

Part-time Teacher of Singing/Piano

Required for February 2012

We are seeking to appoint an inspirational, creative and well-qualified person to teach singing and/or piano throughout the School. The posts can be combined or treated separately.

Ratcliffe College is a Catholic co-educational, day and boarding school with 680 students aged between 3 and 18 years. The majority of students are of above average ability. Each year most of them obtain 9 or more GCSE passes at Grade C or above, and a large number of sixth formers proceed to Higher Education.

The Music Department is housed in its own centre which comprises 10 individual practice rooms, a music classroom with keyboards and a mini computer suite, a departmental office, 3 dedicated instrumental teaching rooms, an instrument storage room, a recording studio and a Music Hall. Adjoining the Music School is the School Theatre. The school Chapel is a wonderful building, lending itself to choral music.

Within the department, the Director of Music works with a part-time member of staff in the delivery of academic music within the Senior School. There are peripatetic instrumental music teachers who provide individual tuition to students throughout both the Junior and Senior Schools. Currently, there are approximately 160 students receiving instrumental lessons. The Director of Music is supported also by a part time Music Co-ordinator in the Junior School.

Music is a compulsory part of the curriculum up to the end of Key Stage 3, after which it becomes an option. The students here at Ratcliffe College really enjoy their music and there is a large number of students contributing to musical activities within the School. The Junior School Choir has blossomed in recent years and students have been asked to perform at a number of venues in the locality. The number of students enjoying instrumental lessons has also increased significantly and this has resulted in a Junior Orchestra being established and many fine musicians moving into the Senior School and joining the Senior Orchestra. There are also ensembles led by peripatetic staff and a Senior Jazz Band has just started with the support of another member of teaching staff in the Senior School. There is a Senior School Choir and Chamber Choir whose singing enhances School Masses and other Liturgies. There is also a Year 7 and 8 Choir. Each year, the Year 7 students in their entirety are involved in a Drama production and work in close liaison with the Director of Music. The Music Department organises a number of concerts throughout the year, with the prestigious Picnic Concert in the Summer term being one of the main highlights and is attended by approximately 700 parents and friends.

In addition to instrumental lessons, we are happy for our peripatetic music teachers to contribute to the extra-curricular music activities programme, if they are available. We are also keen for those students who are having instrumental lessons to be entered for Associated Board examinations (and similar). Instrumental teachers are expected to provide parents with a written report of their child's progress during the year at times to coincide with the academic reporting cycle. Professional development is taken seriously at Ratcliffe and members of staff are expected to take part in the CPD opportunities organised by the Director of Music. The department also hosts Parents Evenings specifically for those who receive instrumental lessons to which peripatetic staff are expected to attend.

In January and February 2010, Ratcliffe underwent an inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), which found that, ‘Relationships between pupils are strong and supportive. An outstanding sense of community permeates the life and work of the school.’

The summary report is available on the School’s website; full details of the inspection report can be found on the ISI website www.isinspect.org.uk by selecting ‘School Inspection Reports’

Salary: £26.29 per hour

Current Hours: 3 hours per week (singing) and c.4 hours per week (piano) however, the number of hours will vary depending upon the number of students requiring lessons and we are keen for these to increase.

Candidates are asked to complete the enclosed application form and support this with a letter of application addressed to Mr Edward McCall, Director of Music, as soon as possible, but no later than **1pm on Friday 3rd February**. Applications may be sent by email to HR@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk or by post to Mrs Jane Orton, Human Resources Manager, Ratcliffe College, Fosse Way, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Leicester, LE7 4SG, **Interviews are planned for Wednesday 8th February**.

Before Governors confirm a permanent appointment, a satisfactory report of general health will be required of the selected candidate. Ratcliffe College is committed to safe-guarding 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 Criminal Records Bureau.

For further information about Ratcliffe College please see our Website:
www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk

Person Specification:

	Essential	Desirable
Understanding of the ethos of the School	✓	
Ability to engage students of all ages and abilities	✓	
Ability to teach lessons of the highest quality	✓	
Ability to set demanding, but achievable targets for pupils	✓	
Ability to write high quality, informative reports	✓	
Ability to work as part of a wider departmental team	✓	
Ability to communicate with students	✓	
Ability to communicate with staff	✓	
Thorough knowledge of the main practical exam syllabuses	✓	
Understanding of the principals of vocal production	✓	
Aware of the potential problems with developing voices	✓	
The ability to accompany students as part of normal lessons	✓	
Knowledge of local festivals and workshops for wider opportunities		✓
Flexibility to attend key events in the school calendar	✓	
A sound understanding of ICT to support the week by week teaching	✓	
Knowledge of both sacred and secular vocal music		✓
An understanding of how to encourage students to take part in the department	✓	