



The Blue Coat School

Founded by the Church of England in 1722



Information Booklet for Job Applicants
Piano Accompanist and Tutor



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL'S VISION:
LIMITLESS LEARNING
FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



LIMITLESS LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



The Blue Coat School is an Independent Day Preparatory School offering an outstanding educational experience to over 700 boys and girls, aged 3 to 11 years. Occupying a beautiful site in Edgbaston, in 15 acres of playing fields and gardens, it is a thriving community where children achieve great things, not just academically but in all areas. Our extensive Co-Curricular programme offers opportunities beyond the classroom and nurtures well-rounded children, preparing them for life beyond Blue Coat.

Originally set up as a charity school 'for the purpose of maintaining poor children' in the centre of Birmingham, BCS relocated to Harborne in 1930 and has since become one of the largest IAPS Prep Schools in the country. A generous Bursary scheme continues to offer the opportunity of a Blue Coat education to all.

Founded by the Church of England, Chapel life remains a big part of the weekly school routine and Prep parents and staff join Chaplain for a weekly service. Meanwhile in Pre-Prep, Chaplain leads a weekly assembly for the children. Our diverse school community is representative of the local area and welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. Respect and multicultural understanding are fostered through our BCS Values which promote patience, respect and kindness. The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. It has excellent resources, which are used to provide enjoyable and imaginative learning.

Pupils consistently achieve outstanding results and they are well prepared for senior school entrance examinations. Many progress with the top scholarship offers to the region's most renowned senior schools including the Independent and Grammar Schools of the King Edward VI Foundation, Solihull School, Edgbaston High School for Girls and Bromsgrove School.

The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our community ethos is very strong, and we maintain the highest expectations of the interpersonal relationships between all stakeholders. The successful applicant will be expected to ensure that the excellent standards of the School are maintained.

PRE-PREP



Our Pre-Prep department begins in the Nursery with children aged 3-4 years. Unlike many schools, we begin with a traditional classroom setting. Children are taught in classes of up to 22, by a qualified teacher who is supported by an Early Years Teaching Assistant.

Learning is primarily through play and exploration but our children make fast progress with their letters, sounds and numbers and are often working well ahead of national expectations. Nursery children have the opportunity to visit our Forest School for two half terms and Reception visit weekly. Nursery also use the Pre-Prep Gym and are taught music by a specialist music teacher.

In Reception, children begin to use other areas in the School such as the swimming pool and music room. Moving to KS1 the school day becomes more structured. In addition to daily maths and English, other subjects are taught such as computer science, humanities and creative arts. The majority are taught by the class Teacher, supported by a Teaching Assistant, but specialist teachers will lead PE, games, swimming and music lessons.



PREP



The Prep School covers Years 3 to 6. Each year group is led by a Year Group Leader and there are also subject leaders who support the curriculum development. The Head of Prep and the Deputy Head Prep are responsible for the day-to-day running of Prep.

In Prep, the children are taught by a number of specialists teachers in dedicated rooms such as the Creative Arts Studio, Computing Centre, Music Centre and newly upgraded Science Laboratories. They become familiar with moving around School and are well prepared for senior school.

Children use individual iPads in all lessons, as well as practical and written resources.

A House system is introduced in Year 3 and children join one of six houses. House Leads meet weekly with their House which spans the whole of Prep and includes members of staff. House competitions ensure that the children work as a team to earn house points or compete for their House in sport, general knowledge quizzes and a House Shout.



FACILITIES



- 1 Year 3 and Year 4 Hubs
- 2 Year 5 and Year 6 Hubs
- 3 The Year 6 Centre
- 4 All Saints
- 5 St Martin's
- 6 Chapel
- 7 Viney Building
- 8 Sports Centre
- 9 The Annexe
- 10 Branson Building
- 11 William Higgs Building
- 12 Centenary Building
- 13 Bissell Building
- 14 Saville Music Centre
- 15 School Hall
- 16 Forest School



The Blue Coat School enjoys an expansive 15-acre campus just three miles from the city centre. With a rich diversity of green spaces, classrooms, specialist facilities, playgrounds, sports pitches and after school social spaces, a big campus soon feels like home to pupils.

