



Head of Music at Colchester Royal Grammar School

We are seeking to appoint a Head of Music from September 2012 to lead this flourishing department. Music is highly valued at the school and we are committed to appointing an outstanding individual to this position.

Curricular and extra-curricular Music has gone from strength to strength in recent years, and has become a major strength of the school. We are looking for a dynamic, dedicated and talented individual who will lead and inspire the students and provide a variety of opportunities for them to perform, develop and shine.

Music is taught throughout the school to A level. All pupils study the subject in Years 7-9, for which they are allocated three 30-minute lessons in Years 7-8 (usually timetabled as a one-hour double and a single, or a triple) and a one-hour lesson in Year 9. In Key Stage 4, around 20-25 (of the year group of 100) choose Music for GCSE and are usually taught by two different teachers for an hour each. Around 5-10 students choose Music for A level and results are in line with the school average (around 80% at A or B grade at AS Level, around 90% A*-B at A2). The department has a record of preparing students successfully for further study in Music, including at Oxford and Cambridge. We are looking for a Head of Department who will be committed to effective teaching, enjoyable learning and examination success.



Not only is Music an important academic subject in the curriculum, it is vital to the extracurricular life of the school. Over 200 students now take instrumental music lessons at school (taught by a large team of peripatetic teachers) and there is a strong emphasis on providing them with a variety of opportunities to perform for different audiences. There is a wide-ranging programme of musical performances, recitals and concerts given by the school orchestra, various choirs, and numerous other ensembles and groups.



The Music department has staged outstanding musicals in recent years (e.g. The Bartered Bride, On the Town, as well as cabaret nights and an Old Time Music Hall) and the school choir has developed over the last four years to comprise over 70 students. In recent years it has performed in cathedrals in Bruges and Amiens, at Trinity College Cambridge, and has undertaken very well-received tours in France and Austria.

All music is taught in Elyanore House, a fine three-storey building on the edge of the school site. In recent years it has been extensively refurbished to include: a large teaching room, recording studio and practice rooms on the ground floor; a large teaching room, smaller sixth form teaching room and a spacious departmental office on the first floor; and several smaller practice



rooms on the upper floor. The rooms are well-equipped and there is an increasing emphasis on the use of ICT technology in teaching at all levels. Two classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and extensive use is made of Sibelius software at all levels. The department is part of the whole-school wireless ICT network - all teachers are offered a laptop.

Particular strengths of the department are detailed development planning and a keen sense of self-evaluation. The current development plan includes such items as the purchase of a third interactive whiteboard, installation of more computers and the development of a high-tech recording facility and performance facilities for electronic instruments. There currently exist opportunities for GCSE and A level students to attend extracurricular composition and harmony tutorials to support their curricular music. The department is also a centre for special visits for the ABRSM.

The post would therefore suit someone with ability, drive and ambition who is dedicated to maintaining and developing an area which is already a significant strength of the school. It is an exciting opportunity to lead Music in a supportive environment and prepare highly able and talented students for a variety of worthwhile challenges.

Peter Jones
Deputy Head
February 2012