



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Teacher of Music
From September 2026

Information for Candidates



Welcome from the Head Master



We are delighted that you are interested in joining us at Merchant Taylors'. We are a highly successful day school for boys aged 11-18 situated in north-west London, close to Moor Park on the Metropolitan Line.

This is an exciting time for Merchant Taylors' School. The School delivers academic excellence by nurturing pupils' individual passions and interests, instilling a lifelong love of learning. At the heart of the School is its commitment to holistic education: offering the widest set of experiences to each pupil. An education at Merchant Taylors' is academic and challenging, but full of joy.

We hope this brochure gives you a sense of Merchant Taylors' School and the role you could play here. I warmly invite you to join us on this journey.

Yours sincerely,
Simon Everson

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The School

Merchant Taylors' School is a leading independent day school offering an outstanding, all-round education for over 960 talented boys aged 11 to 18 years. Competition for places is fierce, and entry is by competitive assessment at 11+ and 16+. Merchant Taylors' Prep School caters for an additional 370 boys from 3 to 11 years of age offering a through-school experience for appropriately suited boys.

Renowned for its high academic achievement, Merchant Taylors' pupils are intellectually able, curious and enthusiastic about learning. These qualities are fostered through an academically ambitious curriculum and forward-thinking teaching methods that seek to stretch, challenge and support boys in their studies. A wide range of co-curricular activities further inspires and develops the boys' skills, passions and interests, ensuring they develop as happy, confident individuals ready to make their mark on the world.

Public examination results are outstanding, the majority of pupils proceeding either to leading universities as well as medical schools in the UK or abroad. We pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care as well as our excellent academic results, and aspiration in all areas goes well beyond the norm, making Taylors' a particularly exciting and rewarding place to teach.



History

Merchant Taylors' School has been one of the leading boys' schools in the UK since its foundation by the Merchant Taylors' Livery Company of the City of London in 1561. One of the nine great 'Clarendon schools', its alumni have achieved distinction throughout history. However, the school wears its heritage lightly, its strong sense of tradition very much at the service of the future. Through the Merchant Taylors' Educational Trust, it retains close links with other Merchant Taylors' schools, and with the Merchant Taylors' Company itself. Relocated from the City of London to Sandy Lodge, Northwood in 1933, the School sits on 280 acres of playing fields, and woodland, all within easy reach of Central London, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, and Hertfordshire.

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Campus and Facilities

Set within 280 acres of beautiful parkland, playing fields and lakes, Merchant Taylors' is fortunate to have some of the finest school grounds in the country. With state-of-the-art facilities, it provides an exceptional educational environment for its pupils. Located in Moor Park in North London, Merchant Taylors' is just a 30-minute underground journey from Central London and is easily accessible from Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Buckinghamshire.

The School's impressive sporting infrastructure includes 60 acres of playing fields, a new world-class five-lane indoor cricket centre, cricket nets, ten cricket squares, a heated indoor pool, a large indoor sports hall, three floodlit all-weather hockey pitches, lakes for sailing and windsurfing, floodlit hard tennis courts, squash courts and an athletics track.

The state-of-the-art Design, Engineering and Technology building has university-standard equipment.

The Performing Arts are well catered for with rehearsals, recitals, chamber concerts and recordings taking place in the bespoke Recital Hall, while major concerts are given in the Great Hall. The Studio Theatre provides another rehearsal and performance space for plays throughout the year

Innovation

Digital Learning is a key tenet of our provision for exam classes: pupils studying for GCSEs and A Levels each have their own Surface tablet, working digitally on OneNote for most of their lessons. Staff are provided with Surface Pros and this has allowed us to reimagine what school work looks like, enhancing collaboration, differentiation, tailored feedback and engagement. Merchant Taylors' is an exciting, rewarding environment in which to teach and provides the means for the development of a successful career in a place with a real sense of community.

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The Person

We are seeking an outstanding Teacher of Music to join a busy and thriving department. The post will suit a well-qualified and enthusiastic musician; an able communicator with strong subject knowledge and an encouraging style who is committed to working collaboratively and with genuine passion to achieve musical excellence in pupils of all abilities.

They will exhibit joy in learning and an unshakeable belief in the benefits for both academic achievement and personal development that studying music brings. They will embrace the collegiate culture of initiative and innovation in the department whole-heartedly, with positivity, good humour, and a willingness to go the extra mile.

Strong keyboard skills would be an advantage, and the ability to play the organ is desirable, but by no means essential. An additional instrumental specialism would be similarly advantageous, and there is scope to tailor musical co-curricular involvement to suit the strengths of the successful candidate.

