

Position of
TEACHER OF PIANO
(Visiting Music Teacher)
Yarm School,
North Yorkshire



Co-educational | Day School | Ages 3-18 | HMC





TEACHER OF PIANO (Visiting Music Teacher)

We are seeking to appoint a talented and qualified piano teacher to join our team of Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs), to start at the beginning of September (2022). This is a self-employed position and the amount of work available will depend upon the number of pupils wishing to take individual piano lessons.

In the first instance, we are seeking to appoint a well-qualified piano teacher to take on individual pupils in Prep and Senior School. It is anticipated that there will be in the region of 12 pupils but exact numbers are unknown for next academic year.

The current VMT rate is £16.75 per half hour lesson, any increases for the upcoming academic year are at the at the Governor's discretion.

There is also the opportunity to take on accompanying, aural training and co-curricular ensemble work within the School.

The Director of Music is responsible for the organisation of all VMTs, all of whom must undertake whole school INSET involving safe-guarding of children.

MUSIC AT YARM SCHOOL

Yarm School has invested extensively in the Performing Arts in recent years and the facilities and performance opportunities are exceptional. It is quickly gaining a reputation as a cultural hub in the area. Music is a key contributor to the co-curricular life of the school and there is no doubt that the school's reputation for quality music-making across all genres draws in talented pupils from North Yorkshire, the Tees Valley and beyond. Many of our singers and instrumentalists perform with local county ensembles and increasing numbers are gaining places in national choirs, musical theatre groups and orchestras.

Music plays a significant role in all parts of the school. Pre-Prep children have specialist music lessons from early years onwards. The early focus is on internalising pitch and rhythm, while graphical representations of music build an understanding of other musical elements through listening, composing, performing and singing. In Prep, formal aspects of style are introduced through the gradual building of notation skills, explored through a series of stylistic topics in performance and composition. In years 3 and 4 there is also an instrumental carousel, where children spend time in small groups on cornet, trombone, violin, viola, cello, chalumeau, flute and guitar. These sessions are taught by specialist visiting music teachers (VMTs). In Senior School, music is taught to all First and Second Years (Years 7 and 8) and it is an option in Third



Year (Year 9). Music is offered as a GCSE (Edexcel) and an A Level subject (Eduqas). A number of former pupils have chosen to study Music at universities and conservatoires.

Clearly, live music has been significantly affected by Covid and we are very keen to develop our musical provision again, both inside and outside of the school with a particular focus on partnerships. The Prep and Pre-Prep offers a range of ensembles, including orchestra, choirs, brass, string and wind ensembles. Frequent concerts are held, along with other events such as HMC Choir Day and a large-scale Primary Schools' singing day. In Senior School our ensembles perform regularly at school and further afield. The Chamber Choir achieved national success in the Choir of the Year Competition 2016 and, as a result has performed to high acclaim locally, nationally and in Europe. School concerts and services are well supported by parents and the local community: it is not unusual for the Princess Alexandra Auditorium to be full. Recent highlights have included highly acclaimed sell-out productions of Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Guys and Dolls and Fame, a performance of Jenkins' Armed Man with the world famous Black Dyke Brass Band, jazz workshops with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Great Britain, choral performances in Leeds Town Hall and Durham Cathedral, performances of operatic arias, concerti, French choral music, Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor, choral evensongs in York Minster and Ripon and concerts celebrating Broadway, "The Eighties", "Musical Anthems" and "Magic and Mystery". Our Community Christmas Concerts are a seasonal must for many and school events such as Prize-Giving, the Services of Nine Lessons and Carols, the Act of Remembrance and the Easter Service are very special occasions in the whole school calendar. Music tours will now return as an important part of our musical offerings and we are currently planning two exciting performance tour opportunities for 2023.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Director of Music, Mrs Katie Staggs (kels@yarmschool.org).

THE MUSIC SCHOOL

The new £3m Music School opened in 2015. A stunning facility, it won the Best Educational New Build 2016 at the LABC awards in London. Facilities include a 140 seat lecture theatre, two excellently equipped classrooms, a recording suite, a drum studio, ensemble rooms and specialist teaching rooms. Pupils have access to Sibelius software on PCs and the Music Studio is equipped with industry standard Pro Tools and Logic software. This new facility is proving extremely popular with pupils of all ages and is a real area of growth within the department.

