



Teacher of Piano (peripatetic)

January 2023 or earlier

Job Details

The School

Bronte School is an independent preparatory school for children aged 3 to 11. The School's ethos is based upon the twin pillars of academic excellence and of being a family school. A stimulating and purposeful curriculum is accompanied by high quality academic management, which aims to provide inspiration and challenge for all the children of the school, analysing in detail progress and attainment for each individual boy and girl. Educational breadth is seen as complementary to depth and level of study. Art, music, PE and drama take their place alongside the humanities, languages, science, and the core subjects of English and mathematics.

The School has considerable success in supporting children through to a place at their first-choice school. For many this is a selective or super-selective grammar school, whilst others also go on independent schools or other types of state schools. Another route is to a major 13-18 boarding school, via a feeder prep school for Years 7 and 8.

Bronte is a small school, of around 150 pupils, in a single class entry, with maximum class size of 20. The teachers are dedicated, professional and supportive, caring deeply for the children and getting to know them very well. This personal attention forms a central part of the School's family atmosphere. Pastoral care is very strong, and is seen as fundamental to the children's success, happiness and sense of self-fulfilment.

The School has a Christian tradition, at the same time as having extensive diversity in the ethnic and cultural composition of its families, reflecting that of the local area.

Bronte is privately owned, by Nicholas Clements. As Proprietor, he is responsible for the governance of the School. The Headmistress is Emma Wood. There is an Advisory Board, which provides support for the governance.

Bronte Nursery, the School's sister setting, is large, high quality nursery, ages 3 months to 4 years. It is located about 200m away, also on Pelham Road.

Currently there are 4 music teachers, providing lessons in guitar, piano/keyboard/percussion, singing and violin. This advertisement arises because of the forthcoming departure of our piano teacher, after 15 successful years at the School. He teaches percussion as well, also a popular option. However, the requirement here is distinctly for a piano/keyboard teacher. Unless the new incumbent can also teach percussion, a later advert is likely to be placed for a percussionist.

Music at Bronte

Recognising the uplifting and edifying part played by music in the life of a school, considerable emphasis has been placed on all aspects of musical study, performance and participation.

All classes have a dedicated curriculum music lesson per week. There are weekly hymn practices for the Upper School (Years 3 - 6) and Lower School (Years K - 2). Group singing has become very strong. Most School productions have a strong musical element. Around two thirds of the children learn one or more instruments. There are performances at assemblies by individuals and ensembles. Upper School and Lower School choirs perform at major school events, such as Prizegiving and the annual Christingle service.

Music education, playing and performance are seen as central to the life of the School. We seek to enjoy, consolidate and build further upon all that is outlined above, with aspirations including the further development of ensembles, and expansion of repertoire.

Music at Bronte is directed by the Head of Music, Miss Milly Dunk.

The Role

The role primarily encompasses normal peripatetic instrumental teaching. Liaising with the Head of Music, peripatetic staff should support their pupils at concerts, and prepare them as needed for Associated Board or other board examinations. These areas attract an hourly rate of pay. Good communication with parents is expected about progress, practice etc, as well as (paid) attendance at parents' evenings and the writing of reports.

The School would also welcome availability for playing and performance, for example accompaniment to choirs, soloists or ensembles at concerts or major school events, and at some assemblies or hymn practices. These would be also be paid on the basis of an hourly rate.

Qualifications and Experience

Applications will be welcome from suitably qualified piano teachers, either with experience or those embarking on their profession. What is vital is a genuine and lively interest in children and their musical development, and a willingness to encourage and promote the enjoyment of music. As a professional teacher, the person appointed will also be someone with an understanding of children and their needs, and who upholds a constant alertness for their safety and welfare.

Terms and Conditions

Fees and Payments. Peripatetic music teachers receive a percentage (85%) of the invoiced income from lessons taught. The hourly rate for the work other than instrumental teaching, described above, is currently £30.

Reporting and Structure. The role reports to the Head of Music, with whom there should be regular liaison. Administrative planning and time-tabling of music lessons is undertaken by the Office Manager, in liaison with the Head of Music and the peripatetic staff.

Holidays. Holidays must be taken during school holidays.

Appointment Process

Applications, comprising a brief covering letter and a completed application form, should be sent, by Thursday 29th September 2022, to the Bursar, Miss Susan Allison (susan.allison@bronteschool.co.uk, from whom the application pack is available. All applications will be acknowledged.

Interviews are planned to take place during the week 10th - 14th October. There will be an opportunity for short-listed candidates to visit the School beforehand. Anyone who is giving serious consideration to an application is welcome to have a call with the Headmistress, Mrs Emma Wood. This should be arranged through the School Office Manager. Mrs Nicky Mason (nicky.mason@bronteschool.co.uk, 01474 533805). is expected that those being asked for interview will be informed by Monday 3rd October.

Bronte School 7 Pelham Road Gravesend Kent DA11 0HN 01474 533805 www.bronteschool.co.uk

Bronte School is an equal opportunities employer. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate for this post will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

September 2022