

Job Title: Teacher of Piano

Your role will complement the work of Samantha Carrasco, Head of Keyboard, who teaches many but not all of the first-study pianists, including those on the Hampshire Specialist Music Course, and who decides on the piano list post-enrolment with Rachel Platt, Head of Music. The role will include teaching second-study pianists, many of whom perform at grade 8/diploma level in their first study and are aiming to take a music degree at a competitive university, as well as students taking other subjects who wish to study piano privately in college time, which the college allows on freelance basis. These students also take ABRSM exams, which gain them valuable UCAS points in their university applications.

The Music Curriculum - The department comprises an experienced team of staff delivering Edexcel A level Music and the Hampshire Specialist Music Course (HSMC). A level Music Technology and the BTEC in Popular Music Performance are also taught at the College. Currently there are 72 students studying A level Music, and about 200 involved in extra-curricular music activities. Grade 5 theory is taught to all new students, if not already passed. The department has high expectations of the students and has a record of excellent examination results over a long period of time, with students achieving high grades (A or B) above the national average. Progression to conservatoires and to universities to read music is outstanding, with many students winning places at the most competitive institutions in the country.

Music Activities - The quality of extra-curricular music is outstanding and includes the chamber music programme of the HSMC course. As part of the College Activities programme the department currently runs a Symphony Orchestra, Big Band, Brass Ensemble, Soul Band, Chamber Choir and many other bands, instrumental and vocal groups. There is a busy programme of concerts for all these ensembles across the year. Other events include master-classes, workshops, recitals of classical chamber music and lunchtime concerts of contemporary music. Winchester Cathedral is the venue for the annual Carol Service and Founders' Day Evensong. All music staff are involved in regular evening commitments.

Instrumental/Vocal Tuition - A large team of staff visits the College each week to give one-to-one instrumental/vocal tuition to students. Every A level student has their first study lesson paid for by the college. Some of these staff are also involved in extra-curricular activities, including coaching chamber music. ABRSM and Trinity exam results are outstanding, with many students taking diplomas during their course.

Facilities - The recently-opened Russell Music Centre is a state-of-the-art music facility, offering high quality and versatile learning and performance spaces for classical, rock, pop and jazz. The building houses a recital room with cutting-edge audio-visual and production lighting, specialist band rooms, chamber ensemble and rehearsal rooms, acoustically treated teaching and practice rooms and classrooms, and two recording studios equipped to the highest possible industry standard. Composition is taught using Sibelius software.

We are proud to announce that Peter Symonds College has been officially designated an All-Steinway School. All teaching is on Steinway pianos, including two Model B's, one Model D, 12 Steinway uprights, and our exciting new Spirio piano. This prestigious status reflects our commitment to excellence in music education.

Hampshire Specialist Music Course - The department also runs the Hampshire Specialist Music Course based around additional sessions in chamber music. Students on this course receive free tuition on both their first and second study instruments, and the course includes many solo and chamber performance opportunities. Jazz Chamber ensemble is part of the programme.

Rachel Platt
Head of Music

May 2026