



# Copthill School

## Recruitment Opportunity Teacher of Drums



We seek an experienced and inspirational teacher of drums to work within our vibrant Music Department. If you love working with young musicians, have drive and wish to be part of a great team then Copthill Music Department is for you! For an application pack please get in touch with our HR Administrator, [paula.rayner@copthill.com](mailto:paula.rayner@copthill.com). If you'd like to discuss the role please email Suzanne Over, our Head of Music, [music@copthill.com](mailto:music@copthill.com).



"ISA are proud to recognise **Copthill School** as our **Junior School of the Year**!"

Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer,  
Independent Schools Association

Copthill School

2022 ISA  
Junior School of the Year

"Pupils benefit from a diverse range of learning across the curriculum and extensive enrichment opportunities in sports, arts, within their communities and beyond. It is evident that the provision has been tailored to embody the school's values."

Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer,  
Independent Schools Association

Copthill School

2022 ISA  
Junior School of the Year

"Copthill School truly lives up to its mission statement of 'The Child at Heart'."

Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, Chief Executive Officer,  
Independent Schools Association

Copthill School

# The Copthill Way

Copthill is a truly unique school. Founded in 1969 by Mr and Mrs Teesdale, the school's first pupils were the three Teesdale sons. The sons are now Directors with day-to-day roles as Principal, Bursar and Director of Sport. Mrs Teesdale recognised the importance of childhood and this is a principle we stand by today, the most important phase of our vision statement being 'the child at heart'.

The staff and I are privileged to uphold Mrs Teesdale's vision. We want our children to grow as Copthill Learners—responsible citizens, independent explorers, team players, problem solvers, creative thinkers, reflective learners—respecting each other, their environment and themselves.

**If you have the passion and expertise to instil in our children the curiosity, excitement, desire and drive to be lifelong learners, seizing every opportunity to pursue their dreams and to write their own success stories at each stage of their journey, then we will very much welcome your application to join our dedicated, enthusiastic and experienced team.**



# Visiting Music Teacher: Job Description

## General

- ◊ To carry out the professional duties of a visiting music teacher under the reasonable direction of the Head of Music and the School Leadership Team
- ◊ To be a team player working collaboratively in promoting the growth of the department

## Teaching

- ◊ Plan and prepare individual music lessons
- ◊ Teach according to the Copthill vision and aims
- ◊ Communicate via the practice record book effectively
- ◊ Prepare children for performances, exams, auditions as appropriate

## Assessments and Reports

- ◊ Set targets and discuss progress with parents at the 'meet the teacher' sessions in autumn and spring
- ◊ Write end of year reports

## Additional Activities

- ◊ To play a key part in contributing to the wider Music Department by;
- ◊ Demonstrating the positive ethos of the department
- ◊ Actively engaging in and promoting events and activities as appropriate
- ◊ Providing opportunities for ensemble playing as appropriate
- ◊ Taking on such specific additional music duties and/or responsibilities as the Head of Music and the School Leadership Team may from time to time require and which may be appended to the schedule e.g. scholarship preparation classes, pre-exam aural sessions

## Pastoral Duties

- ◊ Promote the general progress and well-being of individual pupils
- ◊ Keep informed via the school pupil system of pastoral, medical and learning needs of each pupil taught
- ◊ Report any immediate pastoral issues to Form Teachers
- ◊ Continually monitor the welfare of all pupils and report any concerns in confidence to the

designated person

- ◊ Keep up to date with all training and advice with regards to safeguarding in line with the school policy
- ◊ Communicate and cooperate with persons or bodies outside the school as appropriate

## Professional Growth

- ◊ Participate in Copthill's Professional Growth opportunity (voluntary basis)
- ◊ Participate in training opportunities as appropriate
- ◊ Participate in any specific school training arranged. (ie Child Protection Training)

## Staff Meetings

- ◊ Participate in an annual Music Department admin meeting

## Discipline, Health and Safety

- ◊ Promoting good discipline using the 3 Rs in Copthill's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- ◊ Ensure the health and safety of children and yourself at work

## Music Examinations

- ◊ Participate in arrangements for music examinations where appropriate

## Administration

- ◊ Arrange timetables
- ◊ Communicate lesson times and details to parents
- ◊ Keep an accurate and up to date register of lessons taught
- ◊ Keep up-to-date with information regarding future dates and daily school routine changes
- ◊ Order all music through the school system
- ◊ Keep the Head of Music up to date with all communications

## Equal Opportunities

- ◊ Promote equal opportunities within the school and to seek to ensure the implementation of the school's equal opportunities policy



# Teacher of Drums

We seek an inspirational Teacher of Drums (term time only) to join our talented team of visiting music teachers in our flourishing Music Department. This is an exciting opportunity for teachers who wish to be part of a highly vibrant music-making department.

