

Position of  
**VISITING DRUM  
TEACHER**

Yarm School,  
North Yorkshire



**YARM SCHOOL**

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Co-educational | Day School | Ages 3-18 | HMC



[WWW.YARMSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.YARMSCHOOL.ORG)





## **VISITING DRUM MUSIC TEACHER**

We are seeking to appoint a talented and qualified drum teacher to join our team of Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs), to start at the beginning of March (2024). This is a self-employed position and the amount of work available will depend upon the number of pupils wishing to take individual drum kit lessons. The current drum teacher has approximately 4 days of work per week at Yarm School. Whilst the majority of the work is 1:1 tuition in the Prep and Senior Schools, the current teacher also runs a number of ensembles and coordinates Rock School exams. The ability to teach orchestral percussion would also be of interest along with a desire to contribute to the school's busy co-curricular musical programme.

The Director of Music is responsible for the organisation of all VMTs, all of whom must undertake whole school INSET involving safe-guarding of children.

## **THE SCHOOL**

Yarm School was founded in 1978. Growing quickly since that time, it is now firmly established amongst the country's leading co-educational day schools, with a superb academic reputation as well as a firm commitment to co-curricular activities and trips. In addition to the Senior School, there is a Preparatory School, and a Pre-Prep which includes a Nursery. In total, there are over 1,100 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18.

There is an impressive array of facilities and accommodation at the Senior School, including a large classroom wing on the banks of the Tees which enjoys beautiful views, a dance studio, extensive sport and drama facilities, underground changing rooms and a bar serving the award-winning Princess Alexandra Auditorium. The Pre-Prep and Preparatory Schools have their own self-contained accommodation on a safe and equally delightful site. The Pre-Prep is housed in a modern purpose-built development, whilst the Preparatory School is located on the site of the original Yarm Grammar School founded in 1590.

The School has ample outdoor space, sporting facilities, a boat house and friendly communal areas. A timber yurt provides space for the outdoor education and eco school curriculum.



## ETHOS

Yarm has a strong commitment to educating the whole child – ‘educating for life’. We offer an extensive range of co-curricular opportunities, both within and outside lessons, which help to foster inter-personal skills, confidence and build relationships. A Yarm education is about far more than just academic achievement.

Each pupil is strongly encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities. There is a huge range of clubs and societies which meet either during the two timetabled Activity lessons, at lunch-time or after school on a regular basis. Over 50 activities take place each week, as diverse as canoeing and chess, community action and gardening.

Sport plays an important role in the life of the school, not just through the generous time provision for PE and Games lessons, but through the many opportunities to represent school teams in a diverse range of sports and at all ages. Facilities are superb and cater impressively for rugby, hockey, netball, rowing, tennis, cricket, rounders, athletics and general fitness.

At weekends and during the holidays there are frequent trips and expeditions, many of them adventurous. Outdoor education is a major part of life at Yarm, and pupils can explore caves, climb mountains or traverse entire countries in canoes! We have two full time, highly qualified members of staff whose sole remit is to provide these fantastic opportunities.

The school life of Yarm pupils is varied, exciting, and fast-paced. There is never a dull moment as we embody our philosophy of ‘educating for life’. Our teachers embrace

the co-curricular programme and enjoy the opportunity it affords them to pursue areas that interest them or indeed learn new skills themselves.

The performing arts are thriving at Yarm. Music enhances the everyday life of the School. With outstanding facilities, such as the 750 seat Princess Alexandra Auditorium, the Studio Theatre, Dance Studio, Recital Room and the superb Music School we offer an extremely vibrant programme of concerts, recitals, plays, dance shows and musicals. Many cultural events which take place in the stunning Princess Alexandra Auditorium are open to the wider community and regularly attract audiences in the many hundreds.

## LOCATION

Yarm is a beautiful market town on the edge of the Teesside conurbation which enjoys easy access to both town and countryside, including the nearby North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and stunning coastline. Opportunities for outdoor pursuits and exploration of all kinds are many and varied. Similarly, the cities of Newcastle, York and Leeds are within close range and provide much in the way of arts and culture. With superb rail network links in the town itself and nearby, London is also only 2.5 hours away by direct train.

The school is very much a part of the town, with pupils, staff and parents enjoying all that the buzzing High Street has to offer by means of shops and cafes.



## MUSIC AT YARM SCHOOL

Music is thriving at Yarm School and the successful candidate will be joining the department at an exciting time in its development. Yarm School has invested extensively in the Performing Arts in recent years and the facilities and performance opportunities are exceptional. It is quickly gaining a reputation as a cultural hub in the area. Music is a key contributor to the co-curricular life of the school and there is no doubt that the School's reputation for quality music-making across all genres draws in talented pupils from North Yorkshire, the Tees Valley and beyond. Many of our singers and instrumentalists perform with local county ensembles and increasing numbers are gaining places in national choirs, musical theatre groups and orchestras. Our ensembles perform regularly at school and further afield. School concerts and services are well supported by parents and the local community and it is not unusual for the Princess Alexandra Auditorium to be full!

