



Head of Music Application Pack



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About us

Gosfield School was established at Cut Hedge Park in 1929 when the daughter of the textile manufacturer, George Courtauld purchased the land and buildings from the executors of her late father's estate. Constance Cicely Courtauld started a Senior Boy's Boarding School the same year, with pupils relocating from Leigh Hall School in Southend. In 1944, Cicely gifted the School and estate to Headmaster John Turner who continued the work started by Cicely. In 1967, the School became a charitable trust and in 1986, the School became co-educational. A Prep School was opened in 1989 and we welcomed our first Sixth Form pupils in 1994. In 2006, Gosfield School Ltd purchased the freehold of the estate and buildings from the Turner family. In 2015, we opened Meadow Court, a purpose built Prep School, which is home to a Nursery, Reception Class up to Year 5, within the grounds of our 110 acre estate. We continue to develop and upgrade our infrastructure, we opened our Forest School and Cricket Pavilion in May 2017. Our Cricket Academy welcomed its first Scholars in Summer 2018, we opened our new Design Technology workshop in January 2019 and undertook the design led redecoration of the Manor House. The construction of our new Performing Arts Centre has recently been completed. We are committed to the development of our young people in an environment where all pupils feel valued and are able to achieve excellence in all aspects of life. We have non-academic entry criteria and consistently achieve outstanding outcomes when compared to Schools with academic entry criteria. Cicely's founding principles for the School were to create a family environment in which young people would flourish and we remain faithful to those principles today.

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Our Principal

Mr Rod Jackson Mr Jackson became Principal of Gosfield School in September 2021. He has a wealth of experience, having spent more than 30 years working in Independent Schools in Africa, Australia and the United Kingdom. He is a passionate promoter of an entirely holistic approach to learning, in which a rigorous approach to academic education, an outstanding programme of extracurricular opportunities, alongside excellent pastoral care and personal development combine to create a world class educational experience for each child. Mr Jackson believes that it is essential not only that we educate our students to be global citizens but that we ensure they have the skills and the desire to change the world for the better, as future leaders.

Before joining Gosfield, Mr Jackson served as Head of The International Community School in Marylebone and prior to that he was Head of Secondary at The King Alfred School in Hampstead, earlier leadership roles include Head of Classics at Cranleigh School and Senior Housemaster at Aldenham School. Mr Jackson holds a BA (Hons) degree in Classics from the University of Adelaide and a MEd from the University of Cambridge.



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Music and Performing Arts at Gosfield School

All pupils, from Reception upwards, are taught Music and Drama by subject specialist who also teach in the Senior School, with use of the purpose-built Performing Arts Centre.

Our Curriculum is designed to ensure that music, singing, dance and drama are enjoyable and accessible to all. Throughout the school year, there are a number of performances from Music Recitals, Dance Shows and Christmas Shows, to full musical productions for both Prep and Senior pupils. Performing Arts also contributes significantly to our Co-curricular programme, offering daily Performing Arts options during both lunch and after school, including activities for all ages and abilities and areas of interest. From Gosfield Dance Company or our Performing Arts Competition Team, to Drama Club, Choir, or Stage Lighting Club, there is something for everyone.

In addition to a broad and varied curriculum and Co-curricular programme, we also have a team of ten talented peripatetic teachers, who provide 1:1 tuition in a wide range of instruments, as well as singing, LAMDA and dance.

Organisation

Following the formation of the Gosfield Performing Arts Academy in September of 2021 and the subsequent completion of the Gosfield Performing Arts Centre in 2022, the school has seen a sustained period of growth in relation to the performing arts provision across the whole school from nursery to sixth form.

The Performing Arts Academy operates across two strands; the whole school program based on engagement and the advance level scholarship programme.

Whole school

The whole school program includes curriculum-based lessons in music, dance and drama for all students from Reception age until year 9. Lessons are all taught by industry professional qualified teachers, who specialise in their subject areas.

GCSEs are offered in music and drama and the school has an ambition to launch GCSE dance in the future.

As part of the growing sixth form provision at Gosfield, we currently offer A-level music and are embarking on an exciting new journey with the University of the Arts, London to deliver the UAL Level Three course in Performance and Production Arts. An industry recognised qualification which enables students to explore various aspects of production and performance, preparing them fully for a career within the industry.

In addition to curriculum time, the whole school engages in a vast variety of co-curricular activities each afternoon. The Performing Arts Academy offers something each evening including production preparation, dance clubs and choir, to mention only a few.

This rapidly developing area of the school has seen a considerable period of successful growth over the last 18 months and we are proud to have been recognised in all categories at the ISA National Dance competition. Taking 1st place for KS3 and a special performance award at KS4.

Students also have access to a wide range of peripatetic music lessons, ranging from drums to woodwind and everything in between. 20% of the school also undertake LAMDA examination lessons in musical theatre, drama, and public speaking.

