



Parkstone Grammar School

Director of Music

Applicant Pack

Parkstone Grammar School
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Headteacher's Welcome

As the headteacher of Parkstone Grammar School, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant and dynamic school community. At Parkstone, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that nurtures the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of every student.

We are a heavily oversubscribed 11-18 selective girls' school offering outstanding education to the students of Poole and its surrounding area. Founded in 1905, Parkstone has continued to provide excellent academic results within a warm, friendly and vibrant community. We are a six-form entry school with 1250 students including 350 in the sixth form.

Our school is a place where students are encouraged to explore their passions, expand their knowledge, and develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. We have a team of dedicated and highly qualified teachers and support staff who are passionate about education and are committed to inspiring and challenging our students.

We believe in creating a supportive and inclusive environment where each student feels valued and respected. Our students are rightly proud of their school which provides for them a broad and balanced curriculum promoting independence, intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. Subjects offered at GCSE and A Level include academic and facilitating subjects from a very wide range. Our sixth form collaboration with Poole Grammar School for Boys allows us to offer an extensive A Level curriculum.

Students at Parkstone are not only encouraged to succeed academically, but to enjoy the wide range of musical, theatrical, sporting, speaking and charitable opportunities. They thrive in an environment of support and challenge, becoming resilient learners well prepared to succeed in the 21st Century.

The unique single-sex selective environment allows the students to grow in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Parkstone's national reputation for excellence and continued success is testament to the consistent dedication of students, staff and governors.

Ofsted commented that Parkstone offers a 'stimulating, friendly community in which all students are valued and may thrive intellectually, emotionally and physically'. Our school's focus is always on teaching and learning as we strive to challenge these able students to become confident, happy and successful young people.

I invite you to apply to our school, and experience the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes Parkstone truly special. If you're ready to embark on a rewarding journey where your passion for education meets limitless possibilities, we encourage you to explore the opportunities at Parkstone. Join us in making a difference to our young people and shaping the future together.

David Hallsworth, Headteacher



Our Vision

At Parkstone, we embody the values of Commitment, Courage and Compassion to enable students to adapt and thrive in an evolving world, providing an education that inspires and empowers students to determine and achieve their goals.

COMMITMENT

“Be tenacious and relentless in your curiosity for knowledge”

COURAGE

“Feel confident to achieve your very best and develop your resilience to overcome barriers”

COMPASSION

“You should encourage and care for your peers, value and engage with all cultures and religions in our diverse global community”

“Parkstone has encouraged and inspired me to love learning. There is a great community and I am always supported – just like a family.”

Year 7 Pupil



Our Guiding Principles

- Parkstone will be a seat of exceptional learning where great teachers enjoy autonomy in the classroom to inspire and challenge our able students.
- Very high-quality staff development and peer support to facilitate highly effective learning over time.
- Effective feedback to move students forward in their knowledge and skill development.
- Parkstone will achieve amongst the best schools in the country for the national progress measures at GCSE and A Level.
- A positive ethos underpinned by our values of Courage, Commitment and Compassion.
- Personalised support with highly effective intervention to enable equal access to learning.
- Students will have an understanding of global and national diversity and will be well prepared for life in an ever-evolving world.
- A strong community supported by the staff and student leadership teams.
- Compassionate, high quality advice and guidance to make informed and confident decisions regarding life after Parkstone.
- Opportunities outside the classroom which provide holistic development.
- To engage in initiatives and charity projects to contribute to the local and wider community.
- A broad, balanced and inspiring curriculum appropriate to Parkstone.
- An inspiring learning environment underpinned by a research culture and reflective practice.
- Our community will have high expectations of everyone in line with our Values and Charter.
- To instil a sense of stewardship towards our local, national and global environment.



"Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils."

Ofsted Report



Our School Charter

In our community it is important that we should maintain high standards and take responsibility for our own actions.

OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To uphold the values of our school
- To treat all persons and the environment of the school with respect
- To apply ourselves to all areas of school life
- To empower all to do our best and to take care of each other
- To challenge any inequality and prejudiced attitudes

OUR RIGHTS

- To be treated with respect by all members of our community
- To feel safe both emotionally and physically in our school environment
- To participate in all the opportunities that our school offers
- To know where we can access support and guidance
- To be challenged appropriately where we fall short of our responsibilities



"Parkstone was the very best option for our daughter and has helped her grow in confidence and equipped her for university and life beyond!"

Parent



Ofsted

Key findings of this Outstanding School

“Under the headteacher’s calm, authoritative and exceptionally effective leadership, the school has improved rapidly since the previous inspection”.