The Teacher of Music will be able to teach pupils across all year groups at Merchant Taylors' School, delivering lessons with a strong practical emphasis which integrate performing, composing and listening skills holistically to inspire, and spark curiosity in, their pupils. They will be highly organised, possess excellent communication and listening skills, and be confident in their knowledge and use of music technology resources including Sibelius, Garageband and Logic software in a classroom setting.

The post offers the successful candidate the opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team to realise an ambitious vision for the expansion and development of music at an exciting time for Merchant Taylors' School, with aspirations to build a new Music facility forming key components of the School's strategic vision.

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The Department

Curriculum & Results

Music exemplifies the ethos of Merchant Taylors' School, which is reflected in the integral nature of music in both the curriculum, and in the co-curricular life of the School. All pupils in Year 7 perform in the Lower School Concert in their first term by singing together, a skill which remains central to the curriculum throughout the first year. The curriculum begun in Year 7 follows a spiral progression through to the end of the Spring term in Year 9, focussing on the development of musical skills and their application in performing, composing and listening activities that explore a broad range of musical styles and traditions. All pupils in Years 7 and 8 have weekly hour-long lessons, while those pupils who opt for music in Year 9 enjoy two hours of music on their timetable each week.

Approximately 20 pupils opt for GCSE music (Edexcel specification) each year. Results are consistently excellent, and over the past 3 years 72% of pupils have achieved grades 9-7 (compared with 33% nationally). Typically, between 2 and 5 pupils study music at A Level (OCR specification) each year, many of whom go on to read Music at University. Over the past 13 years pupils from Merchant Taylors' have been the recipients of Oxbridge Organ or Choral Scholarships at a rate of more than 1 every two years, including Trinity College Cambridge (2), Trinity College Oxford, Balliol College Oxford, Trinity Hall Cambridge, Corpus Christi Oxford, Christchurch College Oxford, and Merton College Oxford (pending results, for 2026). In addition to the A Level curriculum, an Introduction to Musicology course is delivered to pupils in Year 12.

Resources & Accommodation

The hub of the Music Department is a bespoke Recital Hall, equipped with audio facilities for live and recorded performance, and a Yamaha S series grand piano. Larger ensemble rehearsals, smaller concerts and recitals take place in this space throughout the year, which is also the venue for ABRSM exam sessions towards the end of each term. Major concerts are held in the Great Hall, which has a Blüthner grand piano and a modern mechanical action organ by Harrison and Harrison (refurbished 2008); the School Chaplaincy Centre houses a 1998 mechanical action organ by Lammermuir Pipe Organs, installed in 2010. The department is also delighted to have its own harpsichord (Robert Goble & Son Flemish single manual) heard this Spring in a performance of a Corelli Chamber Sonata.

Three music technology suites house 44 iMac-based DAWs and the department utilises a flexible, and portable, recording setup for capturing concerts and recitals, as well as performances for GCSE and A Level pupils. There are three additional music classrooms for teaching academic music lessons, twelve practice rooms, four offices and substantial orchestral and choral sheet-music libraries. Further, through the School library pupils may access online music resources including Naxos Music Library.

Authenticity is the watchword of the music curriculum at Merchant Taylors' and we strive to give pupils here the most authentic experience in music, whether by using music technology to compose film soundtracks, or traditional Djembe drums to learn the skills of West African drumming, participating in a Gamelan workshop, playing the harpsichord or pipe organ, or performing with dun-duns and banana bells for shadow puppet theatre. Our musical resources are collected to enable all pupils to participate fully in the most meaningful and memorable manner.

Co-curricular Activities

Merchant Taylors' enjoys a musical culture that involves a huge number of pupils. Currently 320 individual instrumental and singing lessons are given each week by 23 visiting music teachers, and many more pupils learn to sing and play an instrument with teachers outside of School. The standard of music-making is enviably high, with 18 instrumental ensembles, including orchestras, bands and

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chamber music groups, which, together with the Choirs, cater for pupils of all levels, delivered in a weekly schedule of 24 co-curricular rehearsals and classes.

These activities all lead to a programme of over 40 concerts and events throughout the year. The School Choir of around 100 pupils combines with St Helen's School Choir and parents and friends of Merchant Taylors' to form the Choral Society and perform a major choral work in the Spring term, as well as leading the singing for the Triennial Service at St Pauls' Cathedral. The Chamber Choir of some 40 voices, drawn from the School Choir, sings at several Merchant Taylors' Company events, as well as singing choral Evensong in a Cathedral and Oxbridge College each year, and tours regularly in the summer, most recently to Germany in July 2025.

Orchestras and bands are organised progressively for the instrumentalists, and each has generous rehearsal time to prepare for performances in a busy music programme of over 40 events throughout the year. The Sinfonia Orchestra trains the string players until they are advanced enough to join the Symphony Orchestra, which performs symphonic repertoire at two major concerts each year (most recently Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition), and the Chamber Orchestra offers the best of the string players further orchestral experience, including the privilege of performing annually at the Hall of the Merchant Taylors' Livery Company.

