



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

Headteacher: P J Hurst BA MA MBA NPQH

Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form
Saxtead Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HE

T: 01728 723493

E: inmail@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk
thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk

Dear applicant,

January 2025

Post Title: Director of Music

Thomas Mills High School is seeking an inspirational, highly motivated and talented teacher to lead our thriving Music Department and whole school approach to Music. Music is a very important part of our school and has contributed to local and national success over many years.

The Music Department consists of the Director, another teacher and 12 peripatetic staff. Facilities are excellent and include a large general classroom, a music technology suite and a recently opened state of the art Recording Studio. In addition, there is a music store cupboard and 5 practice rooms. Our School Hall has a stage, and the school production is one of the highlights of the school year as well as the numerous concerts. Each week there are several ensembles and bands, and more details are included in the departmental information within the recruitment pack. Approximately 153 students participate in individual, or group lessons each week. Music is both a popular option at GCSE and at A Level. The Director works closely with the Drama Department and oversees their work.

The post therefore offers a brilliant opportunity for a talented teacher to see their passion for music ignited in students in a school that believes in the value of the arts. This is an exciting time to join the school with interest in the school's curriculum and character development attracting students from a wide area. It is also an opportunity to have a fresh look to develop provision further. For example, our curriculum or how we could widen participation further. We are hopeful that the government and regulators will value Music and the Arts in general again and this is to the benefit of our students as well as the local and national community.

The successful candidate will need:

- Relevant academic and teaching qualifications
- Own performance skills and ability to conduct these in others
- Experience in managing a team of staff
- Evidence of organising an event or a whole school event
- Knowledge of what makes an excellent curriculum plan
- Knowledgeable and enthusiastic teaching

The vacancy has arisen due to the retirement of Richard Hanley BEM on the 31st August 2025 after thirty six years of outstanding service to the students of this school and the county of Suffolk. This has followed a forty-year career in education. There is a thirst for learning amongst our pupils and a healthy love of music from students, parents, staff and the wider community. The school has consistently sustained a broad range of options and as a result curriculum areas are thriving in this medium sized state school.

For this appointment our priority is Music, and we will want to recruit the best candidate possible. In return, you will find a supportive school and parent body that appreciates Music and students who will relish the opportunities.

I would be very happy to discuss the exciting opportunities with potential applicants, as would Richard. We would also be happy to show you round the department allowing you to meet both students and staff.

We hope we have matched the salary to reflect the exceptional candidate we wish to recruit. This reflects the whole school importance of the role. However, we appreciate that every candidate's strengths and experiences will be different and this can be reflected in the post offered. It may also be that a job share emerges, and this could be discussed either beforehand or at interview.

The School

Thomas Mills High School is a flourishing 11-18 high school at an exciting stage of its development and I hope the enclosed information encourages you to apply. Our staff are vital to the success of the school and, if appointed, you would be joining a highly valued and hardworking team.

The school is situated in the pleasant and historic town of Framingham. Results are consistently outstanding, and we are justifiably proud of our academic excellence. High expectations of our students and well qualified staff lead to high quality teaching and learning. Students make very good progress during their time here and move successfully into university (including Oxbridge) or employment. Our academic results consistently place us as one of the highest performing schools in Suffolk. Our success is recognised by the Department for Education, and we were delighted to be awarded 'World Class Schools' status.

Our curriculum has been enhanced by specialist status in technology, arts and languages. The school is large enough to provide a range of options and facilities and yet small enough for students to develop as individuals. There is an impressive range of extra-curricular activities which supports our students as they become confident learners and active members of the community. Visitors often remark on the calm, purposeful and self-disciplined atmosphere. Our school ethos is shaped by our Charter of Values which blends tradition and innovation.

Application

If you are interested in applying, in addition to the application form we ask you to write a two-page letter which includes the following:

- Why the post and Thomas Mills High School and Sixth Form appeals to you
- How you would develop the curriculum further (from Key Stage Three to A Level)
- How you would ensure excellent outcomes
- How you would motivate staff and students with the excellent extra-curricular provision

Our interview process is likely to take over two days and we are working towards Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February. The exact timetable will depend on the number of candidates selected but will include some work with students both in the classroom context and working with a multi-instrument ensemble. There will also be the panel interviews.

For the successful candidate we will support a strong handover, and this could include paying some release time to the candidate's existing school towards the end of the Summer Term.

All applicants will be afforded equal opportunities. The school is also committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Applicants should be aware that Thomas Mills High School will undertake a general online search as part of the application process and by completing the application form agree for us to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Hurst
Headteacher