



King's College

TAUNTON

Director of Music

Closing Date: Tuesday 14 May 2024





Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the role of Director of Music at King's College.

At King's we encourage all pupils to enjoy music-making, whatever their level of expertise. Our musicians experience a broad and diverse range of styles and genres, which sees them well on their way to becoming rounded and accomplished musicians, passionate about performing the many varieties of music they will encounter on their musical journey through life.

King's College has excellent facilities and staff. More importantly, we are blessed with a core of highly engaged, talented pupil-musicians who thrive on the ethos of the Music Department and the way in which we deliver co-curricular and academic music.

Music Scholars form the backbone of pupil involvement. It goes without saying that they need no prompting to go well beyond the minimum commitment required as a condition of their award. But just as important to the musical life and success of the school is the enthusiastic body of ordinary musicians, those that might not see music as their greatest enterprise, but who are always keen and willing to participate.

The Director Music is an incredibly important position within the school. This is an exciting opportunity for someone who has a passion for learning, combined with the ability to inspire pupils and staff, and the willingness to support the ambition, values and breadth of school life.

We look forward to hearing from you and considering your application.

MICHAEL SLOAN
Headmaster



“ In their everyday lives around the school, our pupils show the confidence to succeed, and the determination to give their very best. ”

About the Schools

King's provides continuous day and boarding education for girls and boys aged two to 18 years. It comprises King's College Prep which has approximately 300 children from 2 to 13 and a senior school with approximately 450 pupils from 13 to 18.

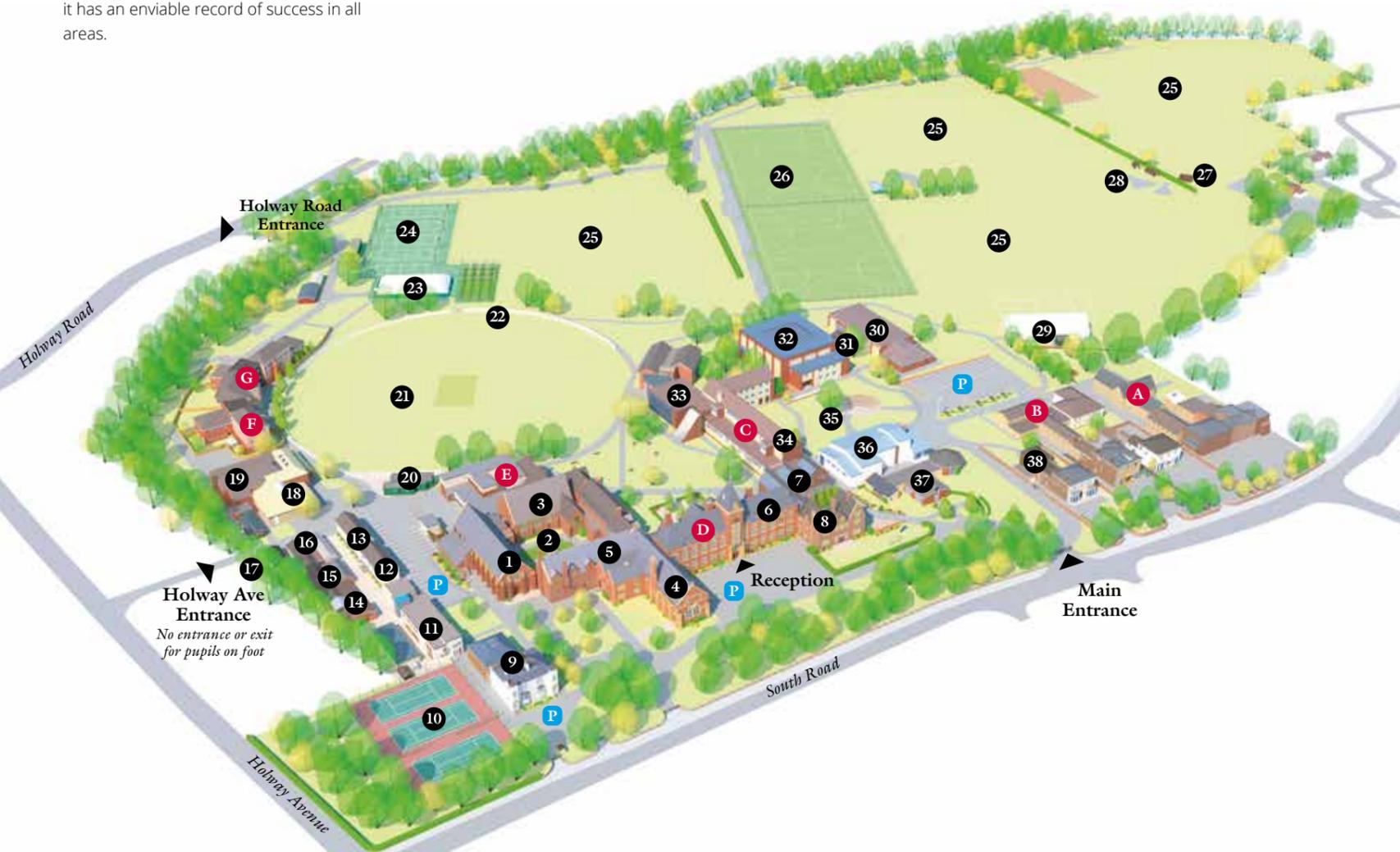
The schools are situated on separate sites in the south west of England and combine traditional values with state-of-the-art facilities. Both schools are run by one governing body, with many functions (marketing, strategy and finance for example) undertaken jointly.

