



**MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL**  
INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 7 - 18 AND SIXTH FORM GIRLS



## Head of Junior School Music

Closing date: Midday, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Interviews: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

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## Introduction from the Master, Helen Pike

Magdalen College School is a remarkable place. We are now well into our sixth century, and our former pupils include scholars, war heroes, musicians, Olympians, two Nobel Prize laureates, a Hollywood film director, and a saint. Our success in public examinations, in securing places at top universities, and in an astonishing array of extra-curricular pursuits ensures that we continue this proud tradition. We do so by nurturing the individual potential of each of our pupils, and above all we believe that learning is as fun as it is fulfilling.



Magdalen College School was founded in 1480 by William of Waynflete: schoolmaster, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England. Being of humble origins, Waynflete was determined that others of ability should be given the opportunity to learn, to serve and to prosper as he did. And so MCS offers a transformative education in our global university city, the community to which we contribute.

We attract and retain the best staff and MCS is a stimulating, welcoming and thriving environment in which both to learn and to work.

A lot happens at MCS. The various sections of our website ([www.mcsoxford.org](http://www.mcsoxford.org)) including the recent [News](#) will give you an impression of our school.

Thank you for your interest.

*H. C. Pike*



## Introduction from the Head of the Junior School, Tim Skipwith

The Junior School is a remarkable corner of Magdalen College School. We are housed in School House, a stunning Victorian building overlooking the Rose Garden and Cherwell River. This offers us immediate access to the Senior School facilities whilst retaining our own independence for the younger boys; we are blessed here to be essentially two schools with one heart. We are selective from the outset with a view that any boy joining us should leave the school after completing their 6<sup>th</sup> Form. All of our boys sit the 11+ and it is rare for a child not to progress at that stage; indeed, in the previous two years all of our boys passed, gaining a significant number of awards at this transition point.

Our boys are vibrant, lively and have an inherent “can do” approach. There is a wonderfully warm atmosphere in School House and at the heart of this is simply the nature of the boys. They are kind and emotionally articulate, and this forms an underlying camaraderie of mutual support and respect. They are also bright, academically ambitious learners, which makes teaching here exciting and dynamic. We have a particularly cohesive team of staff with twelve of us permanently based in School House, and a number who regularly join us from the Senior School. Staff genuinely share a passion for developing every aspect of our children; we also feel that a significant part of this should be fun for all involved. We work very closely with our Parental body and events such as the Family Supper, the J1 Family Sleepover and Family Festival of Sports reflect how important we feel these links are.



We are nothing if not busy here and a brief look at our annual publication [Views from the Bridge](#) will give you a flavour of Junior School life.

Thank you for your interest.





## Head of Junior School Music



Magdalen College School is seeking to appoint a bright, capable musician to join its Music department and lead the provision of Junior School music from April 2020. The Head of Junior School Music will work closely with the Head of the Junior School and be responsible to the Master through the Director of Music for the proper discharge of his or her duties.

The successful candidate will be responsible for all Music in the Junior School and will also teach the Second Form (Year 7) and Third Form (Year 8) of the Senior School. It is expected that the successful candidate will lead the extra-curricular music programme, and practical expertise, whether instrumental or choral – will be essential. The standard of music in the Junior School is extremely high and this post is a wonderful opportunity for the successful candidate to expand the provision further and work with some talented musicians. The extra-curricular programme will include productions such as the Carol Service, the Grand Concert, House Music Competition, the Junior School Arts Festival production as well as regular informal concerts. It is also expected that the successful candidate will become involved more widely in Junior School life and there is scope for becoming a Form Tutor.



## The Department



The Music Department is a thriving department with a wealth of talented musicians and an exciting musical programme. The Director of Music leads a team consisting of an Assistant Director of Music, a Head of Junior School Music, a Head of Instrumental Music, a part-time accompanist, a full time Administrator, a Waynflete Intern and 38 visiting instrumental teachers. There is a close

connection between the Junior School and Senior School in the Music Department and there are many opportunities for pupils from both areas to collaborate for projects.

