

St Joseph's College

Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent



APPLICATION PACK

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HOW TO FIND US

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am delighted that you are interested in the role of Director of Music at St Joseph's College. We are excited to welcome applications from dynamic, forward-thinking professionals and to grow the staff of this amazing school.

About the school

St Joseph's College is an outstanding, oversubscribed mixed Catholic grammar school with a 90 year tradition of excellence. The school is part of the Edmund Rice family of schools, founded by the Christian Brothers and following the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Our Catholic ethos is very important to us but not all our staff are Catholic. We embrace diversity and welcome staff from all backgrounds and traditions. All of our students take a full and active role in all aspects of the religious life of the school. All staff, regardless of religious commitment, uphold the Catholic ethos of the school.

As a semi-selective school in Years 7 – 11, students must attain a standardised score of 105 in the entrance examination to be eligible for one of the 150 places. We are always oversubscribed and our intake reflects the ethnic, cultural and social diversity of the region. We have over 1,100 fantastic students on roll, including a sixth form of 400 drawing successful from schools across the city and beyond. We offer a full range of GCSEs and A levels courses and academic standards are consistently very high - we expect the best for and from our students.



We love our 1932 building, but in the last few years several million pounds has been invested in our premises. We have two purpose built sixth form blocks, a specialist Sports Hall and the school owns extensive playing fields beyond our site.

Along with traditional values of exemplary behaviour, hard work and the highest standards, we embrace leading-edge practice and an ethos of continued staff development. Subject expertise is very important to our knowledge-engaged teaching and we are committed to lifelong learning and self-development. We are nationally recognised, having been awarded Teaching School Hubs status, meaning that we lead on teacher training, the Early Career Framework and the delivery of all NPQs for the 317 schools of Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. This is a fantastic place to build your career.

Why come to work at St Joseph's College?

We look after our staff very well; our ethos is grounded in care, a warm friendly atmosphere and the highest academic and behaviour standards. We are committed to developing the whole person so that our students and staff are enriched academically, spiritually, morally and socially. The 120 teaching and support staff are energetic, creative, utterly dedicated and very supportive of each other.

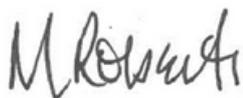
We mix the best of the traditional and the modern; we have a house system, a school song, a fine tradition of sports and games and we also have a vibrant musical and cultural life, we get involved in social justice campaigns, linking with schools across the world. Our students and staff are all part of a huge and very proud global community.

This is a rare opportunity to play a pivotal role leading one of the best music departments in the country. The Director of Music will be responsible for the leadership and management of the Music Department, ensuring the highest standards of teaching and learning are delivered and leading our team of peripatetic staff and extensive extra-curricular music programme. This role provides great scope for imagination, innovation and dynamic leadership from the right candidate, and will require creativity, empathy, energy and a sense of adventure, as well as strong leadership potential and empathy.

If you visit St Joseph's, I know that you will be struck by the friendliness and courtesy of the students who really are exceptional young people. Relationships between staff and students are excellent. Students are respectful but at the same time warm and friendly, and parents and governors are very supportive of the school.

I genuinely believe that we have developed a very special community at St Joseph's College of which I am very proud.

I look forward to receiving your application and wish you the best of luck.



MELISSA ROBERTS
HEADTEACHER

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At St Joseph's College seeks to develop the whole person. We are a Catholic School inspired in our mission by the vision of life that is found in the teaching of the Gospel, the Church and in Jesus, who came that we 'may have life and have it to the full.'

In striving to fulfil this mission we continue the work of the Christian Brothers and its founder Blessed Edmund Rice. In practice this means that we seek to:

1. Encourage, support and inspire young people and the wider school community in the journey of faith. Create a well-ordered community where everyone is valued and respected.

2. Develop the intellectual, creative, physical, spiritual and religious potential of every pupil and encourage involvement in extracurricular activities such as sport, music, drama and community service.

3. Work in partnership with parents, parishes, local industry and commerce, and the wider community in a spirit of mutual service for the benefit of all.

4. Prepare our young people for life beyond school and in particular develop personal integrity, moral values and a sense of justice so that they 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God'.

