



The Abbey



Director of Music

Starting September 2026





The musical life of The Abbey combines academic study with an exciting extra-curricular programme of ensembles, concerts, productions, visits, and overseas concert tours. The department is always busy, with our Music ICT Suite very popular with our composers.

The wide-ranging programme of individual music lessons is provided by over 20 leading instrumental and vocal teachers. Some of the world's finest musicians visit each year to give recitals and to talk to the students. As an academic subject, Music connects uniquely with so many other disciplines and this is reflected in its popularity across the school, with musicians often going on to study at prestigious universities and conservatories.

We are seeking a new Director of Music to join our wonderful Abbey community starting September 2026.

Introduction



The Abbey



02:20

<https://vimeo.com/1010491740>





Welcome from the Head

The Abbey is a remarkable all-girls community of learning and brilliant experiences. It is a place of curiosity, adventurous spirits, and the excitement of discovery. We focus on individual care and attention in a warmly supportive atmosphere, full of fun and laughter. Our students have the assurance to take risks, explore interests and passions, and engage generously with the world and with each other.

Our results are outstanding, but what matters to us is how students achieve them. Our goal is to equip girls to achieve academic excellence with confidence, purpose and joy. This means providing exceptional opportunities across the widest spectrum of learning and activities. We offer more student-led learning and choice in our curriculum than almost any other school, so that students take charge of their own futures and mature into the people they mean to be.

What's special about The Abbey is the atmosphere. We're a diverse, down-to-earth community full of enthusiasm, spark and energy. We have played a leading role in all-girls education for over 130 years. During that time we've adapted and innovated and that is true now more than ever. In today's world, all-girls education matters: it helps our students face the future on their own terms, ready to make the world a better place for themselves and the communities around them.

I look forward to receiving your application to join The Abbey as a valued member of our community.

Dr Sarah Tullis





A Level results

No. of entries - 683

A* - A – 55.9%

A* - B – 82.9%

A* - C – 94.4%

EPQ results

No. of entries - 69

A* - A – 84%

A* - B – 88%

A* - C – 100%

GCSE results

No. of entries - 3330

9 - 8% – 66.2%

9 - 7% – 84.5%

9 - 6% – 94.9%

9 - 5% – 98.3%

Three-year average of public examination results (2023 - 2025)



Role description

Job Overview

Music is a core part of The Abbey's identity and is characterised not only by outstanding levels of performance but by wide-ranging and joyful student participation. The Director of Music is responsible for the musical experience of all students in the Senior School and for the programme of extra-curricular music in conjunction with the Junior School Director of Music. This includes oversight of the academic music curriculum; delegated oversight of peripatetic music instruction; and leadership across concerts and musical performances of all kinds. There is also responsibility for substantial collaboration with the Junior School and working in partnership with the Junior School Director of Music.

Please click on the below link to access our Opus Music Brochure:

<https://issuu.com/theabbeyschool/docs/opus?fr=sMjJlMjgwNzQ1NDQ>

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/56b80250dc.html>

Key Responsibilities

- Responsibility for ensuring music is an active and celebrated part of everyday life at the School, leading with enthusiasm and passion.
- Encourage both excellence and wide participation in all forms of music-making.
- Support and inspire the team of music teachers and provide opportunity for delegated leadership of independent initiatives.
- Encourage innovation and development in music teaching, including music technology and music from a range of genres and cultures.
- Responsibility for the organisation and delivery of the annual concert programme including leading and conducting groups.
- Responsibility for wider extra-curricular music provision, including informal lunchtime recitals, clubs, sessions, etc.
- Oversee a wide range of ensembles, groups, orchestras and choirs at all age ranges, including both auditioned and non-auditioned groups and a range of musical styles.
- Shared responsibility for musical theatre productions.
- To work with the Senior School Music teachers to ensure the music curriculum from Upper III to Upper VI is engaging, resourced, differentiated, to support all students to reach their potential in the subject.
- Work with the Head of Instrumental Music to oversee visiting staff and the lessons taking place in school, including the use of facilities.
- Oversee arrangements for external examination.
- Responsibility for the music scholarship programme including auditions, awards and scholars' provision.



