



pipers corner SCHOOL

An independent day school for girls aged 4-18

Recruitment Pack

Director of Music





The School

Pipers Corner is a Girls' School Association (GSA) and Heads' Conference Association (HMC) Independent School for girls aged 4-18. Set in 96 acres of beautiful Chiltern countryside, the School is four miles north of High Wycombe and two miles from Great Missenden. In its most recent ISI inspection (March 2023) the school was graded as "excellent" in all categories.

Founded in 1930, the school was established on its current site in 1945. The school now comprises of approximately 600 students and employs more than 170 staff. Demand for a place at Pipers has increased in recent years, and we remain full.

Our site has incredible facilities to inspire the next generation, we have a 280 seat theatre, fully equipped for our student technical team, with plenty of performances for our aspiring performers. Our Pipers Radio studio broadcasts live every lunchtime.

Sporting facilities include the swimming pool, fitness suite, astro pitch and gymnasium. Forest school is conducted in our on-site woodland, and to encourage environmental awareness we have two outdoor eco-classrooms with wind turbines and water butts. Students of all ages benefit from outdoor lessons in our wildflower meadow.





Welcome from the Head

At Pipers, there is no such thing as a typical 'Pipers' girl. All members of staff support the students to fulfil their academic and personal potential, enabling them to emerge as mature, confident and independent young adults. Investment in talented and inspirational teaching staff and professional support staff is at the heart of our success, and our recent academic results and overall performance bear testament to this.

Every member of the Pipers community, both academic and support staff, play a vital role in maintaining the excellent standard of education we provide. Underpinning everything that we do is a team of enthusiastic and determined staff, with a willingness to think outside of the box.

Personal development is always encouraged and supported, and well-being is at the forefront for staff as much as students.

I am incredibly proud of the Pipers community and it is a privilege to work alongside such talented staff and positive students.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford".

Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford





Why work at Pipers?

We have a strong community and pride ourselves on being a warm and supportive workplace. Visitors to the school often comment on the positive atmosphere. Benefits for teaching and professional services staff include:

- Competitive salaries and excellent pension schemes
- Annual professional review and commitment to CPD for all
- On-site car parking and the possibility of on-site single accommodation
- Free lunch provided in term time, with numerous hot and cold options
- Staffroom with free tea, coffee and fruit
- Use of the fitness suite and swimming pool
- Staff clubs such as yoga, running and football
- Cycle to work scheme
- Access to a counselling service

The school is less than an hour from Central London and has excellent rail links and motorway connections. It is four miles north from High Wycombe, which has a large shopping centre, two multiplex cinemas, a sports centre and several out of town shopping areas.





Testimonials

"The students at Pipers Corner understand the importance of their own, and each other's development, making the classroom culture supportive and nurturing. But what makes Pipers special to work in is that they appreciate this environment, as well as the staff, allowing them to grow as individuals and make progress."

"Since joining Pipers I have been impressed by the strong sense of community between colleagues and the amount of trust and support shown by the parents."

"Pipers Corner School is a great place to work. It has encouraged me to push myself to be the best teacher I can be, allowing me to experiment with my teaching style and get to know pupils in a fun and engaging way. The School has excellent facilities and is focused on helping students reach their highest potential."

"Pipers has a warm working environment, with friendly staff who will do all they can to support your development and positive spirit."

"I enjoy working at Pipers because of the great relationship between staff and students. Lessons have a fun but productive atmosphere and classes of all ages are keen to learn."



Job Advert

Director of Music

Full-time | Permanent
Required September 2026 or January 2027

This is an exceptional opportunity to lead and develop Music within a thriving, ambitious girls' independent school, and to play a central role within the School's dynamic and highly regarded performing arts provision. At Pipers, Music is not simply a subject, it is a vital part of who we are, and of the experience we offer every student.

We are seeking an inspiring and forward-thinking Director of Music who will energise our musical life, nurture talent at every level, and create opportunities for all students to participate, perform and excel. You will lead a vibrant department with the freedom to shape a bold and inclusive vision, one that celebrates excellence, encourages individuality, and ensures that music is accessible, challenging and meaningful for every student.