(Micah 6:8)

St Joseph's College is a school like no other. Where many focus solely on examination results, the whole ethos of St Joseph's is focused on each and every individual who passes through our gates. We want to focus on developing their wider knowledge, their ability to make links between their subjects, their ability to question and wonder. We want to feed their soul giving them access to great thinking, profound spiritual experiences, wonderful cultural opportunities and a passion for lifelong learning.

If education, in the truest sense of the word, is about bringing the best out of children, then delivering a raft of A and A* grades is hugely important but we aim to do even more. We aim to inspire and support our pupils so they can become the very best they can be in every single way. Our philosophy is therefore focused around the traits which we want all St Joseph's students to acquire before taking their place in the adult world.

We want our pupils to be inspired by everything they do at St Joseph's College, both inside and outside of the classroom, so they leave school as interested and interesting people. We want our pupils to adopt a genuinely intellectual approach to their academic work and to their view of the world around them, in the knowledge that a St Joseph's College education is only the beginning of an exciting and life-long journey of learning. We want our pupils to become truly independent, as those who can think, learn and cope independently will be the leaders and game-changers of the future. We want each and every pupil to be valued and spiritually developed as an individual, so their St Joseph's experience is much more than just going to school – rather, it is the journey to self. And we want our pupils to be inclusive in all dealings with other people, so they leave the College not in a bubble of privilege and elitism, but with the ability to engage with their local, national and international communities, and with a burning desire to do good in the world.

WHAT MAKES ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OUTSTANDING?

"Pupils have a highly sophisticated understanding of their place in developing the ethos of their community"

(Section 48 2019)

The school was founded by the Christian Brothers in 1932. As a Catholic School we are inspired in our mission by the vision of life that is found in the teaching of the Gospel, the Church and in Jesus who came that we "may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

In striving to fulfil this mission we continue the work of the Christian Brothers and its founder Blessed Edmund Rice. St Joseph's College seeks to develop the whole person and as a result the pastoral care of our students is of paramount importance.

Pupils at St Joseph's College today are given the opportunity and encouraged to share in the vision and work of Edmund Rice. As one person has put it, their mission is to be like the "brave, radical, non-conformist, social justice activist" that Edmund was. Many who have passed through this school have involved themselves in fundraising, community service, assisting children at local Primary Schools, summer time schemes with children from the inner cities of Liverpool, Dublin and children with severe special needs.

We hope that in "educating the whole person" we are not only providing for pupils of St Joseph's all that Edmund set out to provide in terms of a caring, nurturing, stimulating environment but also an awareness of the needs of those whose lives are in some way poorer than their own and what they can themselves do for them.

Achievement is outstanding because students make rapid progress in all subject areas. The teaching at St Joseph's College is inspiring, exciting and creative. A challenging learning environment is created where students relish the opportunities to explore, investigate and develop their skills.

Students are eager to learn, proud of their school and ambitious to achieve well. They are courteous, polite, respectful and highly effective communicators. They embrace the numerous opportunities to contribute to their school, local and wider communities. Students feel safe and nurtured in this school.

The sixth form is outstanding. Students follow mainly academic courses and most go on to university. They leave the sixth form ready to make a contribution to the world around them.

Outstanding leadership and management pervade the school. Leaders are never complacent, continually driving improvement. The school knows itself exceptionally well and its current improvement priorities, to develop better marking and further increase the proportion of students achieving the very highest grades at GCSE and at AS-level, are the right ones.



Job Advertisement

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC TLR 1(a) £8287

FULL TIME PERMANENT

Required for September 2022

We have an amazing opportunity to lead one of the best music departments in the country. Owing to the retirement of our much-loved director of music, we are looking for an inspirational, dynamic and talented expert to lead this vibrant and highly successful department. We are an 11-19 Catholic grammar school with huge ambition.

