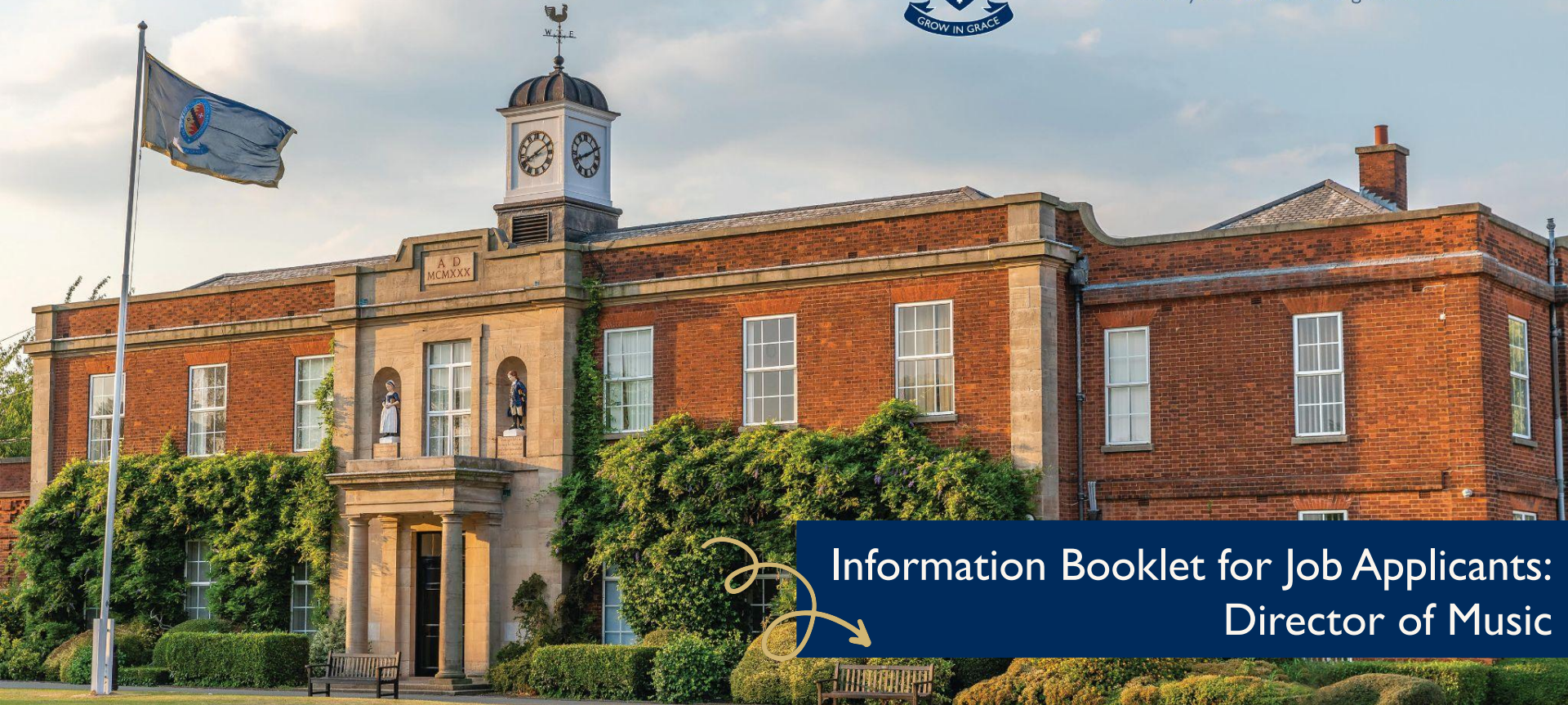




The Blue Coat School

Founded by the Church of England in 1722



Information Booklet for Job Applicants:
Director of Music

LIMITLESS LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



The Blue Coat School is an Independent Day Preparatory School offering an outstanding educational experience to over 600 boys and girls, aged 3 to 11 years. Occupying a beautiful site in Edgbaston, in 15 acres of playing fields and gardens, it is a thriving community where children achieve great things, not just academically but in all areas. Our extensive Co-Curricular programme offers opportunities beyond the classroom and nurtures well-rounded children, preparing them for life beyond Blue Coat.

Originally set up as a charity school 'for the purpose of maintaining poor children' in the centre of Birmingham, BCS relocated to Harborne in 1930 and has since become one of the largest IAPS Prep Schools in the country. A generous Bursary scheme continues to offer the opportunity of a Blue Coat education to all.

