



**DUBAI COLLEGE**  
*A tradition of quality in education*

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## **Teacher of Music**

*Required for September 2022*

**Vacancy Information**

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## The Post

Dubai College is seeking to appoint a talented, engaging and highly committed Teacher of Music to this thriving and successful department. As a teacher at Dubai College you will be expected to monitor, assess and evaluate the learning which is taking place and then report the findings to students and parents and adapt your teaching accordingly. You will also take responsibility for your own professional development and actively seek out opportunities in order to contribute to your own professional growth with support from the College. Finally you will also recognise that your role extends far beyond the classroom: you will be expected to be a form tutor to an assigned group of students, contribute to the school's PSHE programme, tutor time and class assemblies, as well as leading a number of extra-curricular musical activities per week and participating in whole-school events including on evenings and weekends.

### Essential criteria:

a good honours degree in Music from a leading university or conservatoire

a PGCE qualification and a minimum of two years relevant experience of teaching secondary aged students

a high level of musical performance skills in an instrument or voice

experience of teaching A Level and GCSE Music, including history, analysis and composition

enthusiasm with a genuine love of the subject, as well as the ability to motivate and inspire students using a wide range of innovative teaching strategies

ability to work as a member of a team and contribute to the further development of the department

experience in using DAW and music notation software at KS3 and KS4

### Desirable criteria:

further qualifications in music or education

piano skills

experience conducting and directing ensembles

studio skills and experience with innovative digital technologies for creative music learning

the ability to teach Music throughout Key Stages 3 to 5 and stretch the most able students and support all students

the ability to demonstrate excellent skills in classroom practice using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies

an awareness of Assessment for Learning and the ability to include AFL as an integral part of classroom practice

## The Department

The Dubai College Music Department is an extremely busy, lively and inspiring community, which is proud both of its academic successes and the high quality of its co-curricular programme. The department is staffed by a Director of Music, Head of Academic Music, a further full-time music teacher, two full-time piano teacher/accompanists, Head of Brass, Head of Woodwind, Head of Voice as well as seven other part-time instrumental staff.

Students in Years 7 – 9 receive one 50 minute lesson per week in music. In Year 10, students may opt for music at GCSE and at this level the subject is popular. In 2021 - 2022 there are over 60 students studying the subject in Years 10-11. Many students continue with their studies to A Level; at present there are 7 students preparing for the A Level qualification and numbers are expected to increase next year. Other students continue their interest in music through taking the EPQ, and in recent years, research areas have included Music and Artificial Intelligence, Music and Mental Health and the Psychology of Musical Collaboration. Many go on to study music at tertiary level and in recent years our students have taken up places at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Holloway, Royal Conservatory of The Hague, University of Manchester, as well as prestigious US institutions including Berkeley and Boston. A number of alumni studying other disciplines also are successful in gaining music scholarships at institutions such as MIT, Yale and Oxbridge.

Tuition for instrumentalists is offered on an individual and private basis by twelve part-time members of staff with lessons rotating during the normal school timetable. At present more than 350 students receive lessons in the school instrumental programme. The school is the regional centre for ABRSM examinations and we encourage all of our students to take part in these where appropriate. Many students achieve Grade 8 and diploma qualifications by the end of their tenure at the College.

The department runs a large number of co-curricular activities. Instrumental groups include Senior & Junior Guitar Ensembles, Flute Choir, Wind Quintet, Saxophone Quartets, Brass Ensembles, String Quartet, Piano Trio, Senior & Junior String Ensembles, Chamber Orchestra, Intermediate Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band. In addition, we run Junior and Senior Choirs and an award-winning Chamber Choir. Dubai College also runs a successful Beginner Band programme allowing Year 7 students to learn a new instrument for one year with 50 promising musicians taking part last year. All ensembles practise on a weekly basis and perform regularly. This year

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students have already performed in 20 school concerts and events.

Many students take part in the annual Young Musicians of the Gulf competition in Bahrain. Honoured to be the most successful participating school, many of our students gained prizes in the final. Students also enter for international competitions and summer courses.

The College has an excellent reputation for large and small-scale productions. In recent years we have worked with the Drama Department to stage the full versions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Guys and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables*, and *Hairspray*, and in 2014, we also produced an opera (*Dido and Aeneas*). For our 40th Anniversary in May 2018, we performed Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with a massed choir and orchestra.