“Leadership at all levels is very strong. Governors, senior leaders, middle leaders and other staff work harmoniously together to provide high-quality education for pupils”.

“Pupils make remarkable progress by the time they take their GCSEs in Year 11. This is sustained in the sixth form”.

“By the time they leave school, pupils have attained consistently at the highest levels and are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education or employment”.

“Disadvantaged pupils make exceptional progress during their time at the school. Their rates of progress are much higher than other pupils nationally with the same starting points”.

“School leaders make very good use of targeted training to develop teachers’ professional knowledge and skills. As a result, teaching continues to improve”.

“Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils. Teachers have an unswerving faith in the ability of their pupils to succeed and give their time unselfishly to ensure that this happens”.

“Pupils are confident and articulate learners. They take great pride in their work and are determined to succeed”.

“Pupils’ behaviour is impeccable and their positive attitudes to learning are exemplary. They are hungry to learn and attendance rates are high, including in the sixth form”.

“The sixth form is outstanding. Students follow very well developed 16 to 19 study programmes”.

“Disadvantaged students prosper in the sixth form and in recent years all have gone on to university”.



Benefits

Parkstone is pleased to be able to offer all staff members a

Core Benefits

- A contributory pension scheme relevant to your role (including access to Teacher and Local Government Schemes).
- Occupational sick pay.
- Tailored Continuous Professional Development (CPD) through the South Central Teaching Hub.
- Free access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) - confidential support network that offers expert advice and compassionate guidance 24/7 covering a wide range of issues, such as: Legal Information, Bereavement Support and Online CBT among much more.
- All staff are entitled to a 'Golden Day' once a year – a paid day off or part time equivalent.
- Free Yoga and Pilates sessions throughout the term.
- Termly Staff Wellbeing and Workload groups to raise and solve issues.

Flexible Benefits

- Cycle to work scheme
- Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice Scheme through Love Electric



Director of Music

DETAILS OF THE POST

This permanent post becomes available from 1 September 2024.

The position offers excellent prospects for a committed and enthusiastic candidate to lead a highly effective, dynamic and very successful Music Department. We are looking to appoint an excellent leader to our Music Department that offers GCSE Music, as well as A Level Music. The ideal candidate will be a leader who can inspire students and staff and bring out the best in all our students.

We are very proud of our extra-curricular music opportunities and the successful candidate would be expected to lead these areas. All teachers are expected to act as form tutors.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Music Department currently consists of two teaching members of staff (including the Director of Music) as well as peripatetic teachers. The Music Department is highly successful and effective; staff are committed to maximising student achievement and examination results in the department are excellent.

CURRICULUM

Students in Years 7 and 8 follow an exciting Key Stage 3 curriculum that currently includes:

Year 7

Find Your Voice
In the Groove (a ukulele-based project)
The Elements of Music (Keyboard skills)
Ensemble project
Form and Structure

Year 8

Film music
Romantic music
Indian Music
Jazz and Blues
Pop music

A range of teaching and learning styles is encouraged at all levels, with students quick to respond to group work, individually negotiated tasks or whole class activities. The department is involved in the Initial Teacher Education programme.

Students make six option choices at the end of Year 8 and then reduce this to four options at the end of Year 9. We currently have 81 students across Years 9-11 taking Music. At GCSE and A Level our students work towards the Eduqas syllabus in Music.



RESOURCES

The Music Department has extensive facilities. Situated in its own block with a Drama Studio the department has two designated teaching rooms, both of which have a suite of digital keyboards and one of which is furnished with a suite of 22 computers. In addition to the main teaching rooms, the Music block has seven additional practice rooms available for peripatetic lessons and individual practice space. Two practice rooms have had mini-studios recently installed. There are five rooms equipped with pianos, two with digital pianos and the hall houses a Yamaha baby-grand piano. The department also has a class set of ukuleles, a class samba set, four drum kits, six bass guitars, an extensive library of ensemble music and much more.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music enriches our school and we are very proud of the opportunities provided and the quality of performance.

Current commitments include:

- Carol Service at our local church and in school during December
- Performing at the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party in December
- Poole Schools' Music Association joint concert at Lighthouse, Poole
- Remembrance Day Service
- Spring Concert
- Summer Concert
- School Musical, joint with the boys' Grammar School (2022 Grease, 2024-25 Into the Woods)
- Music Tour every other year (e.g. 2022 Liverpool, 2024 Cologne), joint with the boys' Grammar School

Participation is extremely high and our main school concerts regularly have over 120 performers taking part.

