



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Head of Music

Application Pack

Love God

Work Hard

Be Kind

Information Pack

Head of Music



March 2025

Dear Applicant

We are seeking to appoint an ambitious, enthusiastic and highly skilled teacher who will lead and inspire a love of music throughout our school.

Music is language and love. At Holy Cross, music gives us a way to communicate with those around us and allows us to share the Love of Christ and his Church with everyone we meet. Music and singing are of the utmost importance to us and it plays a central role in all of our liturgical celebrations.

Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education. Music plays a key role in brain development. It helps develop language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration. It can also help pupils build self-confidence, resilience and have fun.

As Head of Department you would be the sole music specialist. As well as leading in this subject area the successful candidate will also be responsible for providing a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities and performance opportunities for all. These come in the form of whole school productions, regular concerts, performance at school worship, choir performances, visits to professional performances and workshops. The successful candidate will also stretch and challenge the most able pupils, to allow them the opportunity to create and perform at the highest possible level.

Pupils at Key Stage 3 are currently taught between one and two hours of music per fortnight. Music is also an options subject and pupils have the opportunity to choose their GCSE subjects at the end of Year 9. We currently deliver the OCR GCSE in Music and our results are above national averages.

Music is a well-resourced department and is taught in a large, specialist room which has its own electronic whiteboard and access to the school's wireless network. There is also a recording studio and several practice rooms where additional peripatetic music lessons led by external tutors take place.

I hope that this information pack has given you a flavor of the ethos and values of our school and all the opportunities that Holy Cross has to offer. Should you have any questions about us, or would like to look around our school before applying for the post, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please contact Mrs B Palmer, PA to Headteacher b.palmer@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Lindley', written in a cursive style.

Mr Greg Lindley
Headteacher

Child Protection Statement

In this school, the welfare of the child is paramount. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All staff should understand their responsibility to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions. Staff should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way.

Attitudes towards promoting and safeguarding the welfare of our children and young people will be scrutinised during the selection process for the post that you have applied for. If you are appointed to this post, information in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and young people will be provided at induction. This practical guidance for safe working practice will provide information about which behaviours constitute safe practice and which behaviours should be avoided.

Holy Cross is a Catholic High School established by the Catholic Community of the Chorley Deanery under the trusteeship of the Liverpool Archdiocese. We work in partnership with parishes and parents to provide the best possible education for our young people between the ages of 11 and 16, building on the foundations laid in primary school and preparing for their future development at the Catholic Sixth Form College or other post-sixteen establishments, or in the world of employment and training.

Our teachers are supported to uphold the very highest standards of behaviour through centralised systems, and to teach exceptional lessons through shared planning.

As a school, we offer:

- A supportive leadership structure
- A warm community in which your career will flourish
- A robust and effective behaviour system
- A thorough and supportive induction process
- Bespoke CPD
- Protected PPA
- Access to high-quality, regular professional development
- Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues across the Archdiocese and the local authority
- Continual review of working practices and staff workload

This appointment is subject to the current conditions of employment of teachers contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, the required standards for Qualified Teacher Status, other current educational legislation and the school's articles of governance. Candidates should also refer to the most up to date Teacher Standards for the generic responsibilities of a main pay scale teacher. This job description may be amended at any time following discussion between the Headteacher and member of staff, and will be reviewed annually.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS disclosure.

Please note that in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 an online search will be carried out as part of our due diligence on short-listed candidates.

Contract: Full-time hours, permanent contract

Start date: September 2025

Salary: MPR/UPR + TLR 2.3 (£7902)

Closing date: 12 noon, Friday 28 March 2025

Interview: Wednesday 2 April 2025

You will:

- Have an unwavering determination to deliver excellence for pupils from all starting points
- Share and demonstrate our school's ethos and culture
- Be committed to our ethos of high expectations for every pupil in both academic achievement and personal development
- Be committed to continually improving classroom practice and raising attainment
- Manage behaviour effectively to create a positive, calm and purposeful climate for learning
- Have the drive, skills and resilient character required to help develop our school
- Combine subject matter expertise with a passion for teaching your subject
- Be reflective about the school and committed to securing its continued development
- Have an excellent attendance and punctuality record



Job Description

Head of Music



Responsible to: Headteacher, SLT link

Key Responsibilities:

