



# pipers corner SCHOOL

An independent day school for girls aged 4-18

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## Recruitment Pack

Head of Prep Music





## The School

Pipers Corner is a Girls' School Association Independent School for girls aged 4-18. Set in 96 acres of beautiful Chiltern countryside, the school is four miles north of High Wycombe and two miles from Great Missenden. In its most recent ISI inspection (March 2023) the school was graded as "excellent" in all categories.

Founded in 1930, the school was established on its current site in 1945. The school now comprises of approximately 620 students and employs more than 170 staff. Demand for a place at Pipers has increased in recent years, and we remain full.

Our site has incredible facilities to inspire the next generation, we have a 280 seat theatre, fully equipped for our student technical team, with plenty of performances for our aspiring performers. Our Pipers Radio studio broadcasts live every lunchtime.

Sporting facilities include the swimming pool, fitness suite, astro pitch and gymnasium. Forest school is conducted in our on-site woodland, and to encourage environmental awareness we have two outdoor eco-classrooms with wind turbines and water butts. Students of all ages benefit from outdoor lessons in our wildflower meadow.





## Welcome from the Head

At Pipers, there is no such thing as a typical 'Pipers' girl. All members of staff support the students to fulfil their academic and personal potential, enabling them to emerge as mature, confident and independent young adults. Investment in talented and inspirational teaching staff and professional support staff is at the heart of our success, and our recent academic results and overall performance bear testament to this.

Every member of the Pipers community, both academic and support staff, play a vital role in maintaining the excellent standard of education we provide. Underpinning everything that we do is a team of enthusiastic and determined staff, with a willingness to think outside of the box.

Personal development is always encouraged and supported, and well-being is at the forefront for staff as much as students.

I am incredibly proud of the Pipers community and it is a privilege to work alongside such talented staff and positive students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Ness-Gifford".

Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford





## Why work at Pipers?

We have a strong community and pride ourselves on being a warm and supportive workplace. Visitors to the school often comment on the positive atmosphere. Benefits for teaching and support staff include:

- Competitive salaries and excellent pension schemes
- Annual professional review and commitment to CPD for all
- On-site car parking and the possibility of on-site single accommodation
- Free lunch provided in term time, with numerous hot and cold options
- Staffroom with free tea, coffee and fruit
- Use of the fitness suite and swimming pool
- Staff clubs such as yoga, running, football and choir
- Cycle to work scheme
- Access to a counselling service

The school is less than an hour from Central London and has excellent rail links and motorway connections. It is four miles north from High Wycombe, which has a large shopping centre, two multiplex cinemas, a sports centre and several out of town shopping areas.





## Testimonials

"The students at Pipers Corner understand the importance of their own, and each other's development, making the classroom culture supportive and nurturing. But what makes Pipers special to work in is that they appreciate this environment, as well as the staff, allowing them to grow as individuals and make progress."

"Since joining Pipers I have been impressed by the strong sense of community between colleagues and the amount of trust and support shown by the parents."

"Pipers Corner School is a great place to work. It has encouraged me to push myself to be the best teacher I can be, allowing me to experiment with my teaching style and get to know pupils in a fun and engaging way. The School has excellent facilities and is focused on helping students reach their highest potential."

"Pipers has a warm working environment, with friendly staff who will do all they can to support your development and positive spirit."

"I enjoy working at Pipers because of the great relationship between staff and students. Lessons have a fun but productive atmosphere and classes of all ages are keen to learn."



## Job Advert

### Head of Prep Music

**Full-time**  
**Required September 2024**

We are looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Music Teacher who has the ambition and vision to lead the teaching and development of Music within the Prep Department. We are looking for a team player who is able to engage children in and out of the classroom. The successful candidate will be a good communicator who will give our enthusiastic students a creative and inspiring musical education. Piano skills are desirable.

An application form can be obtained from the HR Department, email [hr@piperscorner.co.uk](mailto:hr@piperscorner.co.uk), or downloaded from our website [www.piperscorner.co.uk](http://www.piperscorner.co.uk)

Completed application forms and a covering letter should be addressed to the Headmistress and returned to HR via the email address above.

**Closing date | Monday 13 May 2024**  
**Interview date | Tbc**

Suitable candidates may be interviewed before the closing date and Pipers Corner School reserves the right to withdraw the position if an early appointment is made.

Pipers Corner School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Registered Charity No. 310635



<b>Job Title</b> Head of Prep Music	<b>Salary</b> Competitive, dependent on experience	<b>Working hours</b> Full-time
<b>Line managing (direct)</b> N/A	<b>Reporting to</b> Director of Music	

**The Role**

To teach inspirational music lessons across Reception and Key Stages 1 to 3, with particular responsibility for the provision of Music Lessons in the Prep Department. To lead music ensembles across the School with a particular focus on Prep age students.

