

# GRADUATE MUSIC ASSISTANT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

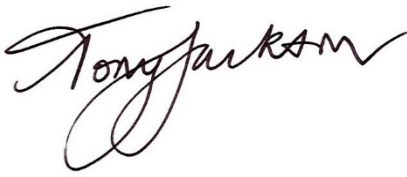
## **Welcome from the Headmaster**

### **Dear Candidate**

The School is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Music Graduate to join a vibrant, successful Music Department from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for young graduates who are seeking an opportunity to gain experience before embarking on a career in teaching.

The post will involve assisting our new and inspirational Director of Music in a variety of ways, as well as the opportunity to gain valuable teaching experience whilst receiving ongoing mentoring from the expertise within this strong Department. Full involvement in the life of this busy and happy community would be both encouraged and expected, including some evening duties in one of our boarding houses. There may also be opportunities to attend some relevant courses in order to meet the successful candidates' future objectives.

Barney is an exciting and hugely rewarding place to be, and I look forward to receiving your application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tony Jackson' in a cursive style.

**Tony Jackson**  
**Headmaster**

## The history of Barnard Castle School

Barnard Castle School has its roots in the medieval past and its eyes set firmly on the future. The school traces its origins back to the nearby Hospital of St John, which was an educational and religious community established by John de Balliol in 1229. He was also the founder of Balliol College in Oxford and his passion for learning remains central to our philosophy today. In 1883 with a gift from Benjamin Flounders, a Victorian philanthropist, and the proceeds of St John's Hospital, the present main School building was constructed. Tony Jackson, the school's tenth Headmaster, was appointed in September 2017 as "Barney" embarks on an exciting new era.

## The School

'When you are steeped in little things, you shall safely attempt great things'

This motto perfectly sums up what Barnard Castle School - or 'Barney' as it is affectionately known - aims to do in preparing its pupils for life beyond its doors. Through creating an inspirational, compassionate and unpretentious environment, Barney aims to develop young adults with character. Our staff believe that our pupils should be confident, resilient, intellectually curious, tolerant and driven, with an undercurrent of humility, and are prepared to live, embrace and lead in an ever-changing world.

'Parvis imbutus tentabis grandia tutus'.

The school has a genuine warmth amongst its 675 pupils and 180 staff, which fosters a strong sense of community and endeavour. It is highly unusual to find a school where pupils from Year 9 and Year 11 sit on a table at lunch together sharing a conversation, discussing their latest sports fixture or drama rehearsal. However, this attitude is ingrained in a Barnardian from very early on. The co-educational and cross-year group atmosphere starts in the journey from the Preparatory School (ages 4-11) right through to the state-of-the-art bespoke Sixth Form Centre in the Senior School (ages 11-18). A Barney pupil is quick to make someone else feel at ease, whether that is through simple encouragement or a warm smile.

Whilst we are extremely proud of what our pupils achieve academically, we also recognise the importance of preparing the next generations for an evolving and increasingly competitive global marketplace. To do this we focus on developing the individual character of every child, and during their journey with us, we aim to cultivate vital life skills through building relationships amongst the pupil body and teachers alike. Each pupil has a dedicated Tutor who meets with them a couple of times a week to discuss anything from pastoral issues to academic progress.

We want our pupils to develop a prepared mind for life beyond school. This requires confidence, resilience and compassion, all built up over a period of time, and in a variety of ways, both within and beyond the classroom. It also requires that most important quality: humility. At our core is an unpretentious and humble outlook, and it is this combination of confidence and humility that allows our pupils to light up a room.

We want teachers who believe in our purpose as educators and are proactive in immersing themselves in school life during term time. We would like them to role model the qualities we hope to instil in our pupils throughout their journey from the Prep School through to the end of the Sixth Form. Teachers are expected to take part in the extensive extra-curricular "Mind, Body and Soul" programme that runs between 4pm and 5pm and can choose to offer an activity that they are passionate about. We believe in fostering lasting relationships, and contact time with pupils outside the classroom is what makes the *Barney* difference.

