

Graduate Assistant Teacher of Music (Senior School)

Required from September 2025, (fixed term)

The Post

This is a new outstanding opportunity for a music graduate to build upon the success of the Music department by supporting the Director of Music and Head of Academic Music with matters relating to the organisation and delivery of Music, from September 2025 for one academic year.

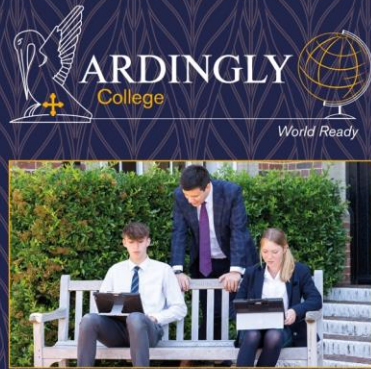
The post would suit somebody considering a teaching career, although no teaching experience or qualification is required. We are looking for someone who is passionate about their subject, who is competent in an instrument, who has a love of learning and who wishes to share that passion with enthusiastic and energetic young people.

The Role

The Graduate Assistant Teacher of Music will:

- Assist with Lower School and Year 9 academic music teaching
- Organise and lead music theory tuition (group and one-to-one) for Music Scholars and pre-GCSE students
- Monitor progress, track and lead ABRSM theory programme including scheduling and invigilation of exams
- Support senior school ensemble rehearsals and performance logistics
- Manage instrument lockers in Music Department
- Monitor instrument inventory and stocktake
- Manage music library
- Create and maintain digital database by scanning scores into Teams for all ensembles
- Transcribe, transpose and arrange scores where necessary for college ensembles
- Collect supplies for rehearsals, concerts and trips including kitchen supplies, lunches, med kits, vehicle keys
- Design posters for Music Department concerts and events
- Support music technology sessions and recording studio management by keeping the band room, studio and storage cupboards tidy, organised and well stocked.
- Support wider College music events (both Prep and Senior events) as needed
- Support with transporting music equipment around the college
- Act as a full member of the Senior School teaching staff (Common Room)





The Department

Ardingly enjoys a tradition of musical excellence, with a varied programme of student ensembles and opportunities. There are currently eight full-time members of academic staff including the Director of Music, the Assistant Director of Music (Performance), the Head of Academic Senior School Music, the Prep School Music Lead, a Senior School music teacher, a Senior School Graduate Teacher and two music administrators. In addition, there are 25 Visiting Music Teachers who range from one-to-five days per week and teach every instrument available. Students in Reception-Year 2 can learn the piano or recorder; students in Year 3 all learn the violin as part of the College "Taster Scheme". From Year 4 onwards, students have access to the rest of the instruments on offer. There are currently 40 music ensembles across the Prep and Senior Schools; there is something for all abilities and levels of experience including concert bands, orchestras, rock bands, choirs and chamber ensembles. These ensembles have regular opportunities to perform at the college including Chapel Services, formal termly concerts (for both Prep and Senior schools), weekly Informal Concerts and Young Musician of the Year/House Music. The Senior School, naturally, has more concerts including the senior (100-strong) Chapel Choir and (5-strong) Symphony Orchestra performing at Sinfonia Smith Hall each March and touring internationally each October; the senior chamber choir sings regularly at the likes of Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. There is frequent cross-over for Prep and Senior music events with both schools partaking in our termly Music@Ardingly series including masterclasses and concerts with visiting musical artists. Recent visitors have included Voces8, Stomp, Brass Funkeys, National Jazz Orchestra and the Benedetti Foundation.

In the Senior School, all "Lower School" (year 7-8) students have one academic music lesson per week. In year 9, music becomes an optional subject receiving two academic lessons per week. Students will also come to the Music School for any instrumental or vocal lessons that they have (500 per week) or for any rehearsals or concerts that they are involved in. All Prep School students are provided with one academic music lesson and one year-group choir session per week. Prep Students come to the Music School for their individual instrumental or vocal lessons. Senior Academic music numbers are high, with currently 16 students preparing for GCSE music in the 5th form, nine students preparing for A-level music in the Upper 6th and two students taking Upper 6th IB music. In 2024, all students studying GCSE music achieved 7-9 whilst in the IB, all music students taking higher level have achieved 6/7 since 2014.

Both the Prep and Senior School have access to the Music School facilities including three grand pianos, a Harrison 3-manual Pipe Organ, a well-equipped Recording Studio, five drumkits, a concert-length Marimba and a full stock of Orff xylophones and Samba percussion equipment.





The College

Ardingly College is an award-winning independent co-educational school offering an outstanding all-through education to over a thousand children in a beautiful part of West Sussex, with excellent transport links locally and across the South-East.

The Prep School has over 220 pupils from Reception to Year 6, as well as a thriving Nursery. Reception to Year 3 pupils are based in the Farmhouse, and Years 4 to 6 on the main school site in School House. The Prep School lives and breathes the values of *Shaping My World*, through which primary aged children learn to explore the world around them in ways that are adventurous, curious, generous, and ingenious.