There are currently 140 pupils in the Junior School and academic music lessons are taught for two periods per week in J1-J4 (Years 3 to 6) and in the Second and Third Form (Years 7 and 8). In addition, there are over 100 instrumental lessons each week in the Junior School taught by a team of 38 instrumental teachers: these are organised by the Music Administrator. The Junior School also educates Magdalen College's Choristers and the Head of Junior School Music will liaise with the Tutor to the Choristers and the College's *Informator Choristarum* about the music development of the Choristers and their participation in the musical life of the school.

Many Junior School pupils are involved in music making in various ensembles, coached by the Head of Junior School Music as well as some of the instrumental teachers. These include:

- Symphony Orchestra of 50+ players
- Choir and Chamber Choir
- Wind / Brass / Percussion / Guitar Ensembles
- Chamber Groups

In addition, there is an instrumental scheme, which teaches pupils the basics of learning an instrument and the opportunity to discover which family of instruments would be most appropriate for the individual. There is an enormous amount of singing in the Junior School and all pupils sing in concerts and services throughout the year. The Music Department is housed in the Quinn Building, but has practice rooms across the school site, including in the Junior School where there is also a music classroom







## **The Junior School**

The Junior School, for boys aged 7-11, is a happy and highly successful part of one of the country's leading independent day schools. It currently has 140 pupils in eight forms. Although the school has grown substantially in recent years, the intimate size helps to create a family-like atmosphere, where boys demonstrate a spirit of respect and tolerance. We aim to provide an education which enables each boy to acquire an independent and searching mind, to develop a broad range of extra-curricular interests, and to take pleasure in the life of ideas. Key dispositions such as kindness, perseverance, resilience and teamwork underpin all aspects of Junior School life.



Whilst following the broad outline of the National Curriculum, we seek to enrich and extend boys' interest and achievement in a variety of subject areas. Specialist staff and facilities help boys to reach their potential. Entry is now predominantly at 7+ starting with two small classes to which we add at 8+ and 9+. Boys take the school's 11+ tests and almost all pupils move on to the Senior School.

One of the many strengths of the school is the level of pastoral care. This is provided primarily by the form tutor, who is the first point of contact for boys and parents. Each boy is also in one of six Houses in the Junior School: regular opportunities to meet and take part in House events enable boys to work together with pupils from different year groups. The Junior School Council, with representatives from each form, has an important role to play in the running of the Junior School.

From J1 (Year 3) boys are coached with specialist staff to perform to a high standard in a range of sports including football, rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and athletics. The school's enviable sports grounds are augmented by the use of University facilities, including the Iffley Road athletics track and Rosenblatt swimming pool. Regular fixtures with independent and primary schools occur, and tours have taken boys to schools and clubs around the country. We currently have a number of county sportsmen in a range of sports.



Most boys in the Junior School learn at least one musical instrument, with an impressive variety on offer. Concerts range from regular informal events to performances in the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, the Sheldonian Theatre and Magdalen College Chapel. The annual House Music event includes opportunities for parents and grandparents to join the boys. There is also a wide range of chamber ensembles, Junior School Choirs and in last year's Grand Concert forty eight performed together as a full orchestra. The 16 boy choristers of Magdalen College Choir are educated at MCS, with the School and College working together closely to manage the boys' commitments. Pupils also take part in art workshops and visit galleries. Recent plays and musicals produced include, *The Odyssey*, *Joseph* put on at the local Pegasus Theatre in Oxford and this year the *Wizard of Oz*.



We have recently developed our provision for the boys with an Activities Afternoon where lessons on Thursday afternoons are dedicated to a wide range of activities. These range from animation to forest school and public speaking to sewing. Within this afternoon, strategy games have been brought in to run alongside the chess and a much greater provision for Drama now sees each year group have the



opportunity to put on an annual play. This initiative has added to the suite of pre-existing lunchtime and after school clubs. Chess remains very popular amongst the pupils, and is played to an exceptionally high standard. Teams regularly win county and national events, and a number of boys go on to represent their country. Tours run in each age group, and the length of these increases as boys progress up the school. We ran our first JS Ski-Trip last year taking fifty boys across for an adventure in Austria.



