STAHS

PREP SENIOR SIXTH

Visting Music Teacher (Singing)

St Albans High School for Girls

Candidate Information Pack

THINK BEYOND

WELCOME TO STAHS!

We are very proud of our warm and vibrant community of ambitious young people, caring and talented staff and supportive alumni and parents.

Thank you for your interest in joining St Albans High School for Girls (we call it STAHS), one of the UK's leading independent schools, educating over 1,100 girls aged 4 to 18 and consistently ranked among the country's best schools.

At the heart of STAHS is our Teach to 25 philosophy, which prepares students not only for academic success but for life beyond education. Through outstanding teaching, our Skills for Life programme, SuperCurriculum and extensive co-curricular opportunities, pupils develop the confidence, resilience, creativity and communication skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Academic excellence is a hallmark of STAHS, but it is only part of the story. We encourage girls to think deeply, embrace challenges and approach new experiences with confidence, while fostering a culture of kindness, respect and individuality. Beyond the classroom, pupils enjoy a wealth of opportunities in sport, the arts, leadership and service, enabling them to discover new passions and make a positive impact on the world around them.

The School operates across two sites: STAHS Prep in the village of Wheathampstead and STAHS Senior in the heart of the historic city of St Albans.

It is my privilege to lead a team of outstanding colleagues who share a commitment to helping every pupil flourish. We work together in a warm, supportive and ambitious community that is uniquely STAHS.

Please visit our website to discover more about what makes STAHS such a special place to learn and work.

Mrs Ann Massey MA Oxon, MEd
Head of STAHS Senior

THE SCHOOL

STAHS opened in 1889 in a converted hospital on Holywell Hill, St Albans, one of many similar schools which were being established towards the end of the 19th century. We transferred to our current site on Townsend Avenue in the heart of the city in 1908, with the Prep School subsequently moving to the village of Wheathampstead in 2003. STAHS has close links with the diocese of St Albans through the Bishop and the Dean, the latter being an ex-officio governor of the School. We are affiliated to the Church of England, and we warmly welcome pupils and staff of all faiths or none.

At STAHS we are always thinking beyond; that's why everything we do is geared towards preparing our pupils for their next steps. We call this our Teach to 25 philosophy. Our vision is for each child to become a happy, resilient young person who embraces opportunities. It's how pupils at STAHS are prepared to live lives of consequence.

From Forest School and FutureSTAHS in Prep, to our SuperCurriculum that stretches pupils beyond the limits of exam specifications, Teach to 25 runs through every aspect of a STAHS education. We equip pupils with the skills, independence and knowledge needed to navigate their path in the critical early years of adult life. Our staff are the beating heart of the School, and deliver our Teach to 25 strategy through the intellectually challenging and engaging lessons and co-curricular they lead.

We are always developing our facilities to ensure that we provide an inspiring learning environment for our entire community. Since 2020, we have opened our stunning state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre, modern Dining Hall, new classrooms at Prep and Senior, new Prep IT suite and Art and Design studio, a beautifully refurbished Prep Library, a Wellbeing Centre and an all-weather Astroturf pitch at the Senior School..

We have ambitious plans for further development of our facilities over the next decade to provide an even more inspiring and welcoming learning environment.

As a member of staff, you will be encouraged to develop your skills and experience through our extensive professional development programme, which includes opportunities to engage in school exchanges, action research, academic partnership with local and regional schools and institutions and a variety of outreach programmes. You will be a member of a friendly and welcoming school community, and benefit from employment at a school that prioritises staff welfare.

OUR LOCATION

OUR STUDENTS

of all GCSEs awarded were at grades 9-7 in 2026

of all A levels awarded were at grades A*-B in 2026

100+

student clubs and societies

11

students accepted Oxbridge places in 2026

55+

languages spoken in the STAHS community

97%

of Year 7 students take part in at least one club or society

THE ST ALBANS EDUCATION GROUP

St Albans High School for Girls is part of The St Albans Education Group (STAEG).

STAEG is a growing, charitable group which provides strategic leadership and operational resilience for our schools, while ensuring each retains its own distinct identity and ethos.

Our group brings together schools of different sizes, characters and geographies. STAEG was formed in 2024 following the merger of St Albans High School for Girls (STAHS) Prep and Senior Schools with Stormont School, and this year we have welcomed St George's School Windsor Castle and St George's Ascot to the group.

Each prospective school is carefully assessed to ensure it will demonstrably benefit from being part of STAEG, and will in turn enhance our educational excellence, values and thought leadership. A diverse group amplifies our voice nationally and strengthens our collective resilience.

Across STAEG, staff benefit from rich professional networks, shared expertise and continuous collaboration. This ensures that pupils experience an academically ambitious, values-led education in inspiring environments.

For families, STAEG offers stability, continuity and a consistent educational journey from early years to Sixth Form. As a charity, every surplus penny is reinvested in our schools and the outcomes of our pupils.

St Albans Education Group (STAEG) is a charitable group of leading independent schools.

OUR MISSION

STAEG supports and strengthens our schools to ensure pupils flourish and make a positive impact on society.

OUR VISION

To shape independent education for the future through bold leadership and sector-leading expertise.

OUR VALUES

Excellence: We uphold the highest standards in all we do.

Integrity: We act with honesty, kindness and respect.

Diversity: We celebrate difference and build inclusive communities.