## Job Specification

### Responsibilities

- ◊ Arrange timetables for individual lessons, and be able to adapt these (often at short notice) in response to other activities/events taking place within the school
- ◊ Teach in accordance with the Copthill Vision and Aims which puts children at the heart of their learning
- ◊ Communicate with parents during the year as appropriate including meeting parents during our 'meet the teacher' sessions
- ◊ Set achievable targets with appropriate challenge for each individual
- ◊ Write end of year reports for the pupils
- ◊ Provide support in preparing the students for recitals, concerts, auditions and exams as appropriate
- ◊ Provide opportunities for ensemble playing as appropriate
- ◊ Get involved in Music Department wider events as part of the team



## Person Specification

### Essential

- ◊ Grade 8
- ◊ Experience teaching grades with Rock School and/or ABRSM syllabus
- ◊ Experienced performer (drum kit)

### Desirable

- ◊ Additional professional qualification, diploma/degree
- ◊ Experience teaching large group percussion workshops
- ◊ Experience of orchestral percussion
- ◊ Evidence of continued professional development
- ◊ Experience of working collaboratively within a fast paced and demanding community



# The Copthill Journey

A broad, comprehensive and creative education with the highest expectations

## Early Years (2yrs to 4yrs)

The ideal start to school life. A nurturing, stimulating and safe environment, run by an experienced and dedicated team. We continually keep in touch with families about their child's progress, learning outcomes and development.



## Middle School (7yrs to 9yrs)

The emphasis on English reading and writing remains plus a thematic approach to history, geography, science and citizenship. Class teachers teach these along with French, RE and PSHE. Specialist lessons in Art, Computing, Music, EEL, Reasoning and PE occur. All children have Chromebooks where digital learning takes place to enhance and transform experiences.



## Lower School (4yrs to 7yrs)

A strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy across a broad curriculum with small classes. Specialist teachers in modern foreign languages, music, physical education and dance help ensure our children receive the best possible foundation to their education.



## Upper School (9yrs to 11yrs)

Tutors work alongside subject teachers to identify our children's strengths and target areas for development, closely monitoring progress. The broad curriculum is delivered by specialist teachers and adapted to each child's individual needs.



# Working at Copthill School

## Our vision for our team

**Members of staff at Copthill are the school's greatest asset**

At Copthill we:

- ◊ Care for our staff as individuals within a supportive, family community, learning and growing together - happy staff help children learn
- ◊ Have the highest expectations of all our staff across all areas of school life but be flexible in our approach
- ◊ Challenge and support our staff to be confident in recognising their own and each other's strengths and talents
- ◊ Acknowledge that working life can be difficult and reassure our staff that support is available
- ◊ Instil in our staff the curiosity, excitement, desire and drive to be lifelong learners, seizing every opportunity to pursue their dreams and to write their own success stories at each stage of their journey
- ◊ Grow as Copthill Learners (responsible citizens, independent explorers, team players, problem solvers, creative thinkers, reflective learners), respecting each other, our environment and ourselves



# What our team say about... Working at Copthill

## Members of staff at Copthill are the school's greatest asset

A recent ISI inspection returned overwhelming positive responses through the questionnaires, proving that we all work well together for the best possible outcomes for our children.

Pupil questionnaire 96% positive responses

Parent questionnaire 99% positive responses

Staff questionnaire 99% positive responses

"I couldn't have asked for a more welcoming introduction to Copthill School. The team of staff are exactly that, a great team. Working together, supporting each other and being approachable makes the group of teachers that you work alongside, an asset to the job.

Coming from a large, private school in London, one of the most appealing things about Copthill is its setting. Having the outdoor space just on your doorstep provides you with endless opportunities to take your teaching outside, not just in the classroom."



"Copthill School is truly unique for all the best reasons! I feel unbelievably lucky to work in such an incredible environment, which champions the outdoors and nurtures every child so very well."

Teaching in the Copthill family is fun, but more importantly, I feel valued and trusted in my role.