## Application Process

Candidates should submit the Application Form for Teaching Staff which can be found on the Job Vacancy link of the website ([www.mcsoxford.org](http://www.mcsoxford.org)). To access [click here](#). This should be emailed, together with a CV and covering letter of application, to the Recruitment Officer, Mrs Sarah Hunter ([applications@mcsoxford.org](mailto:applications@mcsoxford.org)). All documentation should be sent by **midday on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Interviews will be held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** and shortlisted candidates will be contacted by telephone. The school's preferred method of communication is by email and it will not be necessary to send a hard copy of the documents by post. **References may be taken up in advance, although this does not necessarily mean that a candidate will be called for interview. If you do not wish references to be called for at this stage, please make that clear on the reference section of the application form.**

Candidates short-listed for interview will be asked to teach an observed lesson when they come to the school. They will also be required to bring with them the necessary ID documentation and degree certificate(s), all of which must be originals. Further information on the observed lesson and documentation required will be provided with the invitation to interview.







## Benefits

MCS currently has its own salary scale, and salaries are substantially more generous than those in the maintained sector; there is also a relocation allowance on a sliding scale, by agreement with the Master and Bursar, and dependent on current location. The school also operates a cycle to work scheme, and travel loans are available. The school offers private medical cover and subscribes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, in which all teaching staff are auto enrolled – there is, of course, an opt out, should this be preferred. School fee remission for full time staff sons (from Junior School through to Sixth Form) and staff daughters (Sixth Form) who pass entrance tests for the school is currently 50%; this operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff. In addition, Headington School currently allows full time staff daughters who pass entrance tests for the school a 20% remission. (Headington fee remission also operates on a pro-rata basis for part time staff, and is only available to staff with a Full Time Equivalent of 50% or over).

The school has a fully equipped gym which is available for staff use, and staff may also enjoy access to the University of Oxford's Rosenblatt Swimming Pool. Tennis courts are available, and there is a comprehensive programme of staff sports clubs, including football, climbing, yoga, pilates, and badminton. Staff also have the opportunity to join choirs and music groups, and to get involved in drama productions.





Staff are encouraged to make use of the Senior Common Room within and after the school day, as an area for relaxation and shared discussion outside departments. There is also a quiet room located close to the SCR where staff can work and study. Tea and Coffee are served in the SCR at morning break, and cakes and cut fruit are available in the SCR at the end of the school day. Staff socials, guest nights and Master's Drinks are regular features of each term.

### **Professional Development**

The school places a significant emphasis on the professional development of all staff. A half termly CPD & Teaching Newsletter is distributed by email, which aims to highlight educational research and practical ideas, to share ideas from courses and conferences attended, to offer guidance on opportunities for CPD, and to highlight the work of colleagues in the area of teaching and learning. All colleagues are encouraged to attend at least one external CPD course each year, and also to visit another school, place of work or university, where appropriate.

The Teaching & Learning group meets before school twice per half term. Its purpose is to consider developments in educational research, to facilitate discussion of teaching and learning, to offer a forum for the sharing of good teaching practice, and to support colleagues in experimenting with new teaching techniques. There is also a programme of Learning Lunches each term for colleagues to share good practice. Colleagues who have been teaching for more than seven years (including a minimum of three years' service at MCS) may make an application for study leave for the second half of the Trinity Term.



### **Waynflete Teaching Certificate**

The School aims to offer teaching staff joining the school without a teaching qualification (UQTs) the opportunity to develop their teaching craft and reflect on their professional practice through a structured programme of training and support. For such colleagues, the school offers the Waynflete Teaching Certificate, which may ultimately lead to Qualified Teacher Status through the Assessment Only route offered by the University of Reading.

### **Safeguarding Policy**

Magdalen College School is committed to the safeguarding of pupils, and any offer of employment will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, the receipt of satisfactory references, the school's pre-employment medical questionnaire and sight of relevant original ID documentation and degree certificate(s).

### **Additional Information**

Please note that MCS is an inner-city school, with limited parking. Candidates who have been offered a post will be invited to make representations in the term preceding their arrival to the Usher (Senior Deputy Head) for a parking space. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Recruitment Officer: 01865 253401.