



The Purcell School

for young musicians

Royal Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales



Leading Specialist Music School
Co-Educational – Boarding and Day
180 Students aged from 10 to 18

Teacher of Maths

From January 2019

Closing date for application 20th September, 2018

Interviews to be held Thursday 27th September, 2018

Information for Candidates/Job Description

The Purcell School
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www.purcell-school.org

Introduction

The Purcell School is Britain's oldest specialist music school and in 2012 celebrated its 50th Anniversary. In 2003 the School was awarded the UNESCO Mozart Gold Medal in recognition of its unique contribution to music, education and international culture and in 2015 the School became the first ever Fazioli Centre of Excellence. The School's students are funded largely by the Government's Music and Dance Scheme, along with the School's own bursary funds. The School has consistent success in national and international competitions and has an extensive programme of outreach and community work. Its orchestras, ensembles and instrumentalists give concerts throughout London, the UK and abroad.

History

The school was founded in 1962 by Rosemary Rapaport and Irene Forster as the 'Central Tutorial School for Young Musicians', and opened in temporary premises at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, with four students. Renamed 'The Purcell School' in 1969, it occupied premises first in Hampstead and then in Harrow before moving to its current location in 1997.

Location

The Purcell School is the only specialist Music School within the M25, and this proximity to London brings many advantages. We are only 30 minutes from Heathrow and Luton airports and an hour from Gatwick or Stansted; Bushey station and Watford Junction station are close by and provide a fast (19 minute) link to the heart of the capital; the M1 and M25 give access to the rest of the country.

Facilities

The school enjoys excellent facilities which have been improved considerably in recent years. In 2007 the new Music Centre was opened by Sir Simon Rattle and features state-of-the-art classrooms, a professional recording studio, practice rooms and a recital hall. Since 2009 extensive works have taken place to expand and upgrade the school's boarding facilities and a £4.25m boarding house was opened in January 2011. Other works are planned over the next five years to further enhance the facilities.

The Students

The school currently has over 180 students aged from 10-18 years, of whom about 30% come from abroad. Over 75% of students are boarders. The sixth form currently comprises around 90 students with approximately 25-30 students joining the school each year specifically for the Sixth Form. The majority progress to music conservatoires although a small number each year elect to go to University to study both music and non-musical subjects.

Admissions

Students are admitted at any age between 10 and 17. Entry to the school is on the basis of a music audition, short written test and interviews. Students come from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, including maintained and independent schools in the UK and overseas. A wide academic ability range is therefore a feature of the school, with a significant number of students for whom English is not their first language. Thanks to the Department for Education Music and Dance Scheme, generous bursaries are available.

Music

The Purcell School has an enviable reputation for the quality of its musical education and performance. Students enjoy individual tuition on one or two instruments, or in composition, from some of the very best teachers available. They take part in orchestral, choral and chamber concerts, and have opportunities to perform regularly at venues including the Royal Festival Hall, the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St Albans Abbey. Purcell students frequently achieve success in musical competitions both in the UK and abroad, including in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year.



Academic curriculum

Our academic curriculum allows students to fulfil their musical potential without limiting their choices. Although the exact shape of the curriculum will be different for different students, the broad intention is that there should be progression over time: younger students need a larger amount of academic time, to ensure that the basic skills and knowledge are in place, and that they are able to achieve good grades at GCSE. As they get older, they are expected to spend more time practising their instruments, taking part in chamber music and orchestral or choral groups, and the proportion of time spent on academic work therefore decreases. Depending on a student's age and instrumental commitments, between 25% and 50% of curricular time is spent on musical activities.

Details of the subjects available at the school can be found on our website.

Boarding

Approximately three-quarters of our students are boarders, living in one of four houses: Avison (boys and girls aged 10-13), Graham (girls aged 14-19), Sunley (girls aged 13-19) or Gardner (boys aged 14-19). Each house is supervised by at least two resident staff, with other staff involved in a non-residential capacity.

Houseparents have a key role in the pastoral life of The Purcell School. The houseparents live in the houses with their own families, and they and the other resident staff make it a priority to get to know the students as individuals. They are always available to advise and support their students, whether in a musical, academic or a personal context.

Pastoral Care

At The Purcell School we strive to prepare our students for life in a modern society. The education we provide extends far beyond the classroom, and our young people grow in all aspects of their lives. All student have a Tutor who meets with them regularly and monitors their progress.