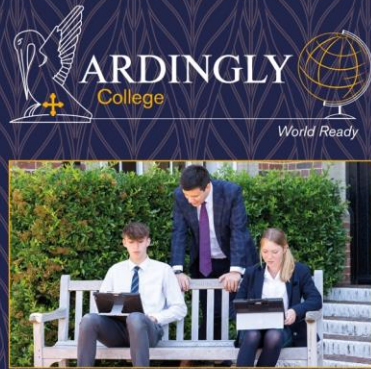
The Senior School has around 850 students aged from 11-18, more than 300 of whom are boarders. The curriculum is designed to be broad and stimulating, with over 25 subjects offered and a choice of A Level, IB Diploma or BTEC courses in the Sixth Form.

The wellbeing and welfare of our students is paramount, with a strong emphasis on pastoral support provided through House staff, the Health & Wellbeing Centre and additional pastoral support such as the Chaplain, DSL, and Mental Health Lead. Ardingly prides itself on every student being known and valued as an individual and achieves this through small pastoral groups (with a maximum of 10 students in each Tutor Group from Year 9 upwards) and a strong House system, which provides every pupil – whether day or boarding - with their ‘home from home’ at the College. In recognition of this outstanding pastoral care, during the most recent ISI inspection the College was judged to meet all standards and have a “significant strength” in boarding, which is the highest accolade available under the new Inspection Regime.

Academic results are high. The College has been in the top 10 schools in the UK for nine out of the past ten years and is regularly in the Top 50 schools in the UK for A Levels, according to The Sunday Times. While we are proud of these excellent academic results, however, Ardingly places equal value on ensuring our students are equipped with the mindset, personal qualities and skills they will need to succeed in a rapidly changing world beyond school. This is at the heart of our World Ready approach and our innovative Enterprise & Employability programme recently won two national awards: The Week’s ‘Best Preparation for Life’ and the Independent School of the Year ‘Best for Student Careers’.

The College offers an outstanding range of more than 150 co-curricular activities and has a proud tradition of participation and achievement. In sports, pupils compete successfully at local, regional, and national levels in the main sports of football, hockey, swimming, netball, cricket, and athletics. Music, Art, and Drama are particularly strong, with exciting events such as concerts at school and in professional music venues, devised and scripted drama performances and exhibitions both by talented art scholars and give-it-a-go artists among the pupil and staff population.





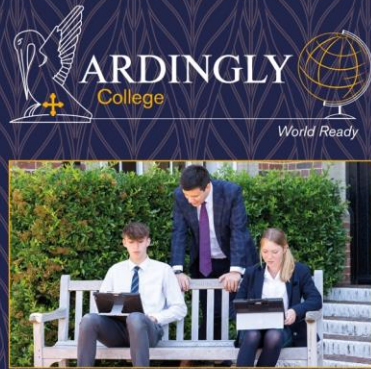
Partnership is integral to the College ethos. Within school this applies to the partnership between teachers and operations staff to maintain excellent standards and quality of provision across the campus. Beyond the school gates, we work with a range of local primary schools, as well as supporting the local community through voluntary action and working with schools abroad in Africa and Asia. The College operates a bursary programme which currently supports over 30 pupils with substantial or full fee remission.

Campus facilities are excellent, with considerable recent investment in the College campus bringing it up to the highest school standards. Recent additions include a new STEM faculty and upgrades to classrooms, as well as major refurbishments of boarding and day houses.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	Playing or singing to a high level Ensemble experience	Conducting experience Teaching experience Music arranging expertise
Qualifications	Good honours degree in Music or related subject	PGCE, QTS or equivalent
Skills and aptitudes	Ability to inspire pupils Ability to design and deliver high quality lessons Ability to play the piano Ability to run ensembles and rehearsals	Ability to contribute to department developments and an awareness of national changes to the nature of teaching Ability to play the organ
Personal and professional	Willingness to contribute to the wider life of a busy school Ability to inspire and motivate others and to relate well to students in Years 3-8 Ability to prioritise effectively and meet deadlines	





Terms and Conditions

Hours: Normal hours of work are 40 hours per week, for 35 weeks per year. This may be negotiated to 4 days per week. Flexibility is required for occasional evening and weekend work.

Salary: £19,248 pro rata per annum (inclusive of holiday pay)

Application Procedure

Applications should be made via our on-line recruitment system at www.ardingly.com/vacancies and should include a covering letter or personal statement outlining the applicant's suitability for the role and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees.

Ardingly College is committed to ensuring the welfare of our pupils and appropriate checks will be made before the appointment is finalised.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 25th April 2025**, although applications will be considered upon receipt. Interviews are expected to take place on Wednesday 7th and/or Thursday 8th May 2025.