The School is situated in its own extensive grounds on the outskirts of an historic market town, recently noted as being the safest in England, in an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is well-resourced and enjoys an enviable reputation for its pupils' achievements on a broad variety of fronts. It is also in proximity to and enjoys close relationships with departments in the universities of Durham, York and Newcastle.

Continuous improvement and investment have produced a number of new buildings, including the MacFarlane Building which houses Physics and ICT, the Atha Fitness Centre, an extension to our Prep School including a new science lab and the new purpose built Sixth Form Centre.

Further details about Barnard Castle School may be found in the Independent Schools' Yearbook and on the School's website [www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk).

## **The Music Department**

Barney has a busy and thriving Music Department, offering a range of outstanding opportunities to the pupils that study here. The Department aims to foster a love of music in every pupil with the intention of encouraging a culture of aspiration and high standards alongside enjoyment for music.

The department is currently staffed by three full-time members of staff: The Director of Music, The Prep School Director of Music and the Bandmaster & Head of Woodwind. There are also 17 Visiting Music Teachers who teach around 250 individual lessons each week and a part-time Music Department Administrator. Many pupils in the school learn at least one musical instrument, and this is aided by our Minority Instrument Scheme which offers one year's free tuition to a selection of pupils in Year 7.

Facilities for Music include a Recital Room, two class teaching rooms, 6 practice rooms and a Music Library. Large-scale concerts take place in Big School (the main school hall), which has recently been refurbished, and the School Chapel, which contains a fine, two-manual Fr Willis organ. As a result of our location, Barney is also able to hold performances in outstanding local venues such as the Bowes Museum and The Witham in Barnard Castle. Plans are underway for the development of a new Performing Arts Centre.

The Music Department has a superb relationship with the Drama Department. The two departments regularly join together to go on school trips, and recent musicals performed in school include *Made in Dagenham*; *One Man, Two Guvnors* and *Seussical*. Later this year, the Junior Musical will be *Bugsy Malone*.

### **Academic Music**

All pupils in Years 7-9 study music for either one or two lessons per week as part of Barney's core curriculum. Music is a popular subject at GCSE, where pupils study the Eduqas course. A number of pupils also go on to study Music at A Level (Eduqas) and degree level. There is also a strong tradition of pupils taking up choral and organ scholarships at Oxbridge and other universities and conservatoires.

### **Co-Curricular Music**

Music is a hugely important part of life at Barney, and pupils are encouraged to participate in a range of co-curricular activities each week.

Alongside individual music lessons, there are also a range of ensembles for pupils of all levels to take part in. Currently, these include Junior Orchestra, Senior Orchestra, Wind Band, Jazz Band and Rock and Pop Bands, as well as a number of smaller ensembles, which include Sax Ensemble, Senior Wind Ensemble, Junior Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, and Chamber Ensemble.

There is a strong history of choral singing at Barney. The 50-strong Chapel Choir sing for services both in and out of school, and have recently sung at Durham Cathedral, Newcastle Cathedral, Hexham Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. The smaller, auditioned Chamber Choir learn more secular repertoire and perform regularly in concerts. There is also the 70-strong school Choral Society made up of pupils, parents, staff and members of the local community.

Pupils are offered regular opportunities to perform both as soloists and as part of ensembles. Each term ends with at least one large-scale concert, and there are many other smaller concerts throughout the year. These include the popular Friday Lunchtime Concerts in the Music School, Music Scholars' and Diploma Concerts and Showcase Concerts at The Witham. There are also masterclasses, workshops and concerts given by high-profile external musicians. Recently, the Chapel Choir were able to work with the Gesualdo Six prior to singing for the four Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols services, and the group gave an evening concert in the School Chapel.

### **Music Scholarships**

Each year, Music Scholarships are awarded to pupils at 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry. These young musicians are ambassadors for music in the school, and hold important roles within the life of the Music Department. As part of the Music Scholarship, pupils receive individual support and guidance, and are able to attend a range of trips free of charge. They also receive free instrumental tuition in their principal instrument.

There is also a Young Organist Scheme, which offers free organ lessons to two pupils in Years 7-10 and to one pupil in Years 11-13.