We have a dedicated school nurse, who is available to see students each day and who will arrange any medical care with the school doctors, as well as a School Counsellor and physiotherapist.

Religious affiliation

The school has no formal religious affiliation, and accepts students of all faiths or none. There is no school chapel and assemblies are secular in content. Boarders who wish can attend local places of worship as appropriate.

The staff

The school staff consists of a team of outstanding full-time specialist music staff, plus nearly 60 part-time vocal and instrumental teachers, around 25 academic subject teachers and some 40 support staff, including residential boarding staff.

Further details of the school can be found by visiting our website: www.purcell-school.org



The Maths Department

As a specialist music school, which provides an all-round education for each pupil, The Purcell School regards Mathematics as central to the broader education we provide. We believe that Mathematics is key to our pupils' understanding of themselves and the world around them, and we believe that each of our pupils deserves to be inspired and challenged by their encounter with Mathematics, even if that curricular encounter ends once they have completed their GCSE in the subject.

A-level Mathematics enjoys a strong take-up, with some outstanding results achieved by mathematically able pupils. Teachers in the department will be able to teach across the range of Key Stages, including A Level.

Class-sizes are small, meaning that we are strongly placed to provide effective differentiation and explore innovative and fresh approaches to maths. We aim to foster a lively and stimulating approach to the subject, mindful of our need to make excellent results in the subject available to each one of our pupils.

The department is housed in three dedicated classrooms in the main building each equipped with large Clevertouch screens, the latest in interactive touch screen technology, and several large white boards for students. Working relationships in the department are warm and co-operative.

Job Description:

Responsible to: The Head of Maths

Responsibilities

Pupils/Curriculum

- Delivering a full range of effective mathematics teaching, from Key Stage 3 to University entrance following the department's Schemes of Work.
- To plan and teach well-structured lessons to ensure a high quality learning experience, building on student's capabilities and prior knowledge and to consistently meet the Teaching Standards.
- To keep your subject and curriculum knowledge up to date and to a good standard.
- Completing assessment, book marking and hand-back of mathematics homework in accordance with the Maths Department Handbook.
- Providing inspirational teaching of mathematics to all year-groups and classes, establishing mathematics as a central subject in the school's curriculum and academic life.
- Ensuring that all pupils are provided with the best possible chance to succeed and excel in mathematics and to support them to become confident, independent and lifelong learners.
- Fostering close and positive partnerships with parents in support of the department's work and that of the school.
- Complying fully with the statutory and internal procedures in respect of safeguarding and child protection, and ensuring that the interests of children are the highest priority.
- Reporting pupil disciplinary matters to the Head of Department and managing these issues following the Maths Department Handbook whilst modelling best practice in this area.
- Acting as a tutor to a group of pupils as directed by the Deputy Head (pupils), and liaising with

the boarding houseparent(s) in supporting their pastoral and academic wellbeing.

- Understanding the needs of pupils in a holistic, emphatic and pastorally focused manner, mindful of the particular pressures experienced by musically gifted children.
- Actively support the development of outstanding behaviour, be a positive role model for students setting high standards and expectations.
- To produce accurate, high quality professional reports on student progress and attainment, offering effective advice and guidance to parents and students.

Staff

- Completing an annual performance management appraisal in accordance with the appraisal policy and to set meaningful and inspirational targets with the Head of Department as a commitment to continued professional development within the school.
- Providing cover for absent colleagues in the department and across the school when needed.

Other Areas

- Supporting pupils by attending school events and concerts as well as helping at events when required.
- Participating constructively in departmental reviews, including observations and reports on examination results.
- Complying fully with all school policies including those concerned with health and safety.
- represent the school in a professional manner attending appropriate Staff briefings and INSET sessions
- Taking part in the School's Appraisal and engaging fully in self-development.
- Undertaking other reasonable tasks in a timely and effective manner as may be specified by the Senior Leadership Team or the Head of Maths

The Person

We are looking for a highly qualified and enthusiastic teacher of Maths with the ability to teach students from year 7 to year 13.

The successful candidate will be part of an outstanding Maths department and will work under the direct supervision of the Head of Maths.

All applicants will be expected to have a good degree in Maths with clear evidence of continuing professional development. The successful candidate will be well-organized with strong subject knowledge.