This is a role for someone who:

- Brings passion, ambition and creativity to their leadership
- Believes in music for all, not just the few
- Can inspire beginners and stretch the most accomplished musicians
- Is committed to building a culture where music is a visible and valued part of daily school life

At Pipers, you will find:

- A school with a thriving and ambitious performing arts culture
- Students who are curious, committed and eager to be involved
- A culture where ideas are welcomed and initiative is encouraged
- The opportunity to make a lasting impact on the life of the school

To apply for this post, please complete the application form via MyNewTerm. Please note that the application form must be completed in full. It is not sufficient to substitute a C.V. for all or any part of the form. You are welcome to email the school via hr@piperscorner.co.uk to ask for clarification of any matters in this booklet or if you have queries on how to complete the application form.

Send completed application via MyNewTerm addressed to: Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford, Headmistress.

Closing date | Sunday 19 April 2026
Interview date | Tbc

Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and Pipers Corner School reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

Pipers Corner School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Registered Charity No. 310635

<p>Job Title</p> <p>Director of Music</p>	<p>Salary</p> <p>Competitive, dependent on experience</p>	<p>Working hours</p> <p>Full-time</p>
<p>Line managing (direct)</p> <p>Head of Prep Music Music Department Assistant and Music Administrator</p>	<p>Reporting to</p> <p>The Headmistress</p>	

Purpose

To lead and shape Music across the whole school, ensuring that it is a vibrant, ambitious and inclusive part of a Pipers education. The Director of Music will inspire a culture in which every student is encouraged to explore, develop and fulfil her musical potential, whether as a performer, composer, listener or collaborator.

Alongside this, the Director of Music will ensure that academic outcomes at GCSE and A Level are strong, well-supported and reflective of high expectations, enabling students to achieve with confidence and pride.

The Department

Music at Pipers is well-established, well-supported and full of opportunity.

The department is led by the Director of Music, who teaches across Key Stage 3, GCSE (currently Edexcel), and A Level (Eduqas). They work closely with the Head of Prep Music, who leads provision from Reception through to Year 8, ensuring a coherent and progressive musical journey across the school. The team is further supported by a Music Assistant and a part-time Accompanist/Administrative Assistant, alongside a strong network of visiting instrumental and vocal teachers delivering individual lessons on site.

The Music Department benefits from a well-resourced and attractive setting within the main school building, overlooking the front of the campus. Facilities include:

- a spacious main teaching room
- a seminar room for senior teaching
- six practice rooms
- an additional Music Annexe with further teaching and rehearsal space

Technology is well embedded within the department, with students having access to Sibelius, Cubase and Logic Pro across a suite of networked computers and Macs, supporting both composition and production work.



Performing Arts at Pipers

Music sits within a thriving and highly collaborative performing arts culture. There is a strong tradition of partnership between Music and Drama, with regular opportunities for students to contribute to productions and performances. Our main productions are staged in the Pipers Arts Centre Theatre, and Prep and Senior performances alike are a valued part of the school calendar.

Recent and forthcoming productions, such as SIX, Come from Away, The Lion King and The Little Mermaid, reflect the close collaboration between departments and the breadth of opportunity available to students of all ages.

Co-Curricular Music

Musical participation is strong and continues to grow across the school. A wide range of ensembles provides opportunities for students at every stage of their musical development.

Current provision includes

- Senior and Prep Choirs, alongside a range of vocal groups including a contemporary/barbershop-style ensemble
- A full School Orchestra, Sinfonia and a training ensemble (Flexi Band) for developing musicians
- A Music Theory Club to support and extend students' understanding

These groups reflect a culture in which music is active, visible and inclusive, with students regularly encouraged to perform, collaborate and develop their confidence as musicians.

The Role

The Director of Music will lead and shape the musical life of Pipers Corner School with energy, vision and ambition. Music at Pipers is not simply a subject—it is a vital part of the school's character, offering students a powerful means of expression, collaboration and personal growth.