Innovation: We think boldly and creatively to meet challenges.

Leadership: Our leaders demonstrate courage, compassion and purpose.

Joy: We believe education should be exciting, fulfilling and life-enriching.

It is my privilege to lead an outstanding group of colleagues across the St Albans Education Group, all of whom are devoted to preparing young people in our care to live lives of consequence and make a meaningful impact upon the world.

STAEG seeks to bring together schools that will provide a leading voice in the sector. We believe that excellent education is the bedrock of pupils' future success and happiness and want our schools to provide progressive, outstanding education for our learners. We have the highest of expectations for our pupils and our staff alike.

In a rapidly changing and challenging environment for schools the St Albans Education Group looks to the future with confidence.

Amber Waite
Principal and CEO, STAEG

ST ALBANS EDUCATION GROUP

THE DEPARTMENT

The Music Department currently comprises of six academic teachers, three administrative staff, the conductor-in-residence and around thirty 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% A* at A level this year. Many of the students who take A level continue 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 5 - 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 Swing Band, Salsa Band, Flute Choirs, Lower Strings Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Senior & Junior Brass Ensembles, Saxophone Ensemble, and Pop Bands. 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.

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 high number of pupils who are members of ensembles at national level including: the National Children's Orchestra, the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and the National Youth Orchestra.

The department aims to offer 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 the Barnados National Choral Competition in 2022 and 2024, 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 Visiting Music Teaching (Singing) will be to deliver high-quality teaching to pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 at the Senior School site in St Albans.

We currently have four singing teachers but are looking to appoint another teacher due to high demand. Initially, this would be for 1.5 days a week, but we would anticipate that a successful teacher would retain and grow these numbers further.

Our VMTs are expected to model the core School values of scholarship, keep abreast of developments within their discipline and challenge, support and inspire pupils in line with the strategic direction of the School and Music Department.

This position is offered on a self-employed, sessional basis at a standard hourly rate of £51 per hour.

The start date for this position is November 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:

- Teach 30, 45 and 60-minute individual lessons up to Grade 8 standard and beyond (usually 30 music lessons per academic year).
- Demonstrate a high level of organisation in the timetabling of lessons, as well as maintain good communication with parents, other VMTs and Music Department staff.
- Communicate pupils' progress to parents on a regular basis through email, parents' evenings and an annual report.
- Provide inspiration to pupils to enable them to perform to their best ability by playing alongside pupils and continuing their own practice as a professional musician.
- Tailor lessons to suit each individual pupil and providing continuity from lesson to lesson.
- Work with young people in an effective manner across both the Prep and Senior Schools.
- Encourage pupils to utilise our school's performance opportunities including Pupil Recitals, Tea & Music Recitals, Solo Platform Concerts and assemblies.
- Encourage pupils to participate in school ensembles.
- Be fully committed to the success of the School's music and its pupils.
- Maintain high professional standards of dress, punctuality and politeness.
- Ensure all elements of music are covered in an engaging manner when teaching, including sight-reading and aural skills.
- Prepare pupils to perform in concerts and other events.
- Prepare pupils for public exams where appropriate.

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 AND EXPERIENCE

- Ability to play to a high-performance standard on their principal instrument.
- Degree level music qualification.
- Ability to work well with young people of varying ages across both the Prep and Senior Schools.
- Ability to teach lessons from beginner up to post Grade 8 standard
- Experience of directing music ensembles.
- Understanding and knowledge of the Independent school sector would be desirable, but not essential.
- Experience of accompanying pupils at the piano would be desirable. but not essential.

SKILLS

- Ability to tailor lessons to suit each individual pupil.
- Friendly and professional attitude.
- Excellent written communication skills.
- Excellent organisational and IT skills.
- Positive, enthusiastic and proactive in their approach.
- Ability to inspire pupils to perform to their best ability.
- Ability to multi-task in a calm manner and adapt to changing situations, particularly during busy periods.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Approachable, open and honest.
- Dedicated, conscientious and hard-working.
- Self-motivating with a positive attitude and a logical approach to work.
- A team-player.

Continued.....

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support health and Safety training initiatives and to actively participate in this area.

APPLICATION PROCESS

STAHS is a vibrant school supported by a diverse and enthusiastic community of governors, 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 orientations, those from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with disabilities. We recognise the importance of recruiting high calibre staff in order to provide the highest quality of education for our students.

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.

STAHS recruits staff that understand and share our commitment to safeguarding and the provision of a happy, nurturing and supportive environment for all members of our community. We act to ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly by reason of a protected characteristic as defined within the Equalities Act 2010.

To apply for this position, please complete the application via My New Term on the Vacancies page of our website:

www.stahs.org.uk/vacancies

Please note CVs alone will not be accepted.

Deadline for applications: 9am Wednesday 28 October 2026
Interview date: Thursday 5 November 2026

All questions regarding the STAHS application and recruitment process must be directed to the School's Human Resources Department on recruitment@stahs.org.uk.

Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and interviews arranged accordingly; early applications are therefore encouraged. We reserve the right to withdraw the advertisement once a suitable candidate is found.

St Albans High School for Girls Prep
Codicote Road
Wheathampstead
Hertfordshire
AL4 8DJ

Tel: 01582 839 270

St Albans High School for Girls Senior
Townsend Avenue
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 3SJ

Tel: 01727 853 800

https://www.stahs.org.uk/vacancies/