The Blue Coat School has a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, AstroTurf pitch and cricket nets, Forest School, IT Suite with recording booth and green screen technology, Music Centre, a Creative Arts Studio, Science Laboratories, Auditorium, School Chapel and extensive playing fields, to name just a few!

Our beautiful and well resourced campus enables us to offer over 120 clubs and activities a week, including activities outside of the curriculum such as chess, Spanish and coding. In addition, senior pupils experience subjects such as cooking, debating, gardening and STEM as part of our Friday afternoon Thinking, Exploring and Doing Programme (TED).

MUSIC

There is a very long and established tradition of excellence in Music at The Blue Coat School, with many children learning one or more musical instruments and many achieving Grade 8 before their final year here.

From Year 2, children can begin to take part in choirs, including the prestigious Chapel Choir from Year 5, orchestras, chamber groups and bands.

The Blue Coat School is fortunate to have a diverse community of pupils from many different cultures, ethnicities, races and religions and we advocate for that diversity to be reflected and celebrated in the music curriculum.





SPORT



With a keen sportsman as Headmaster, it is no wonder that BCS Sport has gone from strength to strength! An extensive fixtures calendar, as well as intra-school competitions offer all children the chance to play competitive sport. We enter many national competitions and have achieved notable success including setting records at the England Schools Swimming Association Finals. BCS have also successfully hosted the IAPS Regional Swimming Qualifiers for the past two years.

The Blue Coat School is proud to have forged close links with local sports clubs and activity providers to enhance opportunities for our children in sport. These partnerships include Diamond Swim Academy, Aston Villa Football Club, Moseley Rugby Club, Edgbaston Golf Club and Edgbaston Priory Club.



PASTORAL

Here at The Blue Coat School, we pride ourselves on providing the best possible pastoral care for children. Our provision is defined by the quality of our relationships with pupils, staff and parents, our strong partnerships and how staff respond to the needs of each and every child.

Every member of staff has responsibility for the children's wellbeing. Everyone works in the best interests of every child to safeguard their welfare and promote their development, and our children are confident in knowing who they can reach out to if they have any concerns or worries.

There is also a dedicated Pastoral Team whose sole purpose at School is to support children in either a 1:1 or in a small group. The Pastoral Team meet every week to discuss pupils' wellbeing. The School's Special Educational Needs Coordinators, Designated Safeguarding Leads, the School Matrons and the Chaplain also attend this meeting to ensure there is a holistic approach to pastoral care at The Blue Coat School.





ROLE OVERVIEW

Piano Accompanist and Tutor



Role Overview

The vibrant Music Department at The Blue Coat School Birmingham is seeking an inspiring Piano Accompanist and Tutor to join our thriving team of instrumental teachers from September 2026.

Music is a central and much-loved part of life at Blue Coat. Our department is flourishing, with large numbers of pupils choosing to learn instruments and participate enthusiastically in ensembles, concerts and competitions. We are proud to nurture a culture where musical excellence sits alongside joy, creativity and collaboration.

Ensembles and individual music lessons take place throughout the week and are extremely popular. We have a large and supportive team of Visiting Music Teachers, each of whom works on a self-employed basis and contributes to the vibrant musical life of the school.

Our teaching facilities are excellent: instrumental teachers enjoy spacious teaching rooms, each equipped with a piano, creating a professional and welcoming environment in which to teach.

Beyond individual lessons, pupils take part in a wide range of ensembles including Jazz Band, Chamber music groups and Orchestra. Performance opportunities are plentiful and form a key part of the musical journey at Blue Coat. These include year-group recitals, end-of-term concerts and the prestigious annual Blue Coat Musician of the Year competition.

