Director of Music at the Senior School, and in close contact with the Music Coordinator, the Director of Music (Prep) will also oversee the day-to-day work of the Visiting Music Teachers at the Prep School.

The Director of Music (Prep) is appointed by the Head of Prep and is responsible to the Assistant Head Co-Curriculum & Operations (Prep).

This role is a full-time position with a start date of January 2025, or April 2025 for the right candidate.

The 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

In addition to the responsibilities of a Music Teacher at STAHS Prep, the responsibilities of the Director of Music (Prep) include:

- Developing the vision, culture and strategy for Music at the Prep School ensuring that this is aligned with that of STAHS
- Creating and delivering the Prep School Music Development Plan
- Inspiring pupils and promoting a love and appreciation of music
- Being an inspirational and passionate teacher and an example to others who teach Music in the Prep School
- Leading a number of choirs and ensembles across the Prep School
- Contributing to the Senior School co-curricular Music provision
- Line-managing, empowering and supporting the Music teachers at Prep
- Monitoring the delivery of Music by observing teaching and giving feedback to teachers
- Designing the curriculum for Music throughout the Prep School
- Ensuring that the Music offering for co-curricular clubs and activities is wide-ranging and accessible for all, while also supporting children to reach a high level
- Overseeing the Visiting Music Teacher at STAHS Prep, liaising with them regarding the calendar and room availability
- Leading singing assemblies and accompanying assemblies where hymns are sung
- Accompanying for various services, plays and shows, working closely with the Performing Arts Coordinator (Prep)
- Organising and leading a variety of concerts, performances and events across the year

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RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)

- Preparing pupils for 11+ music scholarship assessment as appropriate
- Working collaboratively with the Director of Music at the Senior School
- Attending fortnightly meetings with the Director of Music at the Senior School to implement a congruent whole school strategy for Music
- Developing relationships and opportunities between the prep and senior school music departments
- Monitoring the quality of report writing in Music throughout the Prep School
- Chairing Department meetings and recording minutes of meetings.
- Attending and contributing to Co-Curricular Meetings
- Keeping up-to-date with curriculum developments and innovation in Music provision, and discussing these with the relevant members of staff
- Identifying appropriate training opportunities for the Department as a whole and individuals.
- Managing the Prep School budget for Music
- Attending and contributing to the IAPS 1N Cluster Group
- In addition to the above, the post holder will carry out any other professional duties as reasonably required by the Head.

STAHS 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

- Experience as an excellent classroom teacher and Music practitioner.
- Postgraduate professional qualification, eg PGCE.
- Instrumental and choral experience at a high level.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- The ability to form and articulate a vision for Music at STAHS Prep.
- Ability to take a prominent role in events that present the public face of the school.
- Play the piano at a high level (essential).
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to promote a mutually respectful working environment.
- Excellent organisational skills, with a high level of efficiency, planning and strategic foresight.
- Excellent communication skills, particularly when addressing staff, pupils or parents directly.
- Confident in the use of ICT, and the ability to learn quickly when using unfamiliar packages.
- The ability to work flexibly, using own initiative and prioritising effectively.
- The capacity to work accurately under pressure with attention to detail.
- Strong problem solving ability.
- Excellent communication skills, particularly when addressing staff, pupils or parents directly.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION (Continued)

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- A passion for their subject and its relevance today and an ability to convey this to students.
- Hard working team player, with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- Proactive; ability to lead new initiatives.
- Eager to improve your own professional skills.
- Flexible - in order to accommodate changes in work priorities, using own initiative and prioritising effectively.
- Reflective.
- Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality.
- High professional standards of yourself and students.
- Ability to think creatively and demonstrate initiative, dealing calmly with different situations as they arise.

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.

