

Visiting Music Teacher (Viola)



Bedford School

Situated just 35 minutes on the train from London St Pancras, and half way between Oxford and Cambridge, Bedford School is one of the region's leading boarding and day schools, educating boys from the ages of 7 to 18. Part of The Harpur Trust, Bedford's leading educational and social welfare charity, we are a vibrant school with a very strong sense of community, set in a beautiful 50-acre estate in the heart of the town.

There are approximately 800 pupils in the Upper School aged 13 to 18, with roughly 280 in the Sixth Form. 35% of the boys are boarders in our six boarding houses, each of which is "twinned" with a day house. Our Prep School with 400 boys caters for the 7-13 age range on the same campus, and has its own junior Boarding House.

Academic excellence is central to life at Bedford School, and we encourage boys to aspire to the highest possible standards and to exceed their expectations. Our success is demonstrated by a long history of impressive exam results at GCSE, A level, and in the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The vast majority of our leavers go on to Higher Education, and over two thirds of our Upper Sixth boys accepted places at Russell Group universities in 2018; 75% of boys went to universities in the Times Top 30, to specialise in particular areas of expertise. We are seeing our boys diversify their applications, with more

expressing an interest in degree-level apprenticeships and universities in the USA and Europe. Typically, between five and ten boys take up places at Oxbridge each year.

The School was inspected in November 2016, and we are particularly proud of the fact that ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) gave us the top ratings possible. Full details, including a copy of the inspection report can be found here:

<http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/Inspection-Report>

The school adopts a selective entry policy without being ruthless and seeks to provide an environment where all boys will thrive academically. It emphasises continuity of education at 13+ and 16+ so that, although there are academic entry requirements at each point, they are geared to whether boys are suitable to move to the next stage rather than over-formulaic targets. We believe in an all-round education that exposes all boys to a wide range of experiences and opportunities.

We place great emphasis on the value of Sport, Music and the Arts for the camaraderie, teamwork and self-motivation they instil, and encourage boys to explore their individual talents. Our extensive programme of extracurricular activities is wide-ranging and offers boys the opportunity to learn new skills and discover new interests outside the classroom. Boarding is at the heart of the school and all full-time members of staff are expected to contribute to the wider life of the school through involvement in the tutoring system and in activities outside the classroom.

The school's ongoing development programme has included the construction of a new Library (2003), Observatory & Planetarium (2003), a new Music School (2006) and a wonderful new theatre in St Luke's Church, on the edge of the estate (2015). Other developments have included renovation of the school dining halls and kitchens (2009), fitness suite (2010), staff common room (2011), sports pavilion (2012) and science department (2015).



Music Department

Facilities

The Music department is housed in a stunning £3 million Music School, designed by Eric Parry, R.A. and completed in November 2005. This state-of-the-art building, including a fine Recital Hall, was officially opened by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, CBE, Master of the Queen's Music, in March 2006.

The Recital Hall is a 100-seater auditorium with sweeping views across the School playing fields to the Sports Pavilion. There are three dedicated academic teaching rooms, one of which houses a suite of Apple iMacs with Logic and Sibelius. There is a 16-track recording studio running Logic on an Apple Mac Pro computer with the options of recording both from a live room and the Recital Hall.

Instrumental teaching takes place in a suite of 15 specialist teaching rooms, including two dedicated percussion rooms. There are 6 additional practice rooms which are available for boys to use throughout the week.

The Great Hall, beautifully restored after the dramatic fire of 1979, is used as a venue for the larger concerts. It houses a four manual Copeman Hart organ. The Chapel itself is an iconic building, the last building of the great late Victorian architect, George Frederick Bodley, and it is within this beautiful decorated space, with its fine acoustic, that the Choir

performs on a regular basis. The organ in the chapel is a two manual Hill, Norman and Beard.

Music Performance

There is a full music programme throughout the year. For example, there is at least one concert a week by boys at the School, including weekly lunchtime concerts each Thursday, which are open to the general public. There are also recitals which result in prizes being awarded in all the major music disciplines. There are also the major school concerts each term. Our vision for music at Bedford School is to provide an outstanding and vibrant musical experience for every boy at every level in the school, which is innovative and balanced between traditional and contemporary.

There are ensembles to cater for all ages and standards, which are both designed to allow boys to perform at an appropriate level, but also to encourage the more adventurous musicians to progress towards the top level ensemble in each discipline. There is an extremely strong choral tradition at the school, which varies from the more specialist (Chapel Choir) to the all-encompassing and rousing singing of the boarders in Chapel services and to a large proportion of the boys participating in the annual House Singing Competition. In addition there are a number of chamber music groups which rehearse and perform regularly.

Please see the school website for further links to online recordings and concert calendars.

The Role

We are seeking an experienced and enthusiastic teacher of viola at Bedford School. This is a new part-time role with a small number of pupils that we are aiming to grow with time. There is a thriving strings department with over 130 pupils and ten teachers in the team. There may be an opportunity to contribute to the strings starter programme in Y3. The successful candidate will work across the whole age range of the school (Y3-13).

There may also be an opportunity to get involved in some ensemble direction.

Benefits of Service

Bedford School has high expectations of its staff and therefore looks to reward them with a generous rate of pay and beneficial conditions of service. All teachers are offered membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and have longer holidays than the maintained sector.

We believe we have a responsibility to keenly and pro-actively support all of our staff in their development and to make this an outstanding place to work. Each member of staff has a voice on professional matters via the Common Room Chair and a variety of staff run initiatives, and The Head Master has weekly open-door sessions for staff (and pupils). A wide range of opportunities for professional development exist and staff are encouraged to further their skills and consider career options at all levels. There is a generous budget to support continued development and learning for our teachers. The Teaching and Learning Group host meetings and dinners throughout the year and staff run training sessions for one another in order to share best practice. The school recently hosted a TeachMeet evening for those who work across the schools of the Harpur Trust.

The school is set in beautiful grounds within a 50-acre site on the edge of a busy town centre that is well connected to London, Milton Keynes and Cambridge in particular. Staff are welcome to make use of the extensive leisure and sporting facilities on the site (which includes gym, swimming pool, tennis courts, squash courts etc.) for themselves and their immediate family.

The school has an incredibly friendly Common Room that provides support and puts on a variety of social events; most recently, there was a hotly contested staff bake off competition. Weekly football, yoga and mindfulness sessions are complemented by additions such as staff life drawing, a tennis evening, calligraphy club, and regular staff cricket fixtures with local clubs and schools.

A private health care scheme is also available for staff. Our staff all receive free lunches, which are provided by our national award-winning catering team, and all staff can expect free on-site parking.

Bedford is a dynamic and incredibly rewarding place to work with a strong sense of community. We very much hope that you will want to come and find out more about us.

General Information

Bedford School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Offers of appointment are subject to satisfactory references and DBS clearance.

Application Process

Applicants are asked to complete the School Application Form; CVs in place of an Application Form cannot be accepted.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to the school for interview on the advertised date. The selection process will involve a lesson observation and several interviews.

The current Director of Music, Mr Joss (Jonathan) Sanders, would be happy to talk to prospective applicants, he can be contacted by email in the first instance on jsanders@bedfordschool.org.uk



Bedford School is part of The Harpur Trust