Founded by the Church of England, Chapel life remains a big part of the weekly school routine and Prep parents and staff join Chaplain for a weekly service. Meanwhile in Pre-Prep, Chaplain leads a weekly assembly for the children. Our diverse school community is representative of the local area and welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. Respect and multicultural understanding are fostered through our BCS Values which promote patience, respect and kindness. The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. It has excellent resources, which are used to provide enjoyable and imaginative learning.

Pupils consistently achieve outstanding results and they are well prepared for senior school entrance examinations. Many progress with the top scholarship offers to the region's most renowned senior schools including the Independent and Grammar Schools of the King Edward VI Foundation, Solihull School, Edgbaston High School for Girls and Bromsgrove School.

The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our community ethos is very strong, and we maintain the highest expectations of the interpersonal relationships between all stakeholders. The successful applicant will be expected to ensure that the excellent standards of the School are maintained.



MUSIC:
THE HEARTBEAT
OF OUR SCHOOL





MUSIC FACILITIES

The Saville Music Centre is dedicated to curriculum music lessons. There is an auditorium style School Hall with a Steinway piano which hosts large concerts and music galas, as well as School productions and shows.

In response to the growing demand for music lessons, our individual music rooms underwent renovation and expansion in Summer 2023. Among these rooms is one equipped with an electric organ, designed to introduce and inspire younger students to this instrument.

And in 2024, there will be a new event space created which will provide yet another venue for hosting recitals and music events, further enhancing our musical offering.

Digital Learning is a key component of our learning and teaching at The Blue Coat School. Every child in Prep (Years 3 to 6) has their own school-managed iPad. This has transformed music lessons with the ability to record, listen, compose and arrange music using a variety of innovative apps at their fingertips. We are seeking a Director of Music who is enthusiastic about leveraging both traditional methods and cutting-edge technology to transform the learning experience.



MUSIC IN CHAPEL

Chapel is an integral part of life at The Blue Coat School.

The recently renovated School Chapel, refurbished during our 300th anniversary celebrations in Summer 2022, features a magnificent organ. This organ enriches the weekly Chapel Services, enhancing the performances of the Chapel Choir and engaging the congregation.

Whilst the School is of Church of England foundation, it welcomes families of all faiths and none. Everyone is expected to attend and participate in Chapel life. Parents of all faiths value the traditional Chapel Services which endeavour to inspire the children to adopt our school motto 'Grow in Grace' as a foundation stone for their lives.



BCS MUSICIANS

There is a very long and established tradition of excellence in Music at The Blue Coat School, with many children learning one or more musical instruments and many achieving Grade 8 before their final year here.

From Year 2, children can begin to take part in choirs, including the prestigious Chapel Choir from Year 5, orchestras, chamber groups and bands.

The Blue Coat School is fortunate to have a diverse community of pupils from many different cultures, ethnicities, races and religions and we advocate for that diversity to be reflected and celebrated in the music curriculum.



PRE-PREP

AGE 3 - 7 YEARS



Our Pre-Prep department begins in the Nursery with children aged 3-4 years.

Learning is primarily through play and exploration but our children make fast progress with their letters, sounds and numbers and are often working well ahead of national expectations.

A specialist Music Teacher begins teaching Music in Nursery with one timetabled lesson per week throughout Pre-Prep. They will be introduced to different instruments, singing, and musical elements such as sound, rhythm and tempo.

Children can also begin individual music lessons in School from Nursery (age 3).

From Reception onwards, children begin to use other areas in the School such as the swimming pool. Moving to KSI, the school day becomes more structured. In addition to daily maths and English, other subjects are taught such as computer science, humanities and creative arts.



PREP

AGE 7 - 11 YEARS



A key difference between Pre-Prep and Prep is that the children are taught by a number of specialists teachers in dedicated rooms such as the Creative Arts Studio, IT suite, Music Centre and newly upgraded Science Laboratories. From Year 3, pupils become familiar with moving around School and are well prepared for senior school.

From Year 3, children have their own school-managed iPad which will be used in all lessons for some tasks, in addition to practical and written resources. All work is stored and marked via Showbie which is accessible via their iPad.

Prep pupils have one curriculum music lesson per week. They will cover a variety of genres and skills such as composing and improvising using GarageBand, learning the history and sounds of Baroque, Classical and Romantic music and performing on a range of instruments.