King's College has a rich and welcoming family and community ethos. Just over 60% of the pupils board. For a relatively small school, it has an enviable record of success in all areas.

The school has regularly topped GCSE and A-level league tables for Somerset. A broad range of co-curricular activities is offered, and the school is renowned for its success in sport, music, performing arts, fine art, design technology and outdoor pursuits. In many of these activities our pupils have achieved success at national and even international levels.

Good discipline is encouraged in a firm and positive way within a supportive pastoral framework. King's College is strong on manners and social skills. Pupils go on to thrive at good universities and in their professional careers.

In short, King's is a purposeful, outward-looking, down-to-earth, highly successful school.



King's College

South Road, Taunton TA1 3LA

Main School Building	14 Laundry	33 Science Centre
1 The Chapel	15 Shooting Range	Biology
2 The Quad	16 CCF and Outdoor Pursuits	Chemistry
3 Dining Hall	Stores	Physics
4 Woodard Room	Chindits	History
5 Latin	Army/Navy/Marines	34 Geography Centre
English	17 Finance Office	35 The Amphitheatre
Philosophy of Religious & Ethics	18 Design Technology Centre	36 The Theatre
Modern Foreign Languages - <i>upstairs</i>	19 Squash Courts	Black Box
6 Main School Corridor	20 First Team Cricket Pavillion	Auditorium
Headmaster's Office	21 First Team Cricket Pitch	37 Music School
PA to the Headmaster's Office	22 Buttler's Ramp	The Octagon
Examination Office	23 Tennis and Netball Dome	Music Technology
Admissions Office	24 Tennis and Netball Courts	Practice Rooms
Careers Office	25 Sports pitches	38 Medical Centre
Maths	(rugby/cricket/athletics/football)	
7 Philip Richards Building	26 All-weather Hockey Pitch	A Bishop Fox House
Library - <i>upstairs</i>	27 Cricket Pavillion	<i>Boys</i>
IT Helpdesk	28 Athletics Cabin	B Carpenter House
Visitor toilets	29 Sports Performance & Cricket Centre	<i>Girls</i>
8 Headmaster's House	30 Swimming Pool	C Meynell House
9 Silvermead Studio and Arts House	31 Changing Cabins	<i>Girls</i>
10 Briar Lee Tennis Courts	32 Sports Hall	D King Alfred House
11 Sixth Form Centre	Climbing Wall	<i>Boys</i>
Head of Sixth Form Office	Gym	E Taylor House
Development Office	PE Classrooms	<i>Girls</i>
12 School Uniform Shop		F Woodard House
13 Cookery School		<i>Boys</i>
		G Tuckwell House
		<i>Boys</i>