Key Responsibilities continued.

- Provide opportunities for student leadership within music, including the appointment and sponsorship of the Music Captains and the support of the student-led Arts Council.
- Liaise with the Junior School on collaborative performances and events and ensuring continuity of provision from the Junior to the Senior School.
- Work with the heads and directors of other extra-curricular areas to ensure a manageable and balanced calendar of events across the year, with oversight from the Assistant Head Operations and Partnerships.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration and performance beyond the immediate School community.
- Maintain and develop the tradition of touring music and trips.
- Invite leading practitioners to deliver masterclasses, showcases and concerts to celebrate music and provide opportunities for inspiration and development for student musicians.
- Work with the marketing team to promote music as a key part of the public perception of the School.
- Oversee the music facilities of the school and plan for their ongoing development.



Person Specification

Experience

- Experience of supporting students, reviewing progress and ensuring excellent outcomes.
- Experience of leadership within music.
- Experience of developing and running a substantial music performance programme.

Knowledge and Skills

- Good relevant honours degree; teaching qualification preferred.
- Outstanding music practice and teaching.
- Enthusiasm, passion and creativity.
- Is a confident orchestral and/or vocal conductor.
- In-depth expertise regarding academic music curricula.
- Ability to motivate and inspire colleagues.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong IT skills.
- Positive approach and readiness to build consensus.
- Demonstrating and exemplifying the School's key purpose, to equip students to live with confidence, purpose and joy, and our values of courage, honesty and kindness.
- Exemplary pastoral and safeguarding practice.





Location, Estates and Facilities

The Abbey's town centre location places us at the heart of a thriving, busy and diverse community, whilst our extensive coach network helps us provide accessibility from locations across Oxfordshire and Berkshire for both Junior and Senior girls.

As one of the most vibrant towns in the UK, with a focus on technology and innovation industries, Reading offers wonderful opportunities, from the glories of the Chilterns and the Thames, and beautiful parks, to outstanding shopping and a constantly evolving cultural and restaurant scene.



Whilst we embrace the benefits of being a town centre school, with a solid urban vibe, we have excellent sporting facilities, with astros, tennis courts, netball courts, a large gymnasium, swimming pool and diving facilities along with our fitness suite. These facilities are supplemented by partnerships with Reading University, Reading Rowing club at the Redgrave Pinsent rowing lake, and other excellent local facilities. We were delighted to host the national GSA event of Girls go Gold in September 2023.

All our classrooms are well equipped to support effective teaching and learning, including IT resources to support the school's one to one digital device policy.



Terms of appointment

An excellent remuneration package commensurate with the importance of the role and the experience of the successful candidate will be offered.

All eligible teaching staff will be automatically enrolled into the School's defined contribution pension scheme, Aviva APTIS. The School will contribute 15%; a % of this may be used as flexible pay as per the employee's instruction. Comprehensive life cover and ill health capacity insurance is also available to all teaching staff.

Appointment process and how to apply

Applicants should complete [The Abbey's application form](#) and provide a covering letter which fully addresses the competencies as described in the job description and person specification and outlines their interest in The Abbey.

The Abbey is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful candidate must be willing to undergo an enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Protecting your personal data is of the utmost importance to The Abbey and we take this responsibility very seriously. The information that you provide on this form will be used to process your application for employment. The personal information that you provide will be stored and used in a confidential manner to assist our recruitment process. More details as to how we will process your data is set out in the Recruitment Privacy Notice and Data Protection policy.

If you succeed in your application and take up employment with The Abbey, the information will be used in the administration of your employment. We may check the information provided by you on this form with third parties.



Abbey Life & Benefits



The Abbey



3 Course Meal
Dining



Electric Vehicle
Leasing Scheme



Free Parking



Cycle to Work
Scheme



Sports Facilities



Employee Assistant
Programme (EAP)



Pension



Income Protection



Family Friendly
Policies



Concessions &
Discounts



Private
Healthcare
Scheme



Interest Free
Ticket Loan



Professional
Development



Staff Accommodation
(subject to availability)



IT equipment &
Resources



Key dates