# Our Excellent... Teaching and Learning

## The Child at the Heart

- ◊ Children are comfortable and safe
- ◊ Take time to listen
- ◊ Differentiation - know children as individuals and use this knowledge to inform planning and delivery
- ◊ Know a child's learning journey - where have they come from, where are they now, where can we help them go next?
- ◊ Teacher moves to the child - the teacher's desk is not the focal point
- ◊ Opportunities to learn outside are embedded in our approach

## Learning and Growing Together

- ◊ Hold all pupils in equal, unconditional, positive regard
- ◊ Build positive relationships based on mutual respect, warmth and kindness
- ◊ A creative approach based on the children's interests
- ◊ Children and teacher work as a team
- ◊ Classrooms are bright, organised, tidy and welcoming
- ◊ Rewards according to the school's policy, with flexibility regarding individuals' needs

## Highest Expectations

- ◊ Believe that all children can achieve
- ◊ Acknowledge that potential is limitless
- ◊ Set ambitious targets for ourselves and our children
- ◊ The school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy is used consistently with flexibility regarding individuals' needs
- ◊ Allow children responsibility with a "firm but fair" approach
- ◊ High expectations of ourselves with regard to punctuality, preparation and focus

## Challenge and Support

- ◊ The school's Marking and Feedback Policy is used consistently
- ◊ Children of all abilities find their work challenging but rewarding
- ◊ Children understand their areas of strength and how they can improve
- ◊ The pace of the lesson keeps the children engaged and working hard
- ◊ Enquiry and endeavour are expected

## The Process of Learning

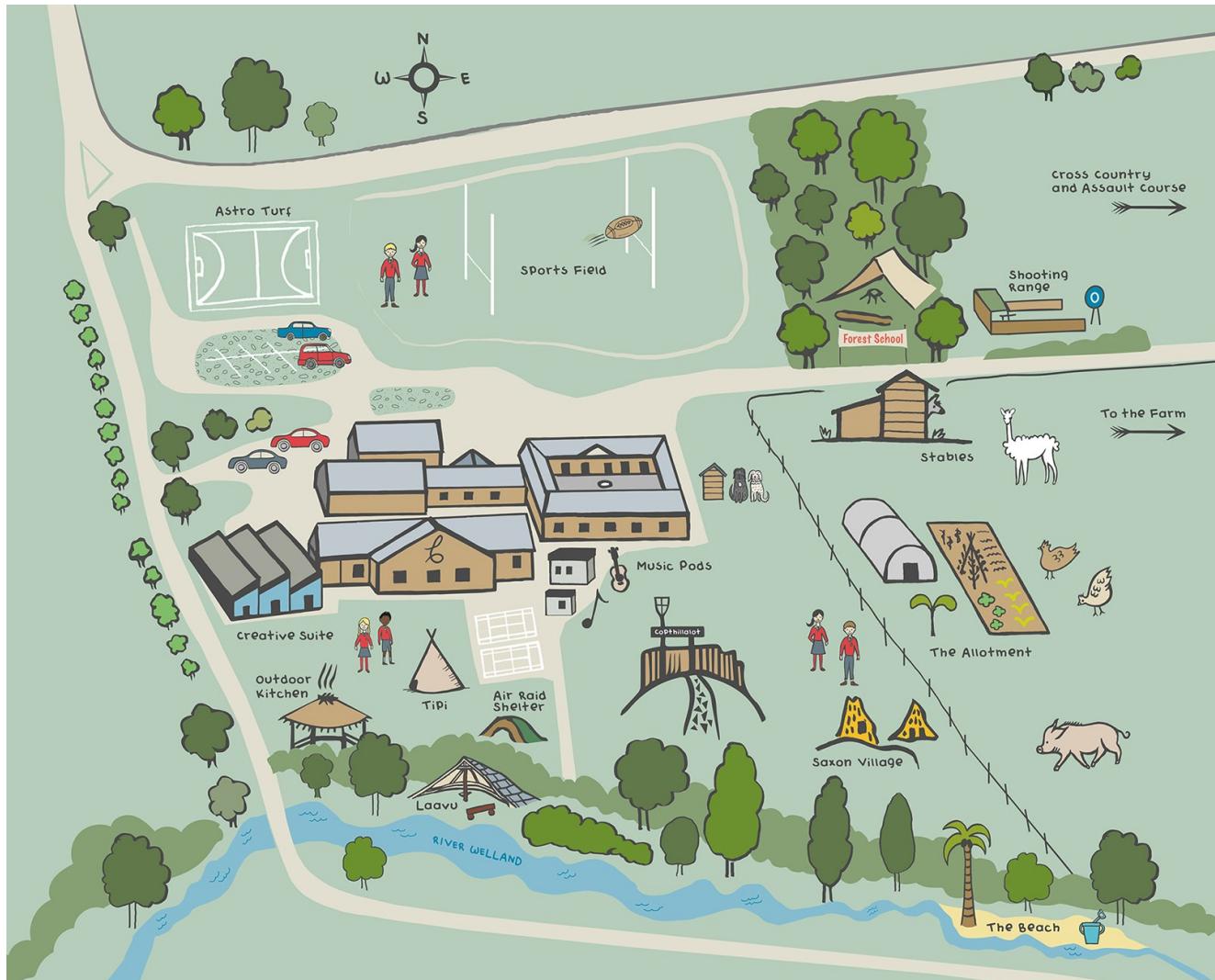
- ◊ Provide constructive feedback and guidance for improvement according to school policy
- ◊ Use a range of teaching and learning activities encompassing different learning styles, enabling all to succeed
- ◊ Use quality resources, including ICT, to complement teaching and learning
- ◊ Allow children to make mistakes and give them the courage to do so
- ◊ Children are allowed time to think and reflect