Wind Band players aspire to progress to the Concert Band, and the Big Band and Dixieland Band give jazz musicians further opportunities to perform. Other highlights include musical theatre productions (West Side Story, 2024), concerts for soloists and chamber music groups, competitions, holiday chamber music courses, trips and tours.

A number of pupils learn the organ at Merchant Taylors' and the School is certified as an Accredited Institution of the Royal College of Organists. Pupils give organ recitals in a variety of churches in London, and there is an annual organ tour in the Autumn.

Among the most advanced musicians are (currently) 27 Music Scholars, several of whom attend Junior Departments at RCM, RAM and GSMD. In the past few years, Music Scholars have participated in Masterclasses with Tasmin Little and Emma Johnson. Termly events are organised to enrich Music Scholars' musical development, including concert trips into London.

The Director of Music leads a full-time team comprising an Assistant Director of Music, a Head of Academic Music, a further Teacher of Music, a Music Administrator, and a Graduate Musician, along with 23 visiting music teachers in delivering the music curriculum and co-curricular music programme.

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Summary of Responsibilities

The main responsibility of each Teacher is their classroom teaching duties; there are, however, other responsibilities, such as being a Tutor, a Form Teacher and taking part of the school's games and activities programme. All these should be carried out to the highest standard to ensure the all-round quality of education for pupils at Merchant Taylors' School and to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons:

- To discharge all professional duties as outlined in the Contract of Employment and associated Employment Manual
- To set personal professional standards (for example, in matters of dress and punctuality) that are of the highest level and that will enable the individual teacher to act as a role model for pupils
- To support the ethos of the school and to work in accordance with the desired aims and policies
- To share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils (especially those in the individual's teaching or Tutor Groups) in liaison with the appropriate Heads of School and senior managers
- To play an active role in the life of the school, including in the games and extra-curricular activities programme

Teaching

- Planning and preparing courses and lessons
- Assessing, marking, recording and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils in line with school and departmental policy
- Promoting the general progress and well-being of individual pupils and groups of pupils
- Exercising proper care of teaching materials and rooms to maintain a stimulating teaching environment
- Following the agreed policies in the Departmental Handbook with regard to such matters as programmes of study, teaching methods, supporting pupils with learning support needs and homework
- Advising and co-operating in the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, and methods of teaching and assessment

Pastoral

- When required to undertake duties as a Tutor and/or Form Teacher as detailed in a separate job description
- To discharge all professional duties as outlined in the Contract of Employment and associated Employment Manual to the highest standard
- To set personal professional standards, for example in matters of dress and punctuality, that are of the highest level and that will enable the individual teacher to act as a role model for pupils
- To support the ethos of the school and to work in accordance with its desired aims and policies
- To share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils (especially those in the individual's teaching and Tutor Groups) in liaison with the appropriate Heads of House, Heads of School and senior managers

Assessment & Reporting

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual pupils and/or groups of pupils
- Communicating and consulting with the parents of pupils both formally at Parent's Meetings and informally
- Participating in arrangements for preparing and assessing pupils' work for public examinations

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Professional Development

- Participating in the school's arrangements for teaching review
- To take part in the school's programme of induction and review for new teachers
- Reviewing from time to time teaching methods and schemes of work
- Participating in arrangements for further training and professional development as a teacher

Behaviour Management

- Maintaining good order and discipline amongst the pupils and safeguarding their health and safety, both when they are on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere
- To require from the pupils the high standards of behaviour, dress, punctuality, effort and attendance that are consistent with the school's expectations

Cover

Supervising (and, when appropriate, teaching) any pupils whose teacher is not available to teach them as required by the Head of Department or the Deputy Head (Information Systems).

Co-curriculum & Games

To play an active role in the life of the school, including games afternoons and clubs and societies. For a more comprehensive list of activities please see the school website. Many activities occur on Saturdays e.g. inter school sport, prize giving, open days etc.

Meetings

Participating, as required, in meetings that relate to the curriculum, the organisation of the school or pastoral matters.

