



ST PAUL'S
GIRLS' SCHOOL

Classical Guitar Teacher
(Approximately eleven pupils with room for
development freelance)
Required for September 2025

The School

St Paul's Girls' School is one of the country's leading independent schools for girls aged 11-18, with approximately 824 students. It is an extraordinary school, offering a classical yet forward-thinking education, rooted in a love of academic discovery and enriched by a broad co-curricular programme, nurturing wellbeing provision and a strong commitment to partnerships and community initiatives. Aspirations and achievements go well beyond what one would normally expect from a school, making St Paul's Girls' School an exciting, lively, and stimulating place in which to work.

Students want to make a difference, and many go on to roles tackling some of the greatest challenges facing people and planet. Respect for environmental sustainability is expected of all staff, both in terms of minimising use of resources in daily operations and supporting the school's aim of preparing students fully for life and work in the mid-21st century.

Full details of the school, including our curriculum and public exam results, are available on our website at <http://www.spgs.org>

The Music Department

Alongside Joseph McHardy, Director of Music, the department includes a Deputy Director of Music and Head of Practical Music (Heidi Pegler), a Head of Academic Music (Rachel Brewer), a Head of Composition and class music teacher (Bernard Hughes), a class teacher (Antony Beere) and four Heads of Section: Alexis White (keyboard), Helena Silvera (strings), Heidi Pegler (singing in addition to class teaching) and Matt Dickinson (wind, brass and percussion). The department is served by a full-time Music Department Manager, Neslihan Jordan and a full-time Music Technical Manager, Leon Middleton. Instrumental music lessons are popular and there are currently approximately 45 self-employed peripatetic teachers, teaching over 600 lessons every week.

The department is housed in an historic listed building dating from 1913 and designed to Gustav Holst's original specifications. This formed an extension to the original school building designed by Gerald Horsley as the first purpose-built girls' school in the country. At the time, the soundproofed music practice rooms were amongst the first to be designed for the purpose and Horsley's work was seen as being at the forefront of educational architecture. No expense was spared in the use of materials and the original Portland stone facings and oak panelling are still in place. At the heart of the department is the magnificent 230-seat Singing Hall, two class teaching rooms, sixteen soundproofed individual teaching rooms and a departmental office. Large-scale concerts take place in the beautiful setting of the school's Great Hall. The Holst Room, in which parts of *The Planets* were composed, is now a frequently used and busy teaching space. The undercroft of the Singing Hall has also been converted to provide generous storage space for music and instruments.

Music curriculum

All pupils study music for two periods a week from Year 7 to Year 9. In Year 10 and Year 11 it becomes an optional subject, and pupils pursue the school's own course at this level.

The school directed course in music is unique to St Paul's. Internally devised and recognised as a GCSE equivalent, it challenges the students to study beyond the confines of a GCSE, developing their musical skills and intellectual curiosity. The course covers a wide range of musical areas, from Hildegard von Bingen to The Beatles. It is taught through four interrelated components; listening, musicology, composition, and performance, which are assessed through coursework and an examination.

Music is also taught as an AS and A2 option. While numbers opting for A-level have tended to be quite small in this highly academic school where multi-talented students have many demands on their time, students nonetheless regularly go on to study music at tertiary level, either at university or music college.

Co-curricular Music

Music plays a central and much valued role in the cultural life of the school. Students of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate in co-curricular musical activities. A very high proportion of the students take music lessons (over 80%); these include singing, all standard orchestral instruments, piano, harpsichord and organ. Lessons are also taught in jazz, pop, and rock instruments, including saxophones, electric guitar, and kit percussion. For the first four school years, a rolling timetable enables students to have instrumental lessons during the school day. They can also study theory and aural.

The department runs a very busy and varied co-curricular programme of activities. These include three orchestras, two wind bands and a swing band, five choirs and many smaller chamber and vocal ensembles including jazz, pop, and rock groups.

There are numerous performing opportunities, including formal large-scale concerts each term, many smaller-scale concerts throughout the school year and a weekly lunchtime concert series making a total of over 60 concerts and events each year. In addition, there are regular staged productions of musicals and operas. Recent productions include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sweeney Todd*, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Orchestras and choirs perform major works from the repertoire (such as Holst's *The Planets*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, and Verdi's *Requiem*) and also perform occasionally outside of school. Performances in recent years have included concerts at St John's Smith Square and the Royal Albert Hall with the City of London Choir. In addition, the department undertakes a major overseas tour every two years. Recent destinations have included Boston and New York, Hong Kong and China, Budapest, Lisbon, and Venice.

Joint performances with St Paul's School are also a prominent feature; with a joint concert involving amalgamated orchestras and choirs performing Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*, Bach's *Magnificat* and Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony* in recent years. Students are regularly represented in the National Youth Orchestra, the London Schools' Symphony Orchestra and the National Children's Orchestra. A number of pupils also study in the junior departments of the London music colleges.

Music awards

We are keen to attract students of outstanding musical potential to the school and offer a scholarship assessment process for entry at 11+ and 16+. These assessments are based on practical audition and interview. There are currently around 35 music scholars and exhibitioners.

Post and Candidate Profile

SPGS is seeking an experienced classical guitar teacher with a proven track record as a teacher and performer. This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced musician and teacher to join a distinguished department within a vibrant and high-achieving school. There are currently eleven pupils.

Working in the Music Department at St Paul's Girls' School is challenging, stimulating and rewarding. We strive for excellence in all we do whilst giving opportunities to all pupils, whatever their level or experience. The successful candidate is likely to possess some or all of the following: a degree or equivalent professional qualification at tertiary level; experience of teaching in a secondary school; experience as a performer at a high level; the enthusiasm to inspire very academic pupils; the flexibility of approach to work within a large, diverse department and excellent organisational and interpersonal skills..

Terms and conditions of the post

This is a freelance post, and contracts are between the teacher and the parents. The rate of pay is currently £312.20 per pupil per term, for nine 35 minute lessons with a facility charge to the teacher of £9.70 per pupil per term. It is expected that 27 lessons will be delivered over the course of a year to each pupil.

Further information about the role and to apply can be found on our website <https://spgs.org/vacancies/>. Please submit your applications before the closing date. Applications will not be considered without a completed application form. Please use your own words when writing your supporting statement. While we are a digitally forward-looking school, we are mindful of the importance of authenticity in education and would far prefer to hear your unique voice through any application you may choose to make. We recommend that candidates apply as soon as possible since applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews arranged on a rolling basis.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and overseas police checks

St Paul's Girls' School is a "registered body" under the Police Act 1997 because employment here involves access to children under the age of 18. This post will require an enhanced DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) before we can confirm an offer of employment. Unless you are a member of the DBS Update Service you will need to apply for a new disclosure, even if you already hold one. Former members of staff who are not on the Update Service who re-join us also require fresh disclosures, unless less than three months have passed between their leaving and their re-employment date. If you have lived or worked abroad for a period of 3 months or more during the past ten years you will also need to provide appropriate paperwork, such as a police certificate of good conduct, from the countries you have lived in.

Safeguarding guidelines

St Paul's Girls' School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). We expect all staff to share this commitment.

St Paul's Girls' School welcomes applications from all sectors of the community as we aspire to attract staff that match the social and cultural diversity of our pupil intake. We seek to offer fair and inclusive employment policies, interview and arrangements that avoid bias and support all applicants and staff equally.

Closing date: Thursday 6 March

Interviews: Wednesday 19 March (Afternoon)

Contact details:

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