Current music ensembles are led by teaching staff and peripatetic music teachers and include:

- Concert Orchestra (60 members), joint with the boys' Grammar School
- Advanced Orchestra (30 members), joint with the boys' Grammar School
- Concert Band (30 members), joint with the boys' Grammar School
- Rock Choir (70 members)
- Tutti Flutti (8 members)
- Bella Voce, an auditioned 4-part choir (24 members)
- Guitar Group (6 members)
- Clarinet and Sax ensemble (15 members)
- Brass Ensemble (15 members)
- Senior Strings (12 members)
- Hand Chimes (10 members)
- Percussion ensemble (8 members)



The department has close ties with the BSO and works closely with SoundStorm Music Hub to provide further enrichment opportunities and has run a successful endangered instrument scheme for seven years now.

Instrumental tuition is provided by a team of 17 highly-qualified Peripatetic staff covering all orchestral instruments, plus classical and contemporary guitar, drum kit, piano and singing. Over 200 lessons take place each week.



Job Description

Director of Music

Full-Time, permanent, TLR 2c

Responsible to: The Headteacher
Senior Leader with responsibility for your subject area

Responsible for: The students in your charge
Subject staff in the department
ITE students in the department

Important relationships: Students and parents
The Leadership Group
Heads of other departments
Heads of Year
Learning Support Coordinator
Examination Administrator
Other members of the teaching and support staff
The Governing Body and in particular the Governor attached to the department

Important external relationships: Staff in all phases of local schools and other relevant educational establishments
Subject-specific professional organisations

Main purpose of the job

- To ensure the development of students by teaching the curriculum with due regard for the aims and objectives of the school and the needs of individual students
- To lead and manage the Music Department and to raise standards of student progress and outcomes within the curriculum area
- To monitor and support student progress within the curriculum area
- To promote successful learning and to take responsibility for effective teaching and learning within the department in accordance with the aims of the school
- To support, advise and encourage members of the department and to monitor their performance
- To effectively manage and deploy teaching/support staff, financial and physical resources within the department
- To oversee peripatetic teaching staff



- To run enrichment activities and trips within the department including a range of ensembles and concerts and school events as required.

Employment Duties

This job description is to be performed in accordance with the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and within the range of duties set out in that document.

The Leadership Group is aware of the complexities and pressures of the role of Middle Leaders and will work to support them in carrying out this role through the Line Management system.

Main responsibilities of the job

1. Curriculum

- 1.1 Keeping abreast of new curriculum thinking, teaching methods and examination syllabuses and leading developments where appropriate in line with national developments
- 1.2 Coordinating and having overall leadership of Music taught in school within and outside the taught curriculum
- 1.3 Being accountable for the development and delivery of the curriculum area
- 1.4 Establishing and regularly revising written aims and objectives, programmes of study, schemes of work and appropriate policies for the department
- 1.5 Arranging for the effective assessment of students as required by departmental and school policies
- 1.6 Drawing up departmental homework and coursework/controlled assessment policies within school guidelines
- 1.7 Monitoring and evaluating the department's work in line with agreed school procedures
- 1.8 Introducing and implementing change as a result of the departmental evaluation
- 1.9 Ensuring that e-learning is firmly embedded in the work of the department and that this enhances student learning
- 1.10 Having overall strategic leadership of Music trips



2. **Resources**

- 2.1 Keeping abreast of developments in resources, including textbook and e-learning
- 2.2 Identifying the resource needs of the department, establishing priorities, planning and monitoring the expenditure of the departmental budget
- 2.3 Having responsibility for effective management of departmental resources
- 2.4 Monitoring the condition of, the access to, and the secure storage of all resources belonging to the department

3. **Staff**

- 3.1 Working with colleagues to formulate aims, objectives and strategic plans for the department which have coherence and relevance to the needs of students and to the aims, objectives and strategic plans of the school
- 3.2 Having responsibility for the day-to-day management of the department.
- 3.3 Ensuring that all relevant information on curriculum and resources is communicated to all members of the department
- 3.4 Promoting the use of a variety of teaching methods and strategies, and providing guidelines in the departmental schemes of work
- 3.5 Setting standards of good practice in the department with regard to the delivery of the curriculum, teaching styles, record-keeping and assessment and ensuring that members of the department are working to these common standards
- 3.6 Assisting with the selection of teaching staff for the department
- 3.7 Providing the appropriate information to the Assistant Headteacher for the construction of the timetable and ensuring a balanced allocation of classes and teaching groups to staff
- 3.8 Contributing to the school's procedures for coaching visits and Drop ins.
- 3.9 Recognising and utilising the strengths of members of the department
- 3.10 Identifying areas in which members of the department need to acquire specific skills, and supporting them in the acquisition of these skills
- 3.11 Disseminating CPD information and encouraging the professional development of the members of the department and themselves