Teaching and Learning

- Foster a love of music in every pupil, ensuring they experience the joy of playing, singing, and performing
- Deliver high-quality, engaging music lessons tailored to stretch, challenge, and inspire pupils
- Use a range of innovative teaching methods to engage pupils of all abilities
- To raise attainment and achievement within the curriculum area
- To ensure that there is continuous development of schemes of learning
- To ensure continuity and progression in the curriculum for each pupil within and across Key Stages
- To lead the development of the use of ICT both within the curriculum and for tracking pupil progress
- To coordinate cross-curricular initiatives and responsibilities such as personal development, higher ability pupils and SEND
- Provide personalised support to nurture and develop each child's musical talents
- To liaise with relevant external agencies (examination boards, colleges, other schools, business/industry links)
- To lead the requirements of the National Curriculum or examination syllabus and ensure all pupils are thoroughly prepared for public examinations
- To undertake effective planning of department development plans, capitation bids and resource management, ensuring best value principles are applied
- To ensure that your classroom promotes an effective climate for learning
- Contribute to curriculum development and the sharing of best practice within the school
- Prepare pupils for concerts, productions, and external music examinations

Learning and Collaborating

- To liaise with other subject teachers and Heads of Department where appropriate in order to promote a cross-curricular approach to learning
- To plan lessons that, where possible, promote the development of literacy and numeracy skills
- To routinely review and develop the curriculum and produce resources to support learning for the full ability range
- To support other members of the school community through the sharing of skills and experience

Professional Requirements

- To produce data reports to parents in accordance with the school's Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- To attend Parents' Evenings and provide parents with information relating their child's progress and how to improve their level or grade
- To take part in performance management processes in accordance with school policy
- To carry out any such other reasonable duties in connection with subject teaching that may be required by the Headteacher of the school
- To ensure implementation of policy statements
- To undertake appropriate risk assessments to ensure health and safety within music

For more information about our school, please visit: www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

For an informal discussion or to arrange a visit please contact:

Mrs B Palmer, PA to Headteacher email: b.palmer@holycross.lancs.sch.uk or Tel: 01257 262093

Completed application form should be returned to vacancies@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

Person Specification

Head of Music



To be able to share and support Holy Cross' mission and vision.

Skills and Knowledge

- Passionate about music education, with a deep belief in the power of music to enrich children's lives
- A forward-thinking approach to the strategic direction of the music Department, ensuring that music at Holy Cross remains an integral and exciting part of school life
- A strong commitment to creativity and innovation in music education, ensuring that lessons and performances inspire and challenge all pupils
- Ability to work effectively within a team environment, understanding teaching roles and responsibilities
- A confident leader who can work independently and as part of a team, including overseeing and motivating peripatetic music staff
- A highly skilled musician who can play the piano to a high standard and confidently lead ensembles and choirs
- A proactive and energetic presence in the school, ready to drive new initiatives and develop existing musical traditions
- A skilled communicator, both orally and in writing, who can engage and inspire pupils, parents, and colleagues
- A confident user of technology in music education, including music tech software and digital learning platform
- Excellent teaching skills and an ability to enthuse and engage pupils
- Ability to create, monitor and develop engaging schemes of learning for KS3 and KS4 in music
- Developed understanding of current issues relating to the teaching of music
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with staff, parents, children and young people
- Good time management and personal organisational skills
- An ability to track and analyse pupils' attainment and progress using a range of data
- An ability to improve their own practice through observations, evaluations and discussions with colleagues
- Knowledge of current curriculum developments in KS3 and KS4
- Understanding of strategies for raising the achievement of pupils of all aptitudes and abilities

Experience and Qualifications

- Qualified Teacher Status
- Honours degree in music or related subject
- At least two years' experience teaching music, ideally with leadership experience or the potential to lead a department
- A proven track record of success in delivering high-quality music education
- Expert knowledge of music theory, composition, and performance
- Experience leading ensembles, choirs, and productions
- A strong record of professional development and a commitment to continued learning
- Experience with digital music production and contemporary trends in music education
- A history of student success in music examinations or competitions
- A record of participation in CPD activities

Professional Values

- High expectations of all pupils; respect for their social, cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic background and a commitment to raising their educational achievements
- A commitment to equal opportunities
- A willingness to promote the Catholic ethos of the school
- Demonstrate and promote the positive values, attitudes and behaviour they expect from the pupils with whom they work
- A willingness to engage in extra-curricular activities relating to music
- A good sense of humour and highly enthusiastic about working with young people



Holy Cross
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TELEPHONE 01257 262093

ONLINE www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

E-MAIL admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

TWITTER @holycrosschol



How to find us

**Holy Cross Catholic High School,
Myles Standish Way, Chorley, PR7 3LS**

Conveniently situated with good transport links via the M61, M6 and A6 to Wigan, Preston, Bolton, Manchester, and mainline train station.