

THE DEPARTMENT

The Music Department currently comprises of four full-time academic teachers, two part-time academic teachers, the musician-in-residence, the graduate music assistant, music co-ordinator, conductor-in-residence and around twenty-five 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 4 - 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 Early Music Ensemble, Swing Band, Salsa Band, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, Lower Strings Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, two Brass Ensembles, Saxophone Ensemble, and Pop Bands. At the Prep School our weekly ensembles include: Junior Orchestra, Concertante Strings, 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 large number of pupils who are members of ensembles at national level including: the National Youth Orchestra, The National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and the National Youth Concert Band.

The department aims to offer a large number of 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 & 2024, performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra last year 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 the Graduate Music Assistant is to assist on a day-to-day basis at both our Senior and Prep School sites to help further enrich our successful department.

As part of a dynamic and highly experienced team, you will contribute to the musical development of our students, providing key support across academic and co-curricular activities. Your role will be tailored around your interests, skills and strengths, and will involve a range of responsibilities such as teaching, partnership work and musical support, including coaching and accompanying ensembles, orchestras and bands. You will also undertake some administrative tasks within the department.

This is a one-year fixed term position, offered on a full-time basis, 39 hours per week, 36 weeks per year (Term Time plus 1 week). The working hours will be 8.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Thursday and 8.00am – 4.00pm on Friday with a one-hour unpaid lunch break. In addition, there will be some weekend, after school and one-off events as part of the Music Department's Calendar, which include concerts, trips and masterclasses which will work under a TOIL system (Time off in lieu) to be agreed in advance with the Director of Music. The role is based across the School's two sites and the successful candidate must be able to travel between both.

The preferred start date for this position is 24 August 2026.

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:

- Supporting choirs and/or ensembles on a weekly basis as per the candidate's skills and strengths.
- Rehearsing and accompanying pupils for performances and assemblies.
- Assisting the Director of Music and Music Department Co-ordinator with concert organisation and the day-to-day administration of the department.
- Preparation of marketing materials such as posters and concert programmes.
- Responsibility for stage management in concerts.
- Organisation of practice parts for our large ensembles.
- Preparation and set up of Thursday afternoon rehearsals.
- Ensuring practice rooms are appropriately resourced and tidy.
- Responsibility for the department noticeboards.
- Teaching weekly aural and theory classes.
- Assisting with academic music lessons.
- Assisting with staffing music department events and trips.
- Assisting the Musician in Residence with cataloguing and organisation of the music department library.
- Assisting with our partnership days and with our other regular partnership work.
- Tutoring a chamber group as part of our scholars' programme.
- Attendance at weekly Music Department meetings

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 & EXPERIENCE

- Excellent degree and/or postgraduate qualification in Music.
- Experience of running musical ensembles or chamber groups.
- Experience of working with young people in a school or university environment is desirable, but not essential.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- Excellent organisation and planning skills.
- Excellent communication & rehearsal skills.
- Familiarity with all basic Office programs e.g. Excel, Word.
- Ability to play an instrument to a high standard.
- Good keyboard skills
- Familiarity with DAWs are desirable, but not essential.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- A personal love of music.
- A genuine interest in the musical development of young people.
- Personal warmth and good rapport with pupils and colleagues.
- Flexible attitude and ability to adapt to changing priorities.
- Self-motivated with a positive attitude and a logical approach to work.
- A willingness to learn new skills.
- A willingness to fully engage in the life of the school.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children.
- A commitment to the ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- Strong support for the School's mission and values.
- Ability to be a good role model.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support Health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in them