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- 3.12 Holding regular departmental meetings with agendas and notes (copies to the Headteacher and the Line Manager). Members of the department should be encouraged to table agenda items so that matters of concern to them can be discussed
 - 3.13 Having regular meetings with their Line Managers
 - 3.14 Providing full and regular feedback to members of the department, through departmental meetings, of matters discussed at Middle Leader meetings
 - 3.15 Providing a channel of communication through which members of the department can make their views known to the Leadership Group
 - 3.16 Promoting enthusiasm, openness to new ideas, commitment and a happy and homogenous departmental team
 - 3.17 Supervising and assisting ECTs in the department
 - 3.18 Managing and supervising the work of any support staff attached to the department
 - 3.19 Working with the lead on the programme for Initial Teacher Training within the school where appropriate
 - 3.20 Being involved in the Teacher Appraisal process within the school both as a reviewer and reviewee
 - 3.21 Checking that appropriate arrangements are made for classes when staff are absent
 - 3.22 Attending and contributing to Middle Leader Meetings
 - 4. **Students**
 - 4.1 Monitoring the overall academic progress through SISRA and well-being of students within the department and taking action where there is cause for concern
 - 4.2 Leading the department on target setting for students
 - 4.3 Leading the department in the effective tracking of student progress and effective intervention strategies
 - 4.4 Ensuring that appropriate, accurate and up-to-date data on student progress and attainment is maintained within the department
 - 4.5 Celebrating and rewarding the achievement of students within the department



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- 4.6 With the department, looking at ways of raising the achievement of students
 - 4.7 Providing students with subject-specific advice on subject choices and Higher Education entry when appropriate
 - 4.8 Working with members of the department on disciplinary matters with students
 - 4.9 Ensuring that the Behaviour Management system is implemented in the department so that effective learning can take place
 - 4.10 Ensuring quality consistent reports are written by all members of the department
 - 4.11 Providing appropriate information to the Examinations Administrator on student entries for examinations
 - 5. **Other Responsibilities**
 - 5.1 Establishing and maintaining a safe, high quality teaching and learning environment in the subject area
 - 5.2 Formulating the departmental development plan in consultation with the department
 - 5.3 Promoting links and cooperation with other departments and outside bodies where appropriate
 - 5.4 Keeping the departmental handbook up-to-date
 - 5.5 Encouraging departmental involvement in school initiatives
 - 5.6 Encouraging departmental involvement in extra-curricular school activities
 - 5.7 Providing such reports on the department as may be required by the Governors or Headteacher
 - 5.8 Contributing to the formulation, and cooperating in the implementation of school policies
 - 5.9 Engaging with department self-evaluation, utilising external data measures
 - 5.10 Playing a full part in the life of the school community, supporting its aims and ethos and encouraging staff and students to follow this example
 - 6. Undertaking other duties as may reasonably be expected, in addition to carrying out the responsibilities and duties of a classroom teacher (Main or Upper Pay Scale) when undertaking the teaching of pupils



Person Specification

We are seeking a highly skilled colleague who will be dynamic and committed to the school. The qualities/ skills/experience we are looking for include:

- excellent academic/professional qualifications
- the ability to lead, inspire and support a team, delegating where necessary
- the highest possible expectations of attitudes to learning and student progress
- excellent classroom skills
- conducting and music performing skills – it would be desirable to play the piano
- proven record of success in teaching
- the ability to demonstrate enthusiasm and passion for the subject
- excellent subject knowledge and an awareness of current developments in the subject
- proven or emerging experience of leadership
- the ability to work well within a team
- excellent inter-personal skills
- decision-making skills
- excellent communication and presentation skills
- ICT skills that enable you to make the best use of new technology to support teaching and learning
- the ability to work effectively under pressure
- a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students
- a commitment to the wider life of the school
- a commitment to equality of opportunity
- a commitment to continuous improvement and professional development
- boundless energy and a sense of humour!



Contact us

If you would like more information about Parkstone Grammar School please email recruitment@parkstone.poole.sch.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to discuss the vacancy please call 01202 605605 8.00 – 4.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.00 – 4.00 on a Friday.

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