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Person specification

Qualifications

	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
A strong degree-level qualification closely aligned with the primary subject(s) to be taught	✓		Applicant's certificates. Discussion at interview. Independent verification of qualifications.
3 A-levels at grades C and above (or equivalent)	✓		
Postgraduate professional qualification, e.g. PGCE		✓	
UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)		✓	
Postgraduate academic qualification e.g. Master's degree		✓	

Experience

	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Experience of rehearsing and directing instrumental ensembles	✓		Contents of application form.
Experience of rehearsing choirs		✓	
Experience as an accompanist		✓	Discussion at Interview. Professional references. Rehearsal observation.
Experience of contributing to and/or organising concerts and other musical events		✓	

Skills & Knowledge

	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Strong passion for the subject	✓		Contents of application form.
An instrumental and/or choral specialism	✓		
Proficient knowledge of music technology and recording		✓	Discussion at Interview. Professional references.
To promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people	✓		
Effective classroom management and organisation to ensure a positive and safe learning environment	✓		Lesson observation.
The ability to deliver engaging, adaptive and inclusive lessons to inspire, support, and challenge pupils of all backgrounds, abilities, needs and dispositions	✓		Rehearsal observation. Practical exercise.
The ability to foster confidence in pupils, and create a learning environment which encourages pupils to ask questions and express their understanding effectively	✓		
Proficiency in analysing data and presenting outcomes with clarity	✓		
Excellent numeracy and literacy skills	✓		
Proficiency in utilising ICT to enhance teaching, learning and data analysis	✓		
The ability to prioritise tasks effectively	✓		

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Adept at working accurately under pressure, maintaining attention to detail, and adapting to new or challenging situations	✓		
Awareness and understanding of safeguarding and welfare of children	✓		
The ability to innovate and embrace new approaches to teaching and learning		✓	
Recent demonstrated commitment to personal development in core subject areas		✓	

Personal Attributes

	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Upholds high professional standards and expectations for both pupils and self	✓		Contents of application form.
A commitment to a collaborative approach to teamwork and problem solving	✓		Discussion at Interview.
Demonstrates a genuine passion for learning, creative thinking, and initiative	✓		Professional references.
Actively promotes and upholds the School's ethos by fostering an environment of joy, courage, innovation, confidence and inspiration	✓		Rehearsal observation.
A commitment to ongoing professional development	✓		Lesson observation.
Excellent numeracy and literacy skills	✓		
A willingness to contribute to the co-curricular life of the School	✓		



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The Benefits

- The School offers membership to a Defined Contribution (DC) pension scheme under a Master Trust provided by the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS)
- Access to a cash flexible benefit in lieu of pension contribution
- As a member of the pension scheme, there is life cover 4x annual salary and income protection
- Staff accommodation is often available and nearly half of the academic faculty lives on campus
- Interest-free loans are available to staff vacating school accommodation and taking out a mortgage

Career

- There is an extensive induction programme for all new colleagues, and we encourage ongoing professional development through generous inset provision
- Each member of the academic faculty has a voice on professional matters via the General Purposes Committee



Personal

- Fee concessions are available for the sons of any member of the academic faculty who meet the school's entry requirements
- Longer holidays than the maintained sector
- School Nurse on site
- Physiotherapist on site
- School Counsellor on site

For Recreation

- Free use of the school's extensive leisure and sporting facilities.
- Free lunch and free refreshments are available throughout the working day during term time

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The Merchant Taylors' Lifestyle

The working environment at Taylors' is collegiate, supportive and purposeful and we deeply value the contribution of our talented and dedicated staff across all areas of the School. The Senior Common Room is a beautifully appointed space with a fully stocked bar for refreshments, situated at the very heart of the school. There are also a number of events held throughout the year which offer opportunities to socialise and forge new friendships. With so many staff living onsite this genuinely enhances the experience for staff. Here is a brief summary of activities which staff are welcome to join:

- Staff Choir
- Wine Society
- Life drawing class
- Staff cricket team
- 5-a-side football

There are various trips which are organised throughout the year such as a staff ski trip and an annual pre-Christmas trip to Harrods. There are also many popular events run by Parents Associations such as the summer barbecue by the lake, a rugby dinner & dance, a Burns Night supper and concerts which staff are most welcome to attend.



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The Process

Please complete an application form and an accompanying letter (maximum 500 words) outlining your suitability for the post; you may wish to include a brief CV.

Applications to be submitted by 9am on Friday 13th March 2026.

First round online interviews to be held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

Second round interviews in school to be held on Friday 20th March 2026 and Tuesday 24th March 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the role, please reach out to Simon Couldridge, Director of Music (SCouldridge@mtsn.org.uk)

Applications to (email or post):
Recruitment Officer,
Merchant Taylors' School,
Sandy Lodge,
Northwood,
Middlesex,
HA6 2HT
Email: recruitment@mtsn.org.uk

Merchant Taylors' School is an equal opportunities employer and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This role will bring you into contact with children, you are expected to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

How we use your information

We will use the information which you provided, and which we collect from other sources (such as from references and from the Disclosure and Barring Service) for the following purposes: to assess your suitability for the role for which you have applied, to assess your suitability to work with children and to enable us to comply with our legal obligations (including safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children). Further information on how the School uses personal data is set out in the School's Staff Transparency Notice, which can be found on the Vacancy page of the School Website

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