A Rural County of Rolling Hills

Taunton is surrounded by natural beauty, with the Blackdowns, Mendips and Quantock Hills on the doorstep, plus Exmoor National Park, the Somerset Levels and Dartmoor are a short drive away.

Somerset is renowned for its cheddar cheese and cider. A wealth of apple orchards once made Somerset the cider capital of the UK, whilst the Cheddar Gorge caves are still used to mature cheese today.

Taunton is the county town of Somerset, in the South West of England. It is a busy market town located between junction 25 and 26 on the M5.

A growing commercial and residential centre, Taunton has a splendid small theatre, the County Cricket Ground, a successful rugby club, a delightful museum, the usual shopping outlets and restaurants, and a regular farmers' market.

If you love the great outdoors, you can be on the beach in 40 minutes and the Quantocks are just 15 minutes away. For those who prefer city lights, the fast West Country train service reaches Paddington in under two hours. By car, Exeter is 25 minutes south, Bristol 35 minutes north and you can reach Bath in about an hour.



Music at King's College

Our Music Department is staffed by the Director of Music, the Head of Academic Music, the College Organist and at least 16 visiting instrumental teachers. Tuition is offered on a full range of instruments, across a broad range of styles. Pupils take approximately 120 instrumental and singing lessons each week, and we hope to see these numbers growing further under inspirational leadership. Pupils' abilities range from beginner to diploma level, although most Music Scholars enter King's College with at least Grade 5 at year 9, or a Grade 8 in year 12.

Current major ensembles include:

- The Chapel Choir – 50 pupils, which provides the music for our weekly service as well as a number of other special services;
- The Symphony Orchestra – ca. 25 pupils, which plays a range of film and classical music;
- The Big Band, which comprises a complete professional line-up and performs an exciting repertoire of swing, jazz and pop standards.

Smaller ensembles include the Chamber Choir, which is drawn from the more-experienced Chapel Choir members, rock bands, vocal ensembles, a string ensemble and many other ad hoc groups.

Each ensemble has performing opportunities in large and small concerts, not only in the many venues the school has to offer, but also to a wider public in churches, prep schools and concert halls. Recent tours have taken in Venice, Barcelona and Barbados. The College venues include our Chapel – with its splendid acoustic – a fully equipped theatre, the Woodard Room, the Octagon and the splendid Amphitheatre. Concerts are many and varied, and we welcome parents, staff and pupils to everything that our musicians do.

Several of our pupils play in ensembles outside school. King's College musicians are, or have been, members of the Somerset Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. The Chapel Choir has also sung at major national concerts organised by the Woodard Corporation at the Royal Albert Hall, the Symphony Hall in Birmingham, and Westminster Abbey.

Soloists are encouraged to perform in the regular, informal, Octagon concerts, which provide a more intimate and supportive environment. Pupils sign up for these opportunities, and beginners and more advanced players feature on the same programme.

The Music School offers spaces for teaching which include the Octagon, the Computer Room and instrumental and singing teaching rooms. It also has several offices and a Recording Studio, with separate Control Room. The department is well equipped with Apple iMac computers (running Sibelius and Logic ProX), excellent pianos, a good selection of percussion instruments, a music library and some departmental loan instruments (although most pupils have their own). The Octagon, Woodard Room and Chapel all have recently purchased Yamaha Grand pianos. The Chapel has a Yamaha C7, but the icing on the cake is our organ, a fine two-manual tracker instrument with electronic combination pistons, built by JW Walker in 1980, using part of the case and pipework of a London instrument said to date from around 1760.

