



PALMERS GREEN
HIGH SCHOOL

HEAD OF MUSIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

INTRODUCTION

Palmers Green High School (PGHS) seeks to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspirational musician and teacher to lead our dynamic and successful Music Department.

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and committed musician and teacher to join a school that works collaboratively to get the very best from all pupils. The successful candidate will inspire pupils to get involved in the musical life of the school by teaching Music across the age range (EYFS, KS1 – KS4), leading a range of ensembles and extra-curricular musical activities and ensuring there are ample performance opportunities for musicians and vocalists of all ages and standards. The successful candidate will have excellent subject knowledge, be highly creative and adaptable.

The post is offered on a part-time basis (0.8, 4 days per week) with a competitive salary in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The role could potentially become full-time for a candidate able to offer a second academic subject.

The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May or 13th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1905 by Miss Alice Hum, a Quaker, Palmers Green High School is unique in the North London area because it is a small selective school providing challenging and stimulating educational opportunities for approximately 300 girls aged 3-16 from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.

The school's motto "By Love Serve One Another" was set by its founder and, whilst Miss Hum was a Quaker, the school has no official religious affiliation, although it celebrates Founder's Day and Christmas with services held at the church of St John The Evangelist on Bourne Hill, where some PGHS lessons were taught during World War II when Keble Preparatory School for Boys had to share the main PGHS site in Hoppers Road.

Girls from Reception to Year 11 are taught on the main school site, situated in a residential road in Winchmore Hill. The PGHS Nursery for 3-4 year olds is situated in Bush Hill Park, some 10 minutes' drive from the main school. This section of the school is housed in a purpose-designed single storey building, which was originally a Plymouth Brethren Meeting House.



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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You will be teaching bright, interested and hard-working pupils in small classes (average 14) in an academically selective girls' independent school.

In January 2022, ISI carried out a Focused Compliance and Educational Quality inspection and reported that PGHS was fully compliant and graded the Educational Quality of the school as excellent. The school has an outstanding record of academic success in public examinations. In 2023, the school's overall percentage of GCSEs A*/9/8 grades was a magnificent 41% and A*/9 to A/7 a fantastic 69%, placing our pupils amongst the top performers in the country.

MUSIC AT PGHS

We believe that all pupils should develop an understanding and appreciation of music. Participation in music education and musical activities offers every pupil the opportunity to develop confidence, communication, collaboration, and empathy.

Music is thriving and vibrant at PGHS. Around two thirds of the girls in the school learn an instrument or have singing lessons either in or outside of school. Music scholarships are offered at 11+. Music is timetabled across the age range – from Nursery to Key Stage 4. Teaching broadly follows the National Curriculum including performance (particularly singing and use of classroom percussion), composition, developing listening skills and aural awareness, and building up background musical knowledge. Music is offered at GCSE with pupils preparing for Pearson EdExcel GCSE (1Mu0).

Results in Music from 2019 to 2023 were:

Music	9-7%	9-6%
2023	50	100
2022	29	57
2021	100	100
2020	67	100
2019	75	100

There are a wide range of extra-curricular musical activities, including choirs, orchestras and instrumental ensembles covering all ages of pupils, various standards and many genres including classical music, rock and pop, and musical theatre. Standards of performance are excellent and many girls throughout the school take part in concerts. There is an evening concert each term in addition to lunchtime concerts.

The Music Department coordinates all aspects of the music – such as congregational singing and pupil performances – for assemblies and for whole school events at our local church at Christmas and for Founder's Day in May. The Music department is responsible for organising the highly





popular annual House Music competition and also participates in external competitions such as those offered by the Independent Schools Association (ISA) and Girls' Schools Association (GSA). The department organises regular trips to concerts at London venues. We participate in Young Voices at the O2 each year.

The department is staffed by the Head of Music, a teacher of Music and a team of visiting music teachers and a freelance organist. The Music department also collaborates closely with the Drama department (particularly for our annual whole school production) and one of our science teachers runs our rock band, The Supernovas.

At PGHS all staff members are expected to give generously of their time to provide individual guidance for pupils – especially those who are pursuing GCSE courses. This may include before, during and after school study sessions and occasional weekend workshops, when required.

THE POST

The successful candidate will be capable of delivering the Music curriculum across the age range and ability spectrum with enthusiasm and expertise. They are likely to have previous experience of teaching GCSE Music and must be a competent accompanist and conductor. The successful candidate will be able to establish strong rapport with the pupils in order to harness their interest and encourage positive, active engagement. A high level of personal organisation and interpersonal skills is essential in order to liaise with colleagues, pupils, parents and the SMT/SLT.

The post will entail taking responsibility for Music at PGHS – both curricular and extra-curricular – and ensuring that the activities of the department appeal to pupils across the age range, combining wide popular participation with some truly excellent music scholars. The Head of Music will line manage the other members of the department, contributing to their professional development and performance appraisal.

The successful candidate will be an ambassador for the school and the department both within the school and in the wider community. They will benefit from opportunities offered through access to internal and external training and development.

The successful candidate may be expected to take a share in pastoral care acting as a tutor to a small group of pupils.

PGHS welcomes applications from those currently teaching in either the maintained or independent sector.

The post is offered on a part-time basis (0.8, 4 days per week) with a competitive salary in accordance with the PGHS Scale. The role could potentially become full-time for a candidate able to offer a second academic subject.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A strong academic background, with at least a good honours degree and PGCE or equivalent;
- Awareness, understanding and, ideally, experience of issues relating to safeguarding the health, welfare and safety of children;
- High personal and professional standards;
- Positive working relationships with colleagues and the ability to work as a member of a team;
- Excellent time management and organisational skills;
- Ability to take responsibility and to show initiative;
- Ability to contribute to developing new teaching and learning strategies and willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular programme;
- Thorough knowledge of the subject and an interest in current developments;
- Ability to use a variety of teaching and learning styles;
- Ability to convey infectious enthusiasm for the subject;
- Experience in the use of ICT to support the teaching of Music;
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people;
- Motivation to work with children and young people;
- Positive attitude to managing behaviour in the classroom.

THE PROCESS

Applicants are asked to complete the TES online Application Form. The closing date for applications is Monday 29th April at 12 noon. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May or 13th May. The school reserves the right to interview suitable candidates before the closing date so early applications are encouraged.

Palmer's Green High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the DBS. The school will also undertake checks with past employers. It is an offence for a person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

Palmer's Green High School is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

