



Appointment of a Singing Teacher

Starting January 2020 | 1 day a week | Competitive

We are seeking to appoint an inspiring, committed and highly-skilled Singing Teacher to join a first-class Music Department from January 2020. The successful candidate will be an outstanding teacher with a passion for inspiring our young musicians to perform to the highest possible standard. The majority of the time will be teaching our most able singers in pairs.

This position is a newly created post and the successful candidate will work very closely with the Director of Music and individually teach members of the school's Training Choir. This choir is formed of 24 children from the Upper School and membership is by invitation only. Mostly recently, the choir have sung Evensong at Chichester Cathedral, entered a children's choir competition and regularly performed in choral concerts.

This exciting new role will entail approximately eight hours' work which will consist of supporting a choir rehearsal, paired singing lessons and attending a progress meeting with the Director of Music. The successful candidate will be engaged directly by the school.

The preferred teaching day for this post is a Thursday.

Full details of the post and an application form may be obtained on the School's website www.newtonprepschool.co.uk or by contacting the HR Department at hrrassistant@newtonprep.co.uk or 0207 720 4091 (Ext. 1255).

Application by form only, sent to the HR Department.

The closing date for applications is Monday, 25th November at 10 am. Preliminary interviews may be conducted via Skype; interviews and observations will be held week on Friday, 29th November.

Newton Prep is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be expected to undergo an enhanced DBS disclosure check including a Barred List check.

THE POSITION

The Singing Teacher will be recruited by the Headmistress and Director of Music. They are responsible to the Headmistress, via the Director of Music, in all matters relating to performance, ensembles, recruitment, pupil progress and the day-to-day management of their timetables.

On a day-to-day basis, he/she will liaise directly with the Director of Music and Music Administrator.

Singing is fundamental to daily life at Newton Prep. Choir rehearsals take place every morning at 8am with over 150 children in the Upper School (Years 3-8) voluntarily singing in a choir at some point within the week. Boys' participation in singing is just as high as girls'. In the Lower School, music is equally as strong: there are choirs in both Year 1 and Year 2 that perform regularly.

The school's Training Choir is formed of 24 of the most able singers. They rehearse twice a week; they are fast learners and most play the piano or another instrument. Although a young choir (currently children from Year 4 and 5), they make a good, fresh and controlled sound. They sing a balanced repertoire of music throughout the year.

THE SCHOOL

Established in 1991, Newton Prep is a thriving school for boys and girls, aged 3-13. The School is unashamedly ambitious for its pupils who have access to outstanding facilities. We want them to achieve their academic potential whilst also engaging in sport, art, music and drama.

We want them to involve themselves in the total life of the School, which includes after school clubs and activities and a wide range of trips. We celebrate the diversity of our pupils; we want our children to develop a strong sense of community, learning how to make a positive contribution to the community of Newton Prep and the world around them. The ethos and philosophy is one that is based on mutual respect and kindness shown to others.

Fundamentally, we want Newton Prep children to enjoy their precious childhood years.

In the school, there are currently over 640 pupils from Nursery to Year 8.

Newton Prep is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The full-time staff comprises of the Director of Music, two music teachers and a Music & Drama Administrator, who assists with the day-to-day running of the Music department. In addition, there are two full-time Visiting Music Teachers and a further seventeen part-time visiting Music teachers.

The School offers individual tuition on most orchestral instruments and approximately 60% of pupils are currently receiving individual lessons each week. M:Tech Music Technology sessions are also available as an after school activity.

The Music Department has truly first-class facilities. In 2018, the 120-seat recital hall was refurbished and is fully iPad controlled with recording facilities and a grand piano. Most recently, a new and dedicated teaching space has been created for regular class music lessons and choir rehearsals. In addition, the music department has a recording studio, Music Technology Mac Suite and ten practice rooms with pianos. There are two excellent Grand Pianos in both the Recital Hall and Auditorium. All three grand pianos in the department are available for teaching and practising by arrangement.

Through their participation in choirs and ensembles, pupils are taught how to demonstrate commitment and team-work: they are expected to both work hard and enjoy their rehearsals so that their performance shines as a product of practice, creativity and flare. Pupils have many opportunities to perform and there are a good number of concerts, recitals and other performance opportunities throughout the school year.

In the Lower School, pupils have the opportunity to join a number of extra-curricular groups outside of the timetabled school day.

In the Upper School (Years 3-8), pupils participate in a range of extra-curricular activities. Singing is strong, with over 150 (1/3 of Upper School) children participating in weekly choir rehearsals. String playing is similarly popular, with over 70 pupils learning a stringed instrument. Pupils regularly perform with professional musicians and the school offers Masterclasses and Educational Visits in Music for all pupils.

KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supporting the vision, progress and achievements of the school's Training Choir and its young singers.
- Inspiring musical performance of the highest quality through committed, skilled and outstanding teaching.
- Instilling a sound technique within young singers, enabling them to perform to the best of their abilities
- In conjunction with the Director of Music, identifying clear teaching objectives and learning outcomes, with appropriate challenge to deliver outstanding quality.
- Supporting a weekly rehearsal with the Training Choir.
- Teaching to the individual needs, abilities and talents of each child.
- Assessing pupils' progress, giving timely individual feedback to pupils as to how to progress further, including termly reports to parents and the Director of Music.
- To organise a weekly rotation timetable and liaise with the Director of Music on lesson organisation matters.
- Actively promoting and encourage pupils' participation in solo recitals.
- and responding to parents' queries and concerns as and when they arise in a professional and timely manner.
- Observing relevant school policies such as the Code of Conduct for Staff and Contractors, Child Protection and Safeguarding and Health and Safety policies.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The ideal candidate will have:

- A relevant music qualification at degree level
- A desire to inspire a life-long love of singing within pupils
- Experience in teaching singing to pupils aged between 7-13, both boys and girls, with proven results
- A unique approach to teaching singing which is grounded in sound technique
- An ability to convey technique to young singers in a child-friendly, uncomplicated way
- An extensive knowledge of vocal repertoire for children aged between 7-13
- Performing experience in their own right
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- An ability to work as part of a team.
- An approachable and engaging manner
- An understanding of, and commitment to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service, including a Barred List check