The Department is housed in an impressive Music Centre which includes a recital hall, two classrooms, sixth-form room and adjoining practice and instrumental teaching rooms. In terms of IT, we have 24 iMac computers with both Sibelius and Logic software. In addition the College has an auditorium which provides an outstanding venue for musical performance. Dubai College has also recently opened the SPACE centre, which includes 4 large practice rooms, two large ensemble rooms and a black box theatre.

## The College

Established forty-four years ago, Dubai College now has a national and international reputation as a world class learning organisation. We are an independent, coeducational, not-for-profit, selective school for boys and girls aged 11-18. We follow an adapted English National Curriculum and our vision is to be "leading British education overseas", underpinned by four pillars of sporting, creative, philanthropic and academic endeavour. Named British International School of the Year 2019 by Independent School Parent magazine, the school has since featured twice in the Spear's Schools Index as one of the top 100 private schools in the world. Our work on wellbeing was recognised when we were awarded the International School Award for the Initiative to Support School Wellbeing and Safeguarding in 2020 and we were recently named Best British Curriculum School in the UAE 2021 in the SchoolsCompared Top School Awards 2021. This year we have been shortlisted

for the International School Awards 2022 for our work on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

Dubai College is a forward-thinking and self-improving school for whom the needs of our students are at the heart of every decision we make. We were founding members of the UAE Research Schools Network and our reputation is based upon our commitment to keep learning first. As a consequence, we have a generous CPD budget which is used to create and support continuous learning opportunities for staff. Our Deputy Head: Learning and Teaching, supported by Specialist Leaders in Education, mentors and supports staff in digital skills, oracy, stretch and challenge and the science of learning. Teaching staff are encouraged to undertake action research projects and apply for part-time master's degrees in education-related fields and aspiring leaders are guided through the reformed National Professional Qualifications. Working collaboratively within departments during professional learning days as well as increasingly reaching out across a network of other not-for-profit British schools in Dubai, the College is continually striving to create systems for the sharing and creation of knowledge.

The British Schools Overseas inspection of the College (conducted in October 2021) rated the school as 'Outstanding' in every category noting that "pupils are exceptionally articulate", that "relationships between pupils and teachers are very positive" and that "pupils are exceptionally well cared for by the school's staff". The number of students on roll is currently 1043 and comprises students in the 11 to 18 age range with 261 in the Sixth Form. The College operates an eight-form intake of 176 students in Year 7. Approximately 45% of the students are British, but 52 other nationalities are represented. The GCSE and A Level courses followed are those of one of three examination boards (Edexcel, AQA, and OCR). Examination results are consistently outstanding and in 2019\* Dubai College's GCSE performance was comparable to the 5th best UK co-educational independent school according to The Telegraph league table. Our excellent A Level results mean that 53% of Dubai College Year 13 students starting university in 2021 went to the top 1% of universities worldwide (according to QS World University Rankings 2021) and 18% of our leavers are going to universities in the Top Ten global rankings, including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial and Stanford. The summer of 2021 was also a record-breaking year both in terms of the number of students heading to the USA (24% of

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the cohort, including 12 students heading to Ivy League schools) as well as those heading to countries outside of the US and UK (13% of the cohort). In terms of absolute grades, Dubai College remains the top performing school in the United Arab Emirates achieving 94% grades 9-7 (A\*\*/A\*/A) at GCSE and 73% A\*/A grades at A Level this year. (\*the last year of public examinations).

While we do invite all our students to rise to the challenge of our academically rigorous curriculum, in the true spirit of independent schools we also champion the importance of our flourishing extra-curricular programme to which all staff contribute at least one extra-curricular activity per week. Classes are small and the facilities, resources and teaching environment are very high quality. It is therefore no surprise that the College has developed a very strong regional and international reputation for drama, music and sport as well as academic outcomes. We are a member of HMC, COBIS (Council of British International Schools) and BSME (British Schools of the Middle East).

The College occupies a nineteen-acre site on the coast very close to the Palm Jumeirah at the mid-point between Dubai Marina and the iconic Burj Al Arab. In August 2020 we opened our new Sports and Performing Arts Centre of Excellence the (SPACE) which includes a 150-seater black box theatre, music practice rooms, drama, spinning and aerobics studios, an extensive gymnasium, a double width sports hall, a cafeteria and 25m swimming pool equipped with electronic timers. Elsewhere on campus we have a multi-purpose auditorium capable of seating over 1000 audience members, purpose-built science laboratories, a recently refurbished Sixth Form centre, a new flagship English department featuring a full-size Harkness table which serves as a statement of intent for future renovation. A new administration building opened in 2018 created the space for our innovative regional teaching and learning hub and a new sports pavilion was completed in 2015. We are also fortunate enough to have extensive grass playing fields and the full range of classrooms you would expect in a school of our size.