Music plays a significant role in all parts of the school. Pre-Prep children have specialist music lessons from early years onwards. The early focus is on internalising pitch and rhythm, while graphical representations of music build an understanding of other musical elements through listening, composing, performing and singing. In Prep, formal aspects of style are introduced through the gradual building of notation skills, explored through a series of stylistic topics in performance and composition. In years 3 and 4 there is also an instrumental carousel, where children spend time in small groups on cornet, trombone, violin, viola, cello, chalumeau, flute and guitar. These sessions are taught by specialist visiting music teachers (VMTs).

In Senior School, Music is taught to all First and Second Years (Years 7 and 8) and it is an option in Third Year (Year 9). We follow the Edexcel syllabus at GCSE level and Eduqas for A level. Results at both GCSE and A level are consistently strong with over 74% of the GCSE 2022 / 2023 cohorts receiving a Grade 7 and above and 40% of the A level cohorts achieving A\* (with 100% gaining A\*-B grades). A significant number have chosen to study Music at universities and conservatoires.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Director of Music, Mrs Katie Staggs ([kels@yarmschool.org](mailto:kels@yarmschool.org)).

## THE MUSIC SCHOOL

The new £3m Music School opened in 2015. A stunning facility, it won the Best Educational New Build 2016 at the LABC awards in London. Facilities include a 140 seat lecture theatre, 2 excellently equipped classrooms, a recording suite, a drum studio, ensemble rooms and specialist teaching rooms. Pupils have access to Sibelius software on PCs and the Music Studio is equipped with industry standard Pro Tools and Logic software. This new facility is proving extremely popular with pupils of all ages and is a real area of growth within the department. The department also has a large, modern Recital Room which is used for Choir and Orchestra rehearsals. Performances take place in the school's wonderful 750 seat Princess Alexandra Auditorium. They are generally attended by audiences of several hundred.



## JOB DESCRIPTION

- To teach individual drum lessons
- To have a thorough and systematic approach to teaching
- To identify and provide opportunities for the most able drummers and encourage participation in school and external groups
- To prepare soloists and potentially small ensembles to a high standard for concerts and exam performances
- To write annual reports on pupils' progress
- To communicate regularly with parents / carers

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications / Musical Abilities / Educational Experience / Professional Awareness		
A skilled kit player	✓	
Appropriate music qualification	✓	
Appropriate teaching qualification		✓
Experience of 1:1 teaching within a school environment	✓	
Safeguarding training and knowledge of safeguarding legislation	✓	
Health and Safety knowledge and training		✓
Experience of running ensembles (bands, instrumental groups)		✓
Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development		✓
The ability to teach orchestral percussion		✓
Personal Qualities		
Passionate about engagement through music	✓	
Excellent communication skills	✓	
Outstanding organisational skills	✓	
The ability to work as part of a team and undertake the tasks requested of you	✓	
Patience and a sense of humour	✓	
Initiative and enterprise		✓

## CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

Yarm School is required to seek a Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in respect of successful applicants for all posts at the School where staff may come into contact with children. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to working in the School. Applicants who are invited to interview should provide details of any criminal record under separate, confidential cover to the Headmaster before attending the interview. A copy of the School's policy on Vetting and Suitability Checks and the DBS Code of Practice may be obtained from the School Manager. Before an appointment is made routine checks will be undertaken to confirm identity and qualifications etc.

This post is pupil-facing therefore involves substantial opportunity for access to children and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that you will be required to confirm that you are not on the DBS Children's Barred List or disqualified from working with children and further to declare any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings that are not "protected" as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013 and 2020) or other Orders of the Courts made against you, even if they would otherwise be regarded as 'spent' under this Act.

## SAFEGUARDING

Yarm School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful candidate will be subject to vetting checks including an enhanced DBS check.

Applicants for all vacancies at Yarm School are encouraged to read these policies on our website before applying:

[Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#)  
[Vetting and Suitability Policy](#)

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Yarm School is committed to ensuring that all applicants and contractors are treated equally, without discrimination because of any protected characteristics as defined in law. We welcome applications from anyone who considers that they meet the requirements of the advertised role.

## APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Applications will only be accepted on the application form provided by the School. This should be completed electronically. All questions must be answered. The candidate may also submit a Curriculum Vitae if he / she wishes but this is not a requirement. Applications should be submitted by email with a covering letter explaining why the candidate and post are mutually suited.

## APPLY

Applications will only be accepted on the application form provided by the school. This should be completed electronically. All questions must be answered. The candidate may also submit a Curriculum Vitae if he/she wishes but this is not a requirement. Applications should be submitted with a covering letter (or by email) explaining why the candidate and post are mutually suited.

Applications should be e-mailed to the Director of Music, Mrs Katie Staggs, **as soon as possible and no later than 28th January 2024**. The school reserves the right to interview before the closing date if appropriate to the context of the field. **Early applications are therefore very much encouraged.**

Applications should be submitted to:  
[katherine.staggs@yarmschool.org](mailto:katherine.staggs@yarmschool.org)

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