We are looking for a skillful and experienced piano accompanist with excellent sight reading and performance skills, and an inspiring piano tutor who can support, encourage, and develop pupils of all abilities, contributing to our thriving musical culture and inspiring pupils from their very first notes through to confident performance. This vacancy may be allocated as more than one role. A final decision will be made after interviews.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Piano Accompanist and Tutor

Key Responsibilities

The piano accompanist and tutor will:

- Provide piano accompaniment for school recitals and concerts (approximately 5–6 events per term, typically 8am on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, subject to change)
- Accompany school choirs, including regular rehearsals (weekly, typically at lunchtimes, or more as required)
- Accompany ABRSM examination candidates, including one dedicated rehearsal per student in the week prior to their exam (typically 2 exam sessions per year, one in Michaelmas term and the other in the Trinity term)
- Provide piano accompaniment for the annual music festival in Lent term, including: One week of heats and one full day of semi-finals, followed by the finals and gala concert in the evening of the same day
- Provide piano accompaniment for Music Scholars' concerts, including a full day of rehearsals followed by an evening performance on the same day (2-3 Scholars' concerts per year)
- Deliver individual piano lessons on a weekly basis (hours determined by student enrolment)
- Support pupils in preparing for internal recitals, concerts and performance opportunities
- Differentiate learning to ensure children of all abilities are fully supported and challenged
- Establish and maintain positive relationships with pupils and parents/carers
- Maintain a professional, punctual and adaptable approach, presenting in a smart but practical manner
- Demonstrate reliability, honesty and professionalism in all aspects of work

The postholder must also:

- Comply with all regulatory requirements including those outlined in DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and HM Government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.
- Abide by the school's policies including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety, First Aid and Health and other relevant procedures.





JOB DESCRIPTION

Piano Accompanist and Tutor



Wider School Contribution

- Supervise pupils on the school campus, including escorting children to and from lessons where necessary.
- Contribute to a stimulating and inspiring musical learning environment.
- Participate in safeguarding training.
- Maintain good order and discipline, ensuring pupils' health and safety.
- Carry out day-to-day administrative tasks such as registers, reports and communication with parents and staff.
- Liaise effectively with the Music Department and wider school community.
- Undertake any other duties reasonably required by the school and Music department.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Piano Accompanist and Piano Tutor



Qualifications / Professional Development

- Degree in Piano Performance, Piano Accompaniment, Music or Music Education, or equivalent professional experience
- Experience teaching and inspiring young learners across a range of abilities and learning styles
- Strong understanding of effective practice in teaching children aged 3–11
- Commitment to safeguarding, child protection, and school policies

Accompanist-specific skills

- Excellent sight-reading, aural awareness, and responsive performance skills (essential)
- Extensive experience accompanying choirs, ensembles, examinations, and recitals
- Versatile across a wide range of musical styles and varying ability levels
- Proven track record in collaborative performance settings
- Demonstrated ability to sensitively support and enhance young performers in both rehearsal and performance settings
- Ability to accompany and play by ear (desirable)



PERSON SPECIFICATION

School Piano Accompanist and Piano Tutor



Personal Attributes

- **Highly flexible and adaptable with time, including the ability to respond to the varying demands and scheduling needs of the role**
- A collaborative and supportive team player who fosters positive working relationships
- Excellent organisational and time-management skills, with the ability to respond to changing priorities
- Able to work independently as well as contribute effectively as part of the Music Department
- Enthusiastic and passionate about developing students and raising musical standards
- Skilled in engaging, motivating, and inspiring pupils of all abilities
- Maintains a consistently professional demeanour and appearance
- Friendly, approachable, and warm, with strong interpersonal skills
- Clear and effective communicator, both verbally and in writing
- Recent and relevant experience in instrumental teaching, including group tuition
- Understanding of and sympathy with the Christian ethos and values of the school

Safeguarding

The Blue Coat School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Original certificates will be required as proof of qualification. All other attributes will be assessed using the contents of the application form, at interview and with the professional references.

All members of staff are required to promote and safeguard the welfare of children they are responsible for, or come into contact with, and to adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the School's child protection procedures and staff guidance at all times.



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