Prep also offers an even greater range of musical events such as the highly coveted BCS Young Musician of the Year competition which is open to all musicians in Prep and judged by a guest judge.

From Year 5, pupils are invited to join the Senior Choir and the Chapel Choir. Both of these groups offer exceptional opportunities to sing at a range of events and prestigious venues such as the Birmingham Cathedral.



FACILITIES



- 1 Year 3 and Year 4 Hubs
- 2 Year 5 and Year 6 Hubs
- 3 The Year 6 Centre
- 4 All Saints
- 5 St Martin's
- 6 Chapel
- 7 Viney Building
- 8 Sports Centre
- 9 The Annexe
- 10 Branson Building
- 11 William Higgs Building
- 12 Centenary Building
- 13 Bissell Building
- 14 Saville Music Centre
- 15 School Hall
- 16 Forest School



The Blue Coat School enjoys an expansive 15-acre campus just three miles from the city centre. With a rich diversity of green spaces, classrooms, specialist facilities, playgrounds, sports pitches and after school social spaces, a big campus soon feels like home to pupils.

The Blue Coat School has a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, AstroTurf pitch and cricket nets, Forest School, IT Suite with recording booth and green screen technology, Music Centre, a Creative Arts Studio, Science Laboratories, Auditorium, School Chapel and extensive playing fields, to name just a few!

Our beautiful and well resourced campus enables us to offer over 120 clubs and activities a week, including activities outside of the curriculum such as chess, Spanish and coding. In addition, senior pupils experience subjects such as cooking, debating, gardening and STEM as part of our Friday afternoon Thinking, Exploring and Doing Programme (TED).



PERSON SPECIFICATION



Qualifications/Professional Development

- QTS or equivalent.
- Graduate of a recognised British University or Conservatoire (or international equivalent).
- Sound background knowledge of Music and the Arts.
- Experience as a Head of Department.
- Commitment to developing as a classroom practitioner. Evidence of recent involvement in relevant professional development would be desirable.

Experience and skills

- Outstanding classroom practitioner with proven experience in KS1 or KS2.
- Proven performing experience, including proficiency in piano playing and accompaniment.
- Ability to complete administrative tasks accurately and to deliver to a deadline.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills.
- Good organisational skills and the ability to prioritise and manage tasks.
- An eye for detail and accuracy.
- Integrated and innovative approach to the use of technology in teaching and administration.

Knowledge

- Thorough knowledge of the national curriculum and EYFS Learning Goals, and in particular, current expectations for Music education (including up to KS3).
- Knowledge of best practice in leadership and management.
- Strong understanding of a variety of learning styles.

Personal attributes

- Infectious enthusiasm and passion for Music and teaching.
- A professional manner and appearance.
- Friendly, warm personality with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work cooperatively.
- Clear communication skills, both oral and written.
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a year group team.
- Sympathy with the Christian ethos and activities of the school.
- Wholehearted commitment to the life of a vibrant school.





HOW TO APPLY



Application forms, together with a supporting letter addressed to the Headmaster, Mr Noel Neeson, should be returned to recruitment@thebluecoatschool.com by **9am on Wednesday 28th February.**

The first round of interviews will take place by Zoom on **Tuesday 5th March and Wednesday 6th March.**

Successful candidates will then go through to a final interview on **Friday 15th March** at which they will be expected to teach an observed curriculum lesson, lead a session with the Chapel Choir, take a piano sight reading exercise and attend a formal interview. There will be an opportunity to tour the school. They will also be invited to attend the BCS Music Festival Gala performance on the evening of Thursday 14th March.

At interview applicants must provide original documents to confirm their identity and right to work in the UK. They must also bring proof of qualifications where relevant for the post. The documentation required by applicants is listed in the Recruitment Policy which is available on the school website and from the School. The post is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check (including a Barred List check), a satisfactory online check, a satisfactory medical fitness declaration and satisfactory references. Confidential references will be sought prior to interview.

The Blue Coat School is an equal opportunity employer.



For further details about the school and to download a full **job description and application form** please visit the [school website](https://www.thebluecoatschool.com).

Please note, we reserve the right to close posts and commence interviews at any time, once we have received sufficient applications. We advise you to submit your application as early as possible to prevent disappointment.



The Blue Coat School

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The Blue Coat School Birmingham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

