

BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

POST OF HEAD OF MUSIC

The school gained Performing Arts status in 2000 and is currently in Phase 2. This has enabled the development of additional resources across the Performing Arts, as well as supporting the development of a rich community arts programme. Opportunities to collaborate with visiting arts practitioners are encouraged, leading to a rich cultural life for our students.

Within the Performing Arts Curriculum Team at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, the Music department consists of three full-time teachers, one half-timetabled teacher, specialist teachers for BTEC production and Musical Theatre, fourteen visiting instrumental and vocal teachers and two PA technicians.

The post advertised is to replace the previous Head of Music who has gained a promotion within the school. The successful candidate will work closely with the Director of Performing Arts in developing aspects of curricular and extended-curricular work including the use of ICT.

Music is taught in mixed ability groups in Years 7 – 9; there will be 2 GCSE groups in each of Year 10 and Year 11, following the EDEXCEL Syllabus. Groups are taught during curriculum and “Extended Day”. In the Sixth Form groups average between 6 and 10 and follow OCR Music and EDEXCEL Music Technology courses. Time allocation is above the National Curriculum requirements in Key Stage 3.

The extended curriculum takes place during the split lunch times and after school, and leads to regular performances for small and large ensembles (Junior Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, flute ensemble, wind ensemble, brass ensemble, string ensemble, Soul Band, ‘Millstones’ big band, gospel choir, music theatre choir, pop choir, steel pans, samba drumming), production groups and Dubstep groups. We also run annual Stars in Their Eyes and Blatch has got Talent shows in addition to two annual school productions in collaboration with the Drama Department. These take place in our own Windmill Theatre which was opened in 2001 and designed to meet the needs of the school and the community. Previous years’ productions have been *Grease*, *Billy*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Brenda Bly: Teen Detective*.

Over 220 students learn instruments and singing with our visiting LA and private teachers.

A new Music suite was built in 2000 for the start of specialist status. Music rooms are equipped to the highest standard and maintained by a full-time Performing Arts Technician.

Two rooms have iMACs (2 students per workstation) running Garageband, Logic Express and Sibelius. A third room features a keyboard lab system. The Sixth Form room features 7 computers (with additional Logic Pro) and all rooms have TV and Video/DVD, as well as white manuscript boards and IWB in one music room.

In addition, there is a recording studio, 4 instrumental/singing practice cells as well as the fully equipped 'state of the art' Windmill Theatre.

The department also owns a set of tuned percussion, orchestral, Samba and Latin percussion, steel pans, and its own 1000K PA system with a wide variety of microphones, including 4 radio mikes, chiefly used by our Big Band who play at many public events in the area and tours abroad.

We regularly perform in the local community, at primary schools, at the Dome, Old Market Theatre, Metropole Hotel, Brighton Centre, Jubilee Square and as part of Brighton and Chichester Festivals. We have also performed in the National Theatre in London and in Germany, America and Paris.

The successful candidate will be highly motivated and totally committed to the school, having particular responsibility for the activities in the extended curriculum as well as developing his/her own initiatives and interests within the overall framework of the whole school policy, giving attention to curriculum development with a drive for excellent teaching and learning.

Candidates will be asked to give a 30 minute lesson to a Year 7 or 8 class of approximately 30 students and also conduct our chamber orchestra.

Jacqui Fawcett
Director of Performing Arts