## Ethos

As a College we are aiming to engineer balance in the lives of students who are academically very able. There is no blueprint for a Dubai College student rather we are aiming for students to discover for themselves who they are and who they want to be. By creating a wealth

of opportunities for students to participate in as broad a range of experiences as possible whether they are sporting, creative, philanthropic or academic, we are enabling them to discover their own place within the school community and in time within the world outside. We never lose sight of the fact that our academically gifted students aspire to perform as well as possible in public examinations and we continuously champion the academic. However, the ability to work as a member of a team, to manage setbacks and failure and to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses will be as important in enabling them to live their life with integrity and is consequently a core focus of what we do here. As a result our students leave us as confident individuals with the knowledge, skill set and outlook to succeed at the very best universities and eventually in their chosen, often very challenging, career paths. When asked what standards we expect of one another as professionals DC staff demonstrate a real sense of vocation, that working at Dubai College is not a job but a lifestyle choice. Teachers believe strongly that they should be able to fulfil their academic responsibilities to their students and must be accountable for the outcomes of every one of their students. The next most important expectation of staff at Dubai College is that they should embrace whole school life and contribute fully to the extra-curricular programme both during and after school hours.

Working at Dubai College is intense; it is not a 9-5 job and for it to continue to feel like a real community staff must be willing to give freely of their time in exchange for working with very able students. Staff believe they should also display excellent professional courtesy to one another and their students: every subject is on the timetable for a reason and no-one should speak out of turn about somebody else's academic discipline; we work in an Islamic country and staff should dress professionally in line with cultural sensitivities and staff should treat one another and their students as they would hope to be treated themselves. Staff also feel that they each have a responsibility to go beyond the baseline: the national curriculum is a jumping off point not an end goal, an exam syllabus is a dot to be joined up to a bigger picture, the working day is the start but not the end of a day's work, an ALPS prediction is a minimum for a student to achieve. As practitioners staff feel they should be looking to develop, to enthuse, to inspire, they should be craftsmen with a passion for their subject and whatever their position in the school they feel they all ought to feel equally responsible for the outcomes

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of the College. As members of a school which feels more like an extended family than an institution we hope to educate well-mannered citizens who are empowered to fulfil their aspirations. The “not-for-profit” status of our organisation perfectly embodies our ethos: everything is invested in the school and the students with nothing left over.

While this all sounds ideal it is important to understand, however, that Dubai College is not perfect. The post itself is an extremely challenging one and the College is tremendously busy. If you dislike hard work – sacrificing weekends and evenings for the sake of the students – and are concerned by working with highly able, intellectually demanding students, this post is simply not for you. Equally it must be clearly understood that the College is a restless and self-improving school and I would encourage you to take a look at our new 3-year strategic vision to get a sense of the upcoming scope of our ambition. The successful applicant must both embrace and play their significant part in contributing to this plan but without damaging, in any way, the core essential ethos of the school. It should be noted that, although we certainly embrace change, we do not run with every innovation emanating from the UK – we cherry-pick initiatives that suit our selective and highly able student body. However, it should also be noted that we are subject to whatever changes the UAE government chooses to make on an annual basis which can make for a very fast-paced educational landscape.

The College really does have a great feel about it. It already has an exceptionally strong national and international reputation and if you feel you have the potential to build on our reputation as a centre of excellence on the global stage we would very much like to hear from you.

## Remuneration

Dubai College oDubai College offers an excellent remuneration package, which includes a base salary of up to AED23,080 pcm in addition to responsibility allowances (where applicable) and a housing allowance, flights, medical insurance and school fees (where eligible) . Furthermore, all staff benefit from the opportunity to work with our dynamic, highly qualified team in very pleasant surroundings with excellent facilities. The package will be discussed further at interview.

## How to apply

Applications should be sent by email to [dcrecruit@dubaicollege.org](mailto:dcrecruit@dubaicollege.org) using the application form available on our website by **Sunday 23rd January at 23:59** and interviews will be held the following week. For further details about the College please visit our website - [www.dubaicollege.org](http://www.dubaicollege.org).

***Dubai College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and we select staff that understand and share this commitment. All applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and obtaining a Police Certificate or Good Conduct Certificate from the country the applicant last resided or was employed in, which may include Disclosure & Barring Checks.***





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