Experience

Experience of classroom teaching.

Ability to meet the teacher standards consistently
Evidence of effective teaching across the full ability and age range.

Track record of raising pupil achievement and adding value within a successful department.

Implementing curriculum development that has led to raising standards.

Good Knowledge and Understanding of:

Current national developments in education, teaching and learning.

Strategies for personalised learning, assessment and differentiation across a mixed ability range.

Understanding the conflicting demands which Purcell School pupils face in managing their time and priorities.

Skills and Qualities

Effective organisational skills with the ability to meet deadlines, prioritise and be flexible.

Dynamic and innovative approach to teaching and learning.

Commitment to raising standards and challenging the underperformance of students.

Good interpersonal and communication skills.

Confident use of ICT, including experience of using ICT in teaching.

Ability to use school management information system.

Ability to motivate pupils.

Ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with colleagues and parents/carers

Ability to work hard, manage competing priorities and maintain a sense of humour.

In addition to these duties, the post holder will be expected to play a full part in the musical and pastoral life of the school.

Professional Responsibilities

The Purcell School exists to provide young musicians of exceptional promise and talent with the best possible teaching environment in which to fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background.

All parents and students have the right to expect that we will provide an education of the very highest quality and that we will conduct ourselves in a professional manner, in line with best practice across the education sector. We also have a duty towards the school and our colleagues to maintain high professional standards.

All staff are expected to:

- promote the aims and values of the school
- support and protect the interests of the students
- support colleagues in their work
- Ensure the smooth-running of the school and well-being of the school community

In particular, staff are required to:

- be aware of the current legal requirements, school policies and guidance on safeguarding and promotion of well-being of children and young people
- work constructively and co-operatively as members of the school community, sharing good practice with the aim of improving the education and welfare that the school offers
- undertake such administrative and supervisory duties as may be required.
- follow school procedures and policies set out in the Staff Handbook
- promote equality by actively protecting staff and students from discrimination.
- keep up to date with Health and Safety regulations and best practice as appropriate to their roles, attending training courses and completing appropriate risk assessments as required to help to maintain and improve the public image of the school.

The Purcell School aims to maintain an ethos of constant improvement across all areas of school life and all staff are expected to participate constructively in school activities and to adopt a flexible approach to their work. This Job Description will be reviewed annually and may be varied in light of the needs of the School.

The Job Description sets out the main duties of the post at the date when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

Terms and Conditions

- The salary will be based on the school's salary scale, according to the successful candidate's experience
- All teaching staff are automatically members of the pension scheme run by the Teachers' Pensions Agency, which is transferable between all UK schools
- Children of staff are not eligible to be educated at the school except through the normal admissions and audition process
- There is a one year probationary period, with notice of one term on either side, after which the post will be confirmed as permanent, with a notice period of two terms. This post is subject to regular appraisal

Successful applicants will be required to make an enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure and Barring Service and to complete a self-disclosure Medical Questionnaire. All new members of staff will undertake Child Protection training and be provided with a full induction programme.

Child Protection

The Purcell School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All applicants should read the School's Child Protection policy, which is available on our website, and are required to declare any criminal convictions or cautions, or disciplinary proceedings related to young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including records checked and processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Equal Opportunities

The Purcell School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified people regardless of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, religion, disability or age. Candidates will be assessed against relevant criteria only (i.e. skills, qualifications, abilities, experience) in selection and recruitment.



Applications

Applicants **MUST** complete an **Application Form** (available on our website) and send it with a supporting statement to the Principal as soon as possible. Please do not send a separate curriculum vitae. Closing date for applications is **Thursday 20th September**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview, on 27th September, at which they will meet the Principal, other members of the leadership team, see around the school and will be asked to teach a lesson. Interviews will explore subject knowledge, pastoral experience, and ability to relate appropriately to students and colleagues and willingness to contribute to the school community. Candidates will be required to bring evidence of identity and qualifications to the interview.

Applications should be made to the Principal and sent by letter or by e-mail to:

Mrs Shirley Clark, Principal's PA
The Purcell School,
Aldenham Road
Bushey
Hertfordshire WD23 2TS

Tel: 01923 331104
Fax: 01923 331106
Email: s.clark@purcell-school.org

Further details of the school can be found by visiting www.purcell-school.org