We are looking for:

- Experience and expertise in teaching or leading KS3, GCSE and A Level music. We also offer KS4 and KS5 Performing Arts (Music).
- The ability to inspire our pupils who love and value music and achieve very well
- A determination to uphold highest standards of pupil attainment, participation and behaviour
- A very accomplished musician with high level playing or singing skills
- Someone to lead and inspire our talented and continue our outstanding track record
- A passion for music and performing arts inside and beyond the classroom. Experience and skill in leading choral singing especially welcome
- A commitment to support our faith life

We offer:

- The chance to play a key role in our fantastic school, teaching exceptional students aged 11-19 who love music and play with great skill and commitment
- A rare opportunity to grow our already thriving music provision
 - Specialist music facilities and a recording studio
 - Talented and dedicated colleagues – expert teachers and professional sound engineers
 - A school staff of supportive, creative and talented teaching and support staff
 - A commitment to evidence-informed practice, subject knowledge development and a dedication to staff well-being
 - Excellent relationships between staff and our able and well-behaved students
 - A flourishing sixth form of 400+
 - First-rate opportunities for career development
 - Exceptional extra-curricular and wider life opportunities
 - A rich and flourishing faith community and the warmth of our school family
- All our staff are valued, listened to, mentored, challenged and given opportunities to develop. As a Teaching School Hub for Cheshire we offer outstanding teacher training and the highest quality professional development.

Applicants are welcome to visit the school or telephone if they have any questions. Please download and complete the application form on our website and return to Mrs F Uschmann, Head's PA/HR Manager by post or email to: fuschmann@stjosephsmail.com

Closing date: 28 February 2022

Interview date: 7 March 2022

Music at St Joseph's College



To hear and see for yourself the wonderful music that is produced by the department and students, we urge you to listen to our Youtube channel. Sit back and relax with you headphones and enjoy:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sjc+music+and+video+production+

Many of our students have gone on to work in the industry, Dan Croll - Recording Artist, James Wilson-Rhead - Composer/Performer, Antonio Angotti - Bass Player with the band Tax the Heat, to name but a few

***"My advice to music students is don't hesitate this is one of the best and most forward thinking music departments in the UK, go for it! If you work hard, prepare thoroughly and follow the advice and guidance given you will succeed in this subject."
(Fred Lawton, classical guitar and tutor)***

Post Information and Description

This is a rare opportunity to play a pivotal role leading one of the best music departments in the country. The Director of Music will be responsible for the leadership and management of the Music Department, ensuring the highest standards of teaching and learning are delivered and leading our team of peripatetic staff and extensive extra-curricular music programme.

This role provides great scope for imagination, innovation and dynamic leadership from the right candidate, and will require creativity, empathy, energy and a sense of adventure, as well as strong leadership potential and empathy.

Music at St Joseph's College

Music has an essential role to play in allowing our incredible students the scope to be expressive, to challenge themselves to their limits, to have fun and be creative, to work together and to develop the skills to perform under pressure.

Whether it is our annual showcase at venues such as The Victoria Hall, as part of one of our exceptional ensembles or in informal jammin' sessions, there is space for everyone at St Joseph's College to make music a part of their lives.

Many of our top musicians go on to study music at university and at conservatoires. The school offers GCSE and A Level Music and Performing Arts (Music) at KS4 and KS5.

To see more of our music department please take a look at our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sjc+music+and+video+production+

Job Overview

A Subject Leader at St Joseph's College will be responsible for the leadership and vision of the department. They will lead and manage all aspects of the Department, including the curriculum, student support and staffing.

1. To be responsible for the vision, leadership and development of the department
2. To ensure the effective delivery of the curriculum to all students
3. To ensure the effective teaching, assessing, recording and reporting of student progress
4. To lead and manage all department staff, including performance management
5. To work in a way that promotes the safety and well-being of children and young people

Post information cont..

Main Duties:

Support the aims and ethos of the department and the school

- To provide vision and leadership for the department;
- To ensure there is a positive learning culture within the department;
- To support and promote whole school policies and procedures;
- To be responsible for the effective management of the capitation and allocation of resources;
- To attend Subject Leaders and Staff meetings;
- To chair Department meetings;
- To ensure that risk assessments and Health and Safety regulations are observed.