Music at King's College

Academic Music

Music is taken by all Third Form (year 9) classes. Like all of our non-examination courses, music provision is exciting and diverse, covering topics such as aspects of Western Classical Music, Music and the Media, and Popular Song. Through a challenging programme of listening and practical work, the pupils discover how music is created and presented.

GCSE Music follows the Eduqas specification, and numbers taking the course have been good for many years.

A level Music has recently moved to Eduqas, focusing on a range of musical genres, whilst A level Music Technology (Edexcel) caters for musicians who would like to study studio music, and we have had great success in both subjects recently.

Scholarships

Music scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and at 16+. Typically, a full scholarship offers a remission on fees, along with free tuition on two instruments or voice. Exhibitions are also awarded; these offer tuition on one instrument. All award holders are expected to play a full and active role in the musical life of the school, and awards are reviewed annually.

King's College has a lively and friendly Common Room of over 50 full-time teachers, all of whom contribute to the school's outstanding co-curricular programme of sport, music and many other activities. The ability to contribute to this programme would be a distinct advantage. All teachers also tutor a small number of pupils and undertake an evening duty in one of our boarding houses, the Sixth Form Centre or the library.

The School

King's College is an exciting, forward-looking and rewarding school to work in. We support all staff to develop their teaching and pastoral skills, providing frequent access to high quality professional development, utilising the skills and experience of colleagues through our peer-coaching programme and tailoring professional development to each individual and their aspirations. We believe that investing in the development our staff is a key element in ensuring excellent teaching, learning and pastoral care.

We are keen to embrace new ideas and technologies to ensure that teachers at King's are at the forefront of teaching and learning innovation, and are rightly proud of the quality of pedagogy displayed daily around the school. Two members of the SMT are directly responsible for the wellbeing (Assistant Head Common Room) and professional development (Assistant Head Teaching and Learning) of all staff at King's. New heads of department will have a professional mentor, chosen from the current middle managers to guide and develop them in the first year; the new head of department will also have fortnightly catch-up meetings with the Deputy Head Academic to help them in their new role.

The Role

Post: Director of Music

Responsible to: Deputy Head Academic

Job function

The Director of Music is responsible for all aspects of music making at King's College. The Director of Music will work closely with the Head of Academic Music, who is head of department for music as an academic subject.

The Director of Music will be expected to work closely with the Headmaster, the Assistant Head Co-Curricular, the Chaplain, the College Organist, the Director of Music at King's College Prep, the Deputy Head Pastoral, the Head of Performing Arts, the Director of Admissions and the Director of Marketing.

Key responsibilities

- Provide dynamic, inspirational and clear leadership of the Music Department.
- Be a key member of the academic music department, teaching a timetable of lessons as appropriate.
- Ensure that music continues to develop as a high-profile activity at King's College.
- Teach instrumental lessons as appropriate.
- Establish King's College as one of the top senior school choices for ambitious, musically talented pupils in the South West and beyond.
- Run the music scholars programme, including organising the scholarship process at 13+ and 16+, overseeing the progress scholars are making, annually reviewing that progress and reporting to parents, and providing opportunities for music scholars to showcase their talents.
- Work closely with the Director of Music at King's College Prep to ensure the continuity of aims and values between the prep and senior schools, and to establish a regular programme of joint musical activities between the two schools.
- Lead, organise and manage a rich and varied programme of music concerts and performances, to ensure that as many pupils as possible are given the chance to perform in public.
- Produce and maintain a detailed development plan for music at the College.
- Keep oversight of the facilities in the Music School and, in conjunction with the Operations Manager, ensure that the facilities, both musical and structural, are maintained, refurbished and replaced as necessary to ensure the continued success of the department.
- Plan and manage a regular programme of outings and tours for school ensembles.
- Work to grow the numbers of pupils taking individual music lessons.
- Encourage pupils to participate in local, regional and national activities and competitions, supporting musicians in their preparation for these, as appropriate.
- Through regular and effective monitoring, ensure that individual and group music teaching is of the highest standard, and that high-quality ensemble opportunities are available to all College musicians.
- Provide musical support for dramatic productions, including school musical, working closely with the Head of Performing Arts.
- Lead, manage and develop a range of ensembles. Ensure that each ensemble has a dedicated staff member to lead them and ensure that they are fully prepared for concerts.
- Have oversight, either directly or through an appointed specialist, of the selection and performance of appropriate music to produce inspirational services, both for the regular pattern of weekly worship and for special occasions.
- In conjunction with the Director of Admissions and the Director of Marketing, be responsible for the musical outreach programme, creating links with prep schools and primary schools in the local area and wider afield, and following through opportunities to use music in marketing the school to the wider community.
- Either by rehearsing or conducting in person, or through and appointed specialist, ensure that the Chapel Choir continues to thrive and perform at the highest level, and that the high standard of congregational singing at the College is sustained.