**The Music Department**

Pipers Corner School is strongly supportive of the Music Department and of Music at Pipers in general.

The current Music team are working to build Senior and Junior choirs, develop instrumental playing and consolidate academic music. The Department consists of a Director of Music, a second full-time teacher who is responsible for Music in the Prep Department, a part-time administrative assistant, a Music Assistant and several peripatetic music teachers.

The Department is housed on the first floor of the Main school building and looks out on to the front entrance of the School and the beautiful campus. The Department consists of a main teaching room, seven practice rooms and a smaller seminar room equipped for senior teaching. The Music Annexe contains two further rooms and is used for percussion and other instrumental lessons. The main teaching room is networked and students have access to Sibelius with Logic Pro in the smaller room.

Performing Arts are very strong at Pipers and the current Music Department are fully involved in Senior and Junior Productions in close collaboration with the Drama Department. We have an impressive Theatre and Arts Centre facility available to make the most of our talented students.

Music is flourishing in the Pre-Prep and Prep Departments; the majority of girls sing in the choir and we have good resources to enable whole-class teaching on ukuleles, recorders and violins, enabling instrumental music to become an integral part of the children’s musical experience. There is a combined Prep and KS3 ensemble and a significant proportion of Prep students have vocal or instrumental lessons, which are an option available to all students from Year One and above and many students take external music exams using a range of exam boards.



### Music Activities throughout the year

- Music for Open Morning – an opportunity for senior students to perform as ambassadors for the Music Department
- Monthly cross-year group Informal Concerts
- Senior Production
- Whole school Carol Service (St Alban's Cathedral)
- Themed music performances for a particular decade for Founders Day
- Performance songs by Prep and Pre-Prep for Harvest Festival and Easter
- Regular whole-school singing assemblies
- Pre-Prep Nativity
- Christmas Fair – live festive performances from soloists and our orchestra, Sinfonia
- Prep Show, collaborating with the Drama Department
- Carol singing opportunities in High Wycombe a local farm or care home
- Prep Spring Concert
- Senior Spring Concert
- GCSE coursework showcases
- Year 6 musical
- Choral music for the Leavers' Service
- Music for Speech Day

### The Prep Department

The Prep Department consists of single form entry in Years 3, 4 and 5, with two forms in Year 6 (class sizes range from 16-20, with a total of around 90 students). All classes receive two music lessons per week. Extra-curricular participation rates are very high within the subject. Outstanding facilities are available for sessions including the Theatre and the Prep Hall.

### The Pre-Prep Department

The Pre-Prep Department consists of single form entry in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, with a total of around 28 students. Class sizes currently range from 7-10 and students receive one lesson per week in their class with an extra session of singing all together as a Key Stage. There is good provision of tuned and untuned percussion and good support from the Pre-Prep Department.





<b>Specific Responsibilities</b>	
Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take responsibility for music throughout the Pre-Prep and Prep Department, ensuring a consistent and high-quality music education across all year groups.</li> <li>• Deliver engaging and well-structured music lessons from Reception to KS3 level, ensuring that each lesson meets the needs and interests of the students.</li> <li>• Develop comprehensive curriculum plans to ensure progression in musical skills and knowledge.</li> <li>• Regularly assess student progress and attainment, maintaining accurate records and providing constructive feedback to students and parents/guardians through formal reports and parent-teacher meetings.</li> <li>• Lead and direct choirs and instrumental ensembles, providing opportunities for students to develop their ensemble skills, musical interpretation, and performance confidence.</li> <li>• Organise and oversee a variety of concerts, recitals, and other performances, showcasing the musical talents of students and promoting a culture of musical excellence within the school community.</li> <li>• Demonstrate proficient keyboard skills and the ability to accompany students during performances and rehearsals, providing essential support and musical guidance.</li> <li>• Report to and be managed by the Director of Music, collaborating closely to align the Prep Music Department's goals with the overall vision and objectives of the School's music programme.</li> <li>• Attend regular departmental meetings both in Music and Prep.</li> <li>• Work with the Heads of Prep Drama and Prep Art, and the Head of Dance, to develop cross-curricular links.</li> <li>• Contribute to the Enrichment programme of the School by offering clubs/activities.</li> <li>• Attend regular whole staff meetings, INSET days and school functions as published in the year's calendar.</li> <li>• Uphold the policies of the School ensuring, for example, that expectations of a pupil's conduct are consistent with the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy, so that good order and discipline are maintained.</li> <li>• Be responsible for helping to manage resources and equipment ensuring that good practice is followed according to the School's Health and Safety procedures.</li> </ul>



- Be responsible for the pastoral care of a form as form tutor or to undertake another pastoral role as directed by the Headmistress.
- Carry out any additional responsibility and duties which the Headmistress or Bursar may reasonably from time to time request.
- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons for whom you are responsible and with whom you come into contact.

April 2024

*This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the school in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties*