This is an opportunity to build on strong foundations and to create a musical culture that is vibrant, inclusive and aspirational: one in which every student is encouraged to participate, and where excellence is both nurtured and celebrated.



Specific Responsibilities

Principal

Leadership and Strategic Direction

The Director of Music will provide clear and inspiring leadership of the department and its future development. They will:

- articulate and deliver a compelling vision for Music across the school
- lead the strategic development of the department, setting priorities and reviewing progress
- foster an ethos of high expectations, creativity, collaboration and professionalism
- ensure that Music remains a visible and valued part of whole-school life
- develop strong working relationships across departments, contributing to the wider educational vision of the school
- promote and safeguard the welfare of all students

Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

The Director of Music will oversee a rich, coherent and forward-looking curriculum from Prep through to Sixth Form. They will:

- lead curriculum planning, ensuring schemes of work are engaging, well-sequenced and regularly reviewed
- ensure a well-coordinated programme of learning for all students
- promote high-quality teaching and musical learning across the department
- monitor the effectiveness of teaching, supporting staff development and professional growth
- encourage innovation and imaginative approaches to teaching
- work closely with the Head of Prep Music to ensure continuity and progression across the school

Standards, Assessment and Academic Outcomes

The Director of Music will ensure that academic standards are high and that students are supported to achieve their full potential. They will:

- monitor standards of achievement and student progress across the department
- ensure assessment is regular, purposeful and well managed
- oversee the setting of internal examination papers
- coordinate GCSE and A Level entries in liaison with colleagues and the Examinations Officer
- ensure that performance and composition coursework is completed efficiently and on time



Principal

Musical Life of the School

The Director of Music will lead a dynamic and inclusive programme of musical activity that enriches the life of the school. They will:

- direct and develop choirs, ensembles and other musical groups
- create regular and varied performance opportunities for students of all abilities
- lead and oversee music for key school occasions, including the Carol Service, Remembrance, Harvest and Speech Day
- contribute to the musical life of assemblies and other school events
- work collaboratively with the Drama Department on productions
- support and develop events such as the Annual Inter-House Music Competition
- ensure that Music is a visible, audible and celebrated presence across the school

Departmental Leadership and Management

The Director of Music will ensure the effective and organised running of the department. They will:

- represent the department at relevant academic and whole-school meetings
- liaise with senior leaders on curriculum and timetable matters
- lead departmental planning, including the development and review of action plans
- chair regular departmental meetings
- maintain clear and current departmental policies and documentation
- ensure that teaching and rehearsal spaces are well organised and used effectively
- oversee the presentation and celebration of students' work

Innovation and Development

The Director of Music will bring energy and imagination to the continued development of Music at Pipers. They will:

- identify and develop new opportunities for musical engagement
- broaden students' musical experiences through repertoire, genre and collaboration
- keep the curriculum and co-curricular provision fresh, relevant and forward-looking
- contribute creatively to the wider cultural life of the school



Principal	<p>Partnerships and Community Engagement</p> <p>The Director of Music will strengthen connections with the wider musical community. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain and develop links with external organisations, including Chiltern Music Academy and Bucks Music Trust • organise visiting musicians, workshops and concert trips • promote the work of the department within the school and to prospective families • create opportunities for students to perform within the local community • explore and develop wider community initiatives, including the potential re-establishment of a Pipers Community Choir <p>Student Leadership and Talent Development</p> <p>The Director of Music will nurture both musical excellence and student leadership. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appoint and support Music Captains for senior ensembles • contribute to the auditioning of Music Scholarship candidates • support and challenge Music Scholars and other talented musicians • create opportunities for students to take leadership roles within the musical life of the school <p>Personal Contribution</p> <p>The Director of Music will be an active and visible presence within the school's musical life, bringing enthusiasm, strong musicianship and a commitment to high standards. They will lead by example, contributing to performances and inspiring students through their passion for music.</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>The Director of Music is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all students, ensuring that music spaces are inclusive, supportive and safe environments in which every student can flourish.</p>
<p><i>March 2026</i></p> <p><i>This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the school in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties</i></p>	