Person Specification

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Qualifications	Degree level qualification	PGCE or equivalent teaching experience
Knowledge & experience	<p>Experience in training large and small groups of musicians in a range of musical styles abilities</p> <p>Experience of developing musicianship and love of music in young people of all abilities</p> <p>An ability to teach academic music up to A level</p> <p>Understanding of how to ensure all pupils thrive in their learning</p> <p>Be reflective about pedagogy and willing to share best practice with others</p> <p>Proven excellence in the delivery of classroom music</p> <p>Experience of managing a budget</p>	<p>Wide knowledge of a broad range of musical styles and how they can be brought to life in performance</p> <p>Excellent knowledge (in particular) of the Anglican choral tradition and how to apply it within weekly school services</p>
Skills	<p>Creative approach to the training of practical music-making</p> <p>Expertise in performing on one or more instruments</p> <p>An ability to work effectively with modern composing and recording technology</p> <p>An ability to build and lead an effective team of VMTs</p> <p>An ability to forge excellent relationships with feeder schools and other organisations for educational and marketing purposes</p> <p>An ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships with pupils</p> <p>Strong administration and organisational skills</p> <p>An ability to accompany performers on the piano at a high level</p>	<p>Excellent IT skills</p> <p>Accomplished public presentation skills</p> <p>Good ability to contribute to the co-curricular and pastoral programme at King's</p>
Personal qualities & abilities	<p>An obvious, deep-seated and infectious love of music</p> <p>An ability to inspire young musicians</p> <p>An ability to produce and articulate a clear and exciting vision for the department</p> <p>Leadership skills – an ability to enthuse and support colleagues</p> <p>Personable, with a sense of humour</p> <p>Patience, kindness, resilience and the ability to be firm but fair</p> <p>Strong skills of time management, organisational efficiency, industry and resilience</p>	

The qualities and experience outlined in the person specification will be assessed by the following methods:

- Sight of original qualifications
- King's College application form
- Interview, including lesson and rehearsal observation
- References from current employer and other, chosen, professionals

King's College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safe welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Appointment Process



Candidates are expected to have read the enclosed appointment policy and agreed to the terms within.

King's has its own pay scale and there are discounts at both King's College Prep and King's College for staff children.

Please apply by completing the appropriate King's College application form (we are unable to accept CVs without our application form), plus a brief letter of application including a breakdown of your current remuneration package.

Please address to the Headmaster and send by email or post to:

Mr Craig Sweet/Mrs Sarah Matthews
c/o HR Department
King's College, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA

CSweet@kings-taunton.co.uk
SLMatthews@kings-taunton.co.uk
01823 328105/328231

The closing date for applications is 12.00pm Tuesday 14 May 2024.

Interviews will be held in the week beginning 20 May.





King's College

TAUNTON

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