The department also has a large, modern Recital Room which is used for Choir and Orchestra rehearsals and smaller concerts. Most performances take place in the school's wonderful 750 seat Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Pre-Covid, these performances were generally attended by audiences of several hundred. We have now returned to live music-making again but have currently reduced the scale of our concerts in order to provide a safer environment for performers and audience alike.

THE SCHOOL

Yarm School was founded in 1778. Growing quickly since that time, it is now firmly established amongst the country's leading co-educational day schools, with a superb academic reputation as well as a firm commitment to extra-curricular activities and trips. In addition to the Senior School, there is a Preparatory School, and a Pre-Prep which includes a Nursery. In total, there are over 1,100 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18.

There is an impressive array of facilities and accommodation at the Senior School, including a large classroom wing on the banks of the Tees which enjoys beautiful views, a dance studio, extensive sport and drama facilities, underground changing rooms and a bar serving the award-winning Princess Alexandra Auditorium.

The Pre-Prep and Preparatory Schools have their own self-contained accommodation on a safe and equally delightful site. The Pre-Prep is housed in a modern purpose-built development, whilst the Preparatory School is located on the site of the original Yarm Grammar School founded in 1590.

The School has ample outdoor space, sporting facilities, a boat house and friendly communal areas. A timber yurt provides space for the outdoor education and eco school curriculum.



ETHOS

Yarm has a strong commitment to educating the whole child – ‘educating for life’. We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, both within and outside lessons, which help to foster inter-personal skills, confidence and build relationships. A Yarm education is about far more than just academic achievement.

Each pupil is strongly encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities. There is a huge range of clubs and societies which meet either during the two timetabled Activity lessons, at lunch-time or after school on a regular basis. Over 50 activities take place each week, as diverse as canoeing and chess, community action and gardening.

Sport plays an important role in the life of the school, not just through the generous time provision for PE and Games lessons, but through the many opportunities to represent school teams in a diverse range of sports and at all ages. Facilities are superb and cater impressively for rugby, hockey, netball, rowing, tennis, cricket, rounders, athletics and general fitness.

At weekends and during the holidays there are frequent trips and expeditions, many of them adventurous. Outdoor education is a major part of life at Yarm, and pupils can explore caves, climb mountains or traverse entire countries in canoes! We have two full time, highly qualified members of staff whose sole remit is to provide these fantastic opportunities.

The school life of Yarm pupils is varied, exciting, and fast-paced. There is never a dull moment as we embody our philosophy of ‘educating for life’. Our teachers embrace

the extra-curricular programme and enjoy the opportunity it affords them to pursue areas that interest them or indeed learn new skills themselves.

The performing arts are thriving at Yarm. Music enhances the everyday life of the School. With outstanding facilities, such as the 750 seat Princess Alexandra Auditorium, the Studio Theatre, Dance Studio, Recital Room and the superb Music School we offer an extremely vibrant programme of concerts, recitals, plays, dance shows and musicals. Many cultural events which take place in the stunning Princess Alexandra Auditorium are open to the wider community and regularly attract audiences in the many hundreds.

LOCATION

Yarm is a beautiful market town on the edge of the Teesside conurbation which enjoys easy access to both town and countryside, including the nearby North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and stunning coastline. Opportunities for outdoor pursuits and exploration of all kinds are many and varied. Similarly, the cities of Newcastle, York and Leeds are within close range and provide much in the way of arts and culture. With superb rail network links in the town itself and nearby, London is also only 2.5 hours away by direct train.

The school is very much a part of the town, with pupils, staff and parents enjoying all that the buzzing High Street has to offer by means of shops and cafes.

THE JOB

- To teach individual piano lessons
- To identify and provide opportunities for our young musicians to perform, to encourage participation in school and external musical opportunities
- To prepare soloists and potentially small ensembles to a high standard for concerts and exam performances
- To write annual reports on pupils' progress
- To attend an annual parent / teacher evening

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

- A skilled practitioner with appropriate performance / teaching qualification
- Excellent communication skills
- Enthusiastic
- Good communicator
- Experience of teaching children
- Experience of preparing pupils for music exams
- Team player