Quality Assurance

- To participate and contribute to the Performance Management Process;
- To contribute to the school and department development process, through writing and evaluating improvement plans/SEF's;
- To monitor the quality of learning and teaching within the department;
- To monitor staff marking, reporting and assessment to ensure consistency.

Learning and Teaching – Curriculum

- To plan and ensure the effective delivery of all courses, specifications and schemes of work;
- To carry out lesson observations, identify appropriate targets and facilitate professional development;
- To promote an inspirational environment of high challenge where students experience innovative learning and teaching strategies.

Learning and Teaching – Student Support

- To assess and monitor student achievement and progress;
- To set high but realistic targets for all students;
- To ensure there is appropriate support in place for SEN and A&T students;
- To ensure equal opportunity for all students within the department;
- To take responsibility for promoting good order within school through reinforcing the school's code of conduct.

Leadership

- To promote teamwork and motivate all staff in order to ensure effective working relationships;
- To participate in the recruitment process for new staff;
- To plan and ensure the effective delivery of the induction programme for new staff;
- To co-ordinate the setting of work when staff are absent;
- To provide opportunities for sharing good practice and CPD for all staff.

Other:

- To undertake any other duties in connection with the role of subject team leader as might reasonably be requested by the Headteacher or SLT mentor at any time
- The job description and allocation of responsibility may be amended from time to time.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

St Joseph's College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks, including enhanced Disclosure and Barring checks.

Candidates should be aware that all posts at St Joseph's College involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children and young people, although the extent of that responsibility will vary depending on the nature of the post. All staff are expected to take part in statutory safeguarding training and commit to all safeguarding policies and procedures.

We require all applicants for employment to disclose any previous unspent criminal convictions and any cautions which have not expired, or any pending prosecutions. In addition, the role you are applying for is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

(exceptions order 1975) which requires you to disclose all spent convictions and cautions except those which are 'protected' under Police Act 1997

If you are currently working with children on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including those related to children or young people (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time-expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any investigation or disciplinary proceedings. If you are not currently working with children, but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about these issues.

Where neither your current or previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will be asked about your suitability to work with children, although it may, where appropriate, be answered not applicable, if your duties haven't brought you into contact with children or young people.



THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

Shortlisting will be conducted by a panel, who will match your skills/experience against the criteria in the Person Specification. You will be selected for interview entirely on the contents of your application form, so please read the Job Description and Person Specification carefully before you complete your form.

All candidates invited to interview must bring the following documents:

- Documentary evidence of right to work in the UK
- Documentary evidence of identity that will satisfy Disclosure and Barring check requirements such as a current driving licence including a photograph and/or a passport and/or a full birth certificate
- Documentary proof of current name and address (ie utility bill, financial statement)
- Where appropriate any documentation evidencing a change of name
- Documents confirming any educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Please note that originals of the above are necessary. Photocopies or certified copies are not sufficient. We will seek references on shortlisted candidates for all positions and may approach previous employers for information to verify particular experience or qualifications before interview. Any relevant issues arising from references will be taken up at interview. In addition to candidates' ability to perform the duties of the post, the interview will also explore issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including:

- Motivation to work with children and young people
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people.

Conditional Offer and Pre-Employment Checks

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

- Verification of right to work in the UK
- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received)
- Verification of identity and qualifications
- Vetting and Barring Checks and any other pre-employment checks relevant to the role such as eg Childcare Disqualification Regulations, Prohibition check / s128, overseas records check
- Satisfactory Disclosure and Barring check
- Verification of professional status such as QTS Status, NPQH (where required)
- Satisfactory completion of Health Assessment
- Satisfactory completion of the probationary period



How to Find Us

The nearest bus stop is opposite the site and can be reached via several different bus routes from Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke on Trent. St Joseph's College is a 10 min car journey from the nearest train station.

Location:

St Joseph's College is situated in Stoke on Trent which is located less than an hour from Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool and only one and a half hours direct from London Euston by train. Stoke on Trent borders with the counties of Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire and is only 40mins from the Peak District.

We are easily accessible from both local and surrounding areas. For anyone travelling by car, St Joseph's is only 5 minutes from the motorway: Junction 15 on the M6 in the closest exit, with easy access to the A50 and A34.