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Head of Music

In addition to the Teacher Job Description, the Head of Department/Subject Co-ordinator has the following responsibilities:

1. To be responsible for the support and academic development of pupils within the department.
2. In consultation with other members of the department to be responsible for producing an annual Department Development Plan which
 - Clearly identifies targets for the department consistent with the Whole School Development Plan
 - Forms the basis for budget requirements relating to capitation, INSET funds and other resources
 - Clearly identifies professional development requirements
3. To be responsible for ensuring that all resources, both human and physical, within the department are used to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning. To engage in such Quality Assurance procedures required to monitor and develop the quality of teaching and learning within the department.
4. Curriculum and Co-Curricular
 - To be responsible for preparing teaching materials, curriculum outlines and schemes of work appropriate for implementing the curriculum
 - To identify knowledge, skills and understanding appropriate to the department which contributes to the overall learning experience of pupils
 - To determine how such knowledge, skills and understanding might develop through the curriculum
 - To ensure that pupils acquire knowledge, skills and understanding progressively and at an appropriate pace
 - To be responsible for ensuring that the department has prepared teaching materials and schemes of work appropriate for implementing the curriculum
 - To ensure the appropriate differentiation of the curriculum to meet the needs of all levels of pupil ability, including Able, Gifted and Talented
 - In consultation with other Department Heads, to contribute to the development of relevant cross-curricular themes and other opportunities for extending the work of the department outside the classroom (e.g. projects, primary liaison)
 - To promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils
 - To ensure appropriate guidance and assistance is sought in order to meet pupils' Special Learning needs
 - To support Form Tutors by drawing to their attention those pupils who are consistently underachieving and are not responding to the department's learning strategies
 - To be responsible for the production/upkeep of a departmental handbook
 - To be responsible for promoting the department through displays, publicity materials for the media, parents etc.

- To represent the department at parent information and consultation evenings.
- To be responsible for Health and Safety in the Department.
- To ensure our outstanding programme of musical events, clubs, activities, trips and performances continue

5. Assessment

- To be responsible for developing appropriate assessment recording and reporting policies within the department which meet whole school requirements
- To be responsible for implementing whole school policies relating to the effectiveness of learning across the department
- To be responsible for ensuring that the highest standards of teaching and learning take place in the department
- To be responsible for the appropriateness and implementation of teaching and revision strategies which adequately prepare pupils for internal tests and public examinations
- To be able to review assessment outcomes and data and use these to support action planning and interventions for the future.

6. Management

- To be responsible to the Head of Performing Arts
- To attend Heads of Department meetings
- To be responsible for convening regular meetings of the department if appropriate, to allow for full discussion of pertinent issues, standing agenda items and an appreciation of the various tasks that need to be completed
- To involve staff in taking responsibility for aspects of the department's development plan and provide appropriate advice and assistance
- To ensure that staff are aware of their professional responsibilities and uphold the policies of the school
- To be aware of the needs and skills of staff within the department and seek ways to enhance their professional development

7. Behaviour

- To encourage pupils to follow the school's Code of Conduct in order that they develop self esteem, self discipline and respond accordingly
- To be responsible, with members of the department, for monitoring the conduct of pupils and take action in consultation with the appropriate Form Tutor

8. Attendance

To be responsible with members of the department for recording and monitoring the attendance and punctuality of pupils within class group

9. Equal Opportunities

To be active and alert in ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and cultural background, enjoy equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum which enables them to achieve good standards and to be involved in designing materials which facilitate this.

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10. Community

- To develop strategies which enhance the positive relationship between the school and parents and local community.
- To liaise with the other Department Heads in developing policies which facilitate:
 - * Primary/secondary liaison and enhance the transition of Year 6 pupils
 - * Secondary/further and higher education liaison and the transition of senior students
- To foster and support extra-curricular activities in the interests of the school community, e.g. school concerts, plays, sports fixtures, etc.

11. Personal Targets

These will be agreed upon every year and reviewed on a regular basis.

Note: The duties and responsibilities of this post may vary from time to time according to the changing needs of the school. This job description may be reviewed at the reasonable discretion of the Principal in the light of those changing requirements and in consultation with the postholder. In any event the Principal reserves the right to review and amend the job description.



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How to apply

Download an Application Form from our website [www.gosfieldschool.org.uk] and send together with a covering letter to Mrs Sara Bowles, EA to the Principal:

Sara.Bowles@gosfieldschool.org.uk

Deadline for applications: noon Friday 28 March 2025

Interviews: w/c 31 March 2025

Start Date: 1 September 2025

*Please Note to avoid disappointment applicants are encouraged to apply prior to the deadline as we reserve the right to consider applications as they are received and to appoint prior to the deadline.

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