THE CANDIDATE

The exact nature of the position will be dependent upon the skill set of the successful candidate. However, the person specification below indicates the qualities, qualifications and experience required for this post.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications / Musical Abilities / Educational Experience / Professional Awareness		
Degree in Music / Performing Arts from university / conservatoire	✓	
Teaching Qualification		✓
Qualification in Community Music		✓
Proficiency in at least two areas of creative musical endeavour eg. Instrumental teaching / Music Production / Composition and Songwriting / Ensemble leader	✓	
Safeguarding training and knowledge of safeguarding legislation	✓	
Health and Safety knowledge and training		✓
Experience of secondary age classroom music teaching		✓
Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development		✓
Personal Qualities		
Passionate about engagement through music	✓	
Excellent communication skills	✓	
Outstanding organisational skills	✓	
The ability to work as part of a team and undertake the tasks requested of you	✓	
Charismatic	✓	
Initiative and enterprise	✓	
Partnership and Projects Experience		
Demonstrable experience of delivering music activities in schools and / or community settings working with young people of all ages and musical abilities	✓	
Demonstrable ability to work with creative vision, independently as well as working with others to create projects/programmes or performances that have a high level of engagement, energy, bringing communities and cultures together	✓	
Experience of engaging with and working with new groups in a musical context, including people with SEND, those with mental illnesses or from under-represented groups of the community		✓

	Essential	Desirable
Demonstrable experience of working within a team to develop and deliver differentiated music activities that provide progression opportunities	✓	
Experience of working with partner organisations		✓
Experience of monitoring and evaluating activities. This could be part of a team, with partners or as an individual	✓	
Experience of working with children and young people to influence the design and development of projects and programmes (youth voice and participation)	✓	
Experience of working across art forms, and including multi-media		✓
Other		
Ability to travel across the local area to work on projects within the community when required	✓	
D1 minibus licence or willingness to take a minibus test		✓





PASTORAL CARE

There is a strong sense of community at Yarm. We aim to provide a caring and safe environment in which each pupil is able to realise his or her full academic, social, cultural and sporting potential. Our values are based on respect for every member of the community, on thoughtfulness and on courtesy.

Every pupil has the right to look for happiness and security at school and we believe that it should combine high personal and social standards with a friendly atmosphere and mutual tolerance in which pupils of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, of all religious persuasions and of various levels of ability are welcome and supported.

We recognise that our pupils have various talents and differing rates of development and therefore attach great value to every achievement, however modest, which stems from their efforts. Therefore, we positively encourage an appreciation of, and respect for, the work of every member of our community.

The Schools each operate a 'house system' to promote friendships between pupils of different year groups, to offer opportunities for working as a team and to develop an even greater sense of belonging. A spirit of friendly rivalry exists between the Houses, rivalry which is given ample opportunity to manifest itself in a wide range of inter-house competitions. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of pride in their House, working not just

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

Yarm School is required to seek a Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in respect of successful applicants for all posts at the School where staff may come into contact with children. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to working in the School. Applicants who are invited to interview will be asked to submit a self-declaration form before attending the interview in which they will answer a number of targeted questions about any criminal history or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. More information about this can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-filtering-guidance/dbs-filtering-guide>.

A copy of the School's policy on Vetting and Suitability Checks and the DBS Code of Practice may be obtained from the School Manager. Before an appointment is made routine checks will be undertaken to confirm identity and qualifications etc.

This post is a pupil-facing role and is therefore exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that you will be required to confirm that you are not on the DBS Children's Barred List or disqualified from working with children, and further to declare any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings that are not "protected" as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013 and 2020) or other Orders of the Courts made against you, even if they would otherwise be regarded as 'spent' under this Act.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Yarm School is committed to ensuring that all job applicants and members of staff are treated equally, without discrimination because of any protected characteristics as defined in law. We welcome applications from anyone who considers that they meet the requirements of the job advertised.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

All applicants must use the Application Form provided, together with a covering letter to the Director of Music, Katie Staggs, explaining why the applicant is suited to the post.

CVs may be submitted but are not a substitute for the Application Form.

Applications should be submitted by email to kels@yarmschool.org.

APPLY

The application form is available on the [Yarm School website](https://www.yarmschool.org).

Deadline: as soon as possible and no later than midday on Tuesday 12th July.

kels@yarmschool.org

Director of Music, Mrs Katie Staggs
Yarm School
The Friarage
TS15 9EJ
01642 786023