## Lifelong Learning

- ◊ The teacher has an obvious excitement for, and enjoyment of, the topic taught and an awareness of cross-curricular links and transferable skills
- ◊ Learning is meaningful and relevant to the children
- ◊ Lesson activities and assessments are used to ensure that children achieve and that they make progress
- ◊ Use a variety of questioning techniques to facilitate and extend learning
- ◊ Excellent subject knowledge but an acknowledgement that further research might be necessary



# Enriched External Learning



Our extensive grounds allow us to incorporate Forest School and outdoor learning experiences for all – Enriched External Learning (EEL). All children up to Year 3 spend one afternoon every week outside; Years 4-6 every other week. The outdoor environment complements and extends learning across all areas of our curriculum. For example:

**Year 6** recounted their own African traditional tales in our woods

**Year 5** cooked Spanish paella over the fire

**Year 4** sailed a Viking longboat along our stretch of river

**Year 3** lived as Celts for the day, making improvements to our straw huts

**Year 2** used our playground obstacle course for pirate feats and to observe how London burned in 1666

**Year 1** learned about the parts of a flower

**Reception** hunted dinosaurs

**Nursery/Pre-School** children enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic.

To learn lessons from the past, we have a Celtic fort, Saxon village, Roman road, World War 1 trench and World War 2 Anderson Shelter. For learning through play, there is a dam, a piano bar and a Land Rover! Parents get involved too, competing with their children in our 5k obstacle 'stampede' and go-kart grand prix.

Our farm, with sheep, pigs, goats, alpacas and donkeys, allows our children to learn more about their wonderful world. They can visit the animals if/when learning in the classroom or social relationships in the playground become a bit overwhelming.



# Our Success Stories



Proof of the success of Copthill's all-round education is the next steps our Year 6 children make, moving on to such schools as **Bourne Grammar, Oakham, Oundle, Stamford Endowed** and **Sylvia Young Theatre School** as well as a number of **other independent and state schools**. Awards often include all-rounder scholarships, academic scholarships, music scholarships and talented athlete awards.



Standardised scores in reading and maths across the year groups prove that our children are, in general, working above the national average. Being a non-selective school we also support children with SEND and EHCPs.



# Wellbeing at Copthill

Gaining Optimus Education's Wellbeing Award for Schools (in partnership with National Children's Bureau) is an achievement of which we are proud. Our Wellbeing Committee promotes the emotional wellbeing and positive mental health of our children, staff and parents. Our pastoral coordinator is available to support our children and families when they need us most – for example, bereavement, separation, difficulties with behaviour. Form Teachers and Year 5/6 tutors know their children well and are very aware that learning happens best when children feel happy and safe.

Every member of staff genuinely cares for the children, as expected through our definition of 'Excellent teaching and Learning @ Copthill', criteria based upon our vision and to which staff and children contributed.



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools

2022-2025



# How to apply

Please complete an application form, referring to the person specification and job description and email this to our Directors' PA and HR Administrator, [paula.rayner@copthill.com](mailto:paula.rayner@copthill.com). For further information please call Paula on 01780 757506 for an informal discussion. We encourage visits to our school to see our children in action.

**Copthill School values and champions equality and diversity in everything we do. If you require adjustments, please let us know. Copthill School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants will undergo safer recruitment background checks and a DBS check.**

