

Graduate Assistant Teacher of Music (Prep School)

Required from September 2025 (fixed term)

The Post

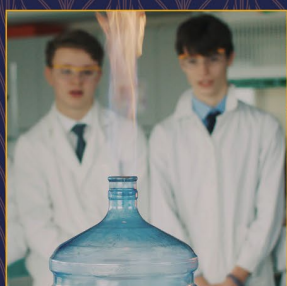
This is a new outstanding opportunity for a music graduate to build upon the success of the Music department by supporting the Director of Music and, in particular, the Prep School Music Lead with matters relating to the organisation and delivery of Music, from September 2025.

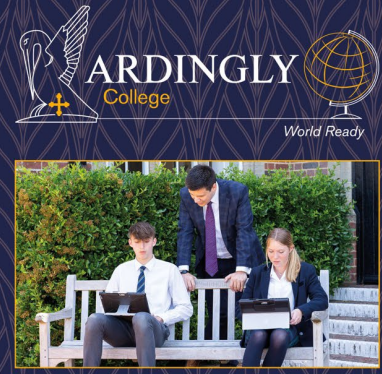
The post would suit somebody considering a teaching career, though no specific teaching experience or qualifications is required. We are looking for someone who is passionate about their subject, who has a love of learning and who wishes to share that passion with enthusiastic and energetic young people.

The Role

The Post Graduate Assistant Teacher of Music (Prep) will:

- Assist Prep Music Lead with all Prep academic music lessons for both Farmhouse and School House (from Nursery, Reception through to year 6)
- Assist and accompanying all Prep choirs in rehearsal and performance
- Assist with all Prep instrumental ensembles in rehearsal and performance
- Lead Prep music extensions (aural skills, sight-reading, theory etc) in preparation for music exams, scholarships, and auditions
- Assist PML with transporting instruments between FH and Music School
- Support the maintenance and inventory of Prep School musical equipment
- Assist and support with the running Prep music events
- Supporting with the designing of posters (Canva), creating/updating displays in Music Department
- Escort Prep students to and from lessons when required
- Play the organ/piano for Prep congors and chapel services (depending on skill set)
- Assist Prep Music Lead with partnership events and trips
- Support wider College music events and trips (both Prep and Senior) as needed
- Play/sing in senior instrumental ensembles where possible (Chapel Choir, instrumental groups)
- Responsible for keeping the Recital Room and other Prep Music teaching areas tidy
- Record and administer digital examinations (practical and theory)
- Act as a full member of the Prep School teaching staff (common room)
- Accompany staff/parent choir (TBC and depending on skill set)



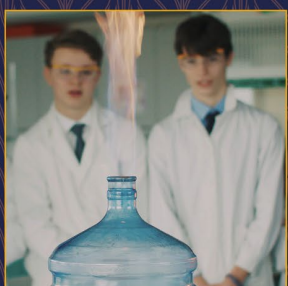


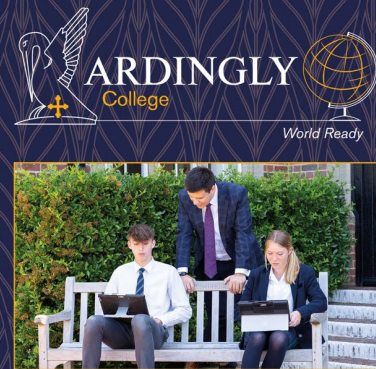
The Department

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 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.

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.

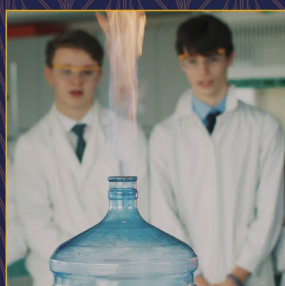
The Prep School has over 220 pupils from Reception to Year 6, as well as a thriving Nursery. Reception to Year 3 pupils are based in the Farmhouse, and Years 4 to 6 on the main school site in School House. The Prep School lives and breathes the values of *Shaping My World*, through which primary aged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

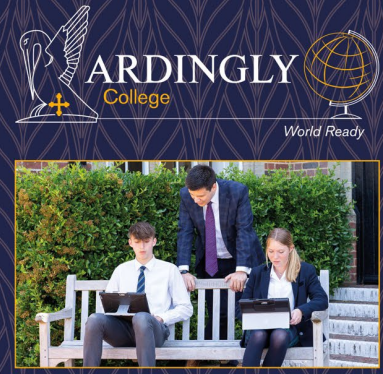
The Senior School has around 850 students aged from 11-18, more than 300 of whom are boarders. The curriculum is designed to be broad and stimulating, with over 25 subjects offered and a choice of A Level, IB Diploma or BTEC courses in the Sixth Form.

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

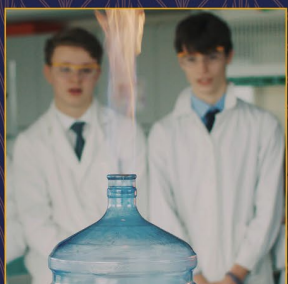


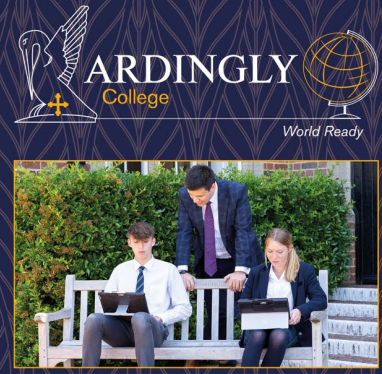


professional music venues, devised and scripted drama performances and exhibitions both by talented art scholars and give-it-a-go artists among the pupil and staff population.

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.

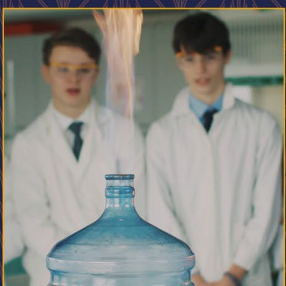
Campus facilities are excellent, with considerable recent investment in the College campus bringing it up to the highest school standards. Recent additions include a new STEM faculty and upgrades to classrooms, as well as major refurbishments of boarding and day houses.

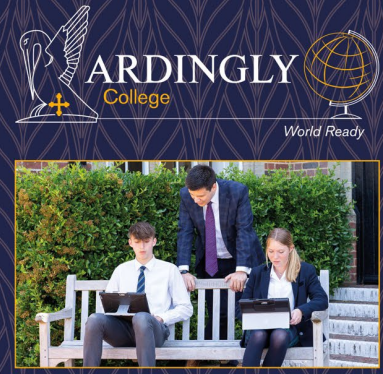




Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	Experience playing or singing to a high level	Conducting experience
Qualifications	Good honours degree in Music;	PGCE, QTS or equivalent Orff, Kodaly or other music pedagogy training
Skills and Aptitudes	Keyboard skills Instrumental music skills Confident singer Ability to use computer software including Office, Word, Outlook, Powerpoint	Experienced accompanist, pianist/organist Experience as a performing musicians Experience of directing ensembles Ability to use Music technology platforms such as Logic, Appleton, Sibelius Experience arranging
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 1-6 Ability to prioritise effectively and meet deadlines Strong interpersonal skills and good communication and written skills Ability to work with little or no supervision	





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, one of whom must be the applicant's current Head.

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.