To see what our busy department gets up to on a day-to-day basis, please visit the Music Department Twitter account:

[www.twitter.com/music\\_barney](https://www.twitter.com/music_barney)

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Role Summary**

Barnard Castle School is looking for a Graduate Music Assistant for a 1-year fixed term contract for the 2020 - 2021 academic year.

This full-time role is flexible and can be tailored to the strengths and experience of the successful applicant. Duties will include administration work, assisting in and teaching classroom lessons, assisting the Director of Music in planning concerts, rehearsal and performance work, working with individual pupils who need additional support as well as boarding duties. There are also opportunities to build rehearsal, conducting and leadership skills with our ensembles as well as assisting with elements of Music Technology.

The successful applicant will be enthusiastic, well-organised, and keen to engage young musicians of all abilities. The ability to play the organ and piano to a high standard with strong sight-reading skills would be particularly welcome, but candidates with an excellent level of playing in non-keyboard instruments are still encouraged to apply.

This is a superb opportunity for a graduate wishing to gain experience in the education sector, and who may be considering a career in music education or the wider education sector.

### **Responsible To:**

Director of Music  
Deputy Head Pastoral for boarding duties;  
Prep School Head for Prep School duties.

### **Main Duties**

- To assist in the day-to-day running of a busy music department;
- Teach theory and aural classes;
- Assist in teaching classroom lessons and cover academic lessons as required;
- Assist with ensemble rehearsals, taking sectionals and full ensemble rehearsals as required;
- Assisting with general administrative tasks;
- Support the Music Administrator and Visiting Music Teachers in the administration of individual music tuition;
- Help pupils with their practice and development;
- Supervise practice sessions as necessary;
- Accompany for concerts and rehearsals (if a keyboard player);
- Accompany the Chapel Choir and play for Chapel Services (if an organist);
- Assist in the daily running of a Boarding House;
- Undertake any other reasonable tasks required by the Headmaster and/or Director of Music in association with this role.

The above main duties are not exhaustive and may vary without changing the character of the job or level of the responsibility.

### **Essential Criteria:**

- Hold (or will soon hold) a relevant degree in Music or equivalent;
- A proven track record as a highly capable instrumentalist;
- Ability to communicate a passion for Music to young people;
- Professional appearance and demeanour;
- Enthusiastic about working in a school environment and with young people;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to meet deadlines;
- Good IT Literacy;
- Team-player and enthusiastic about music-making at the school.

### **Desirable Criteria:**

- Strong keyboard skills/experience as an organist and pianist;
- An interest in pursuing a career in education;
- Experience of coaching/conducting ensembles

## **Appointment Terms, Conditions and Benefits**

Type: Fixed term contract from 1st September 2020 with potential for extension for a further extra year, subject to performance to July 2021.

Salary: £11,000 plus free accommodation and term time meals.

Hours: Full time; Barnard Castle School runs Monday-Saturday during term-time. In addition to any Boarding Duties, there is likely to be some additional evening work and one-off events as part of the Music Department's Calendar.

Holidays: Other than an expectation to attend any staff induction days and school trips, the Graduate Music Assistant would not be expected to work during Barnard Castle School holidays.

## **Recruitment Process**

---

### **Applications**

If you feel that you can meet the above requirements then please submit a letter of application along with the Barnard Castle School application form to the Headmaster. Only applications containing the requested information will be considered.

Applications should be sent to:

Mr A C Jackson  
Headmaster  
Barnard Castle School  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 8UN

Phone: 01833 696081  
Fax: 01833 638985  
E-mail: [hr@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:hr@barneyschool.org.uk)

**Deadline: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am.**

**Interviews: week commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**

Applicants should read carefully the application procedure – guidance for applicants, Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders and the Disclosure policy and the Safer Recruitment policy.

Barnard Castle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and all applicants will undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS and Barred list check with Disclosure and Barring Service.

Barnard Castle School is an equal opportunities employer.

## Contact

Mr A C Jackson  
Headmaster  
Barnard Castle School  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 8UN

Phone: 01833 696081

E-mail: [hr@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:hr@barneyschool.org.uk)

Telephone: +44 (0)1833 690222

Fax: +44 (0)1833 638985

[www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk)

