

***Nottingham Girls' High School Instrumental Department***



**Chris Clarke, Mmus Bmus (Hons), PGCE  
Director of Music**

Chris has been teaching at NGHS for 23 years, the majority of the time as Head of Department. A graduate of Surrey University – BMus (hons) 1<sup>st</sup> class and MMus – Chris has made full use of her varied practical musical skills both in and outside the classroom.

As a first-study pianist, Chris excels in Repetiteur work although she has also performed locally as soloist in several Mozart piano concertos. She particularly enjoys piano accompaniment and studied this for her Master's degree. Chris is also an experienced percussionist, specialising in orchestral timpani and tuned percussion, and won the prize for Best Degree Recital for her undergraduate degree. She trained with James Blades and has performed with various orchestras in many of the top concert halls in the UK. Chris is also an accomplished conductor, specialising in musical theatre, and she has worked extensively with various companies both here and in America.

Chris loves her job at NGHS and is extremely proud to be working in such a fine and thriving Music Department.

Working Days: Monday - Thursday

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**Mark Rolfe, BA (Hons), DipMUS DipLCM (TD)  
Extra Curricular Music Coordinator  
Junior School Music Teacher/Teacher of Guitar**

Mark has been at NGHS since 1999 and has witnessed the Music Department go from strength to strength. He holds a First Class Honours Degree in Music and Sound, a Diploma in Music and a Diploma in Electric Guitar. Alongside teaching Mark is an active musician releasing music as both solo artist and with several bands. He is the songwriter and producer of the band 'Lorna' who have toured across the continent and in the USA and have shared the stage with Echo and the Bunnymen, The Wedding Present and The Lemonheads. A Guitarist by trade Mark also plays a number of other instruments including Clarinet, Piano and 'Cello. At NGHS he is director of the extra curricular programme including roles such as conducting bands and organising concerts and tours.

Alongside Isla Keys he is on the committee of Nottingham Young Musician of the Year which has launched many musical careers including that of Sheku Kanneh-Mason. He runs the small independent record label 'Winnetka Records'

Working Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

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**Emily Lawson, BA (Hons), PGCE  
Teacher of Music**

Emily has been teaching Music to Years 4 to 13 at NGHS for 13 years. She is a clarinettist and has played in chamber wind ensembles, wind orchestras and orchestras including the National Youth Wind Orchestra, Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Restoration. Emily has a BA in Music from the University of Nottingham where she specialised in clarinet performance and a PGCE in Music Education from Nottingham Trent University. She also plays the tenor saxophone and piano and has, more recently, taken up singing.

She teaches composition at GCSE and A Level and loves helping her students to experiment with different styles and techniques and realise their potential in this area. Outside of school Emily has set up a well-being choir for mums and sings in the Nottingham Playhouse Choir. Having become more involved in the musical direction of the productions at NGHS, Emily's ambition is to one day be on stage in a musical herself!

**Working Days: Tuesday - Friday**

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**Paul Skinner: Teacher of 'Cello, Double Bass, Harp and Oboe**

Paul has been teaching at NGHS for 17 years and has lots of experience as both a teacher and professional musician. In Nottingham he has been a judge for The Nottingham Young Musician of the Year, is the Senior 'Cello tutor for Nottingham Youth Orchestra and has been the Principal 'Cellist in Nottingham Symphony Orchestra.

Paul is part of the management and is Principal Harpist with Jersey Symphony Orchestra and has appeared in Proms Concerts with the British Police Symphony Orchestra, played in string quartets at the Royal Albert Hall, in shows at The Bloomsbury Theatre in Sloane Square, been principal in St John's Smith Square, in the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at Buxton Opera House and been the 'Cellist on the children's television programme – 'The Worst Witch'.

Working Days: Monday, Thursday, Friday

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**Claire Seedhouse, Bmus (Hons): Teacher of Violin**

After gaining her Music degree, Claire went on to build her reputation as a violin teacher, teaching both privately and across various schools in Nottinghamshire. She joined the NGHS peripatetic staff in 2015.

Claire enjoys performing in many orchestral groups such as Nottingham Philharmonic Orchestra, The Helix ensemble, the Orchestra of the Restoration, The Bach Society ensemble, and the Music for Everyone ensemble. She also plays with the Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Claire has been a tutor for the Nottingham Youth Orchestra since 2000, tutoring in all three orchestras, but is currently a violin tutor for the Senior Orchestra who have recently performed with Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

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**Helen Bell, BA (Hons) PGDip: Teacher of Viola**

Having received a scholarship to study Viola at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with world renowned Violist Rivka Golani, Helen studied in a masterclass environment for seven years and learnt a huge amount about teaching techniques and Viola pedagogy.

She has over 20 years of performing experience, including extensive UK and international touring of venues from Arts Centres to folk clubs and festivals to world-renowned concert halls, alongside her varied teaching career. She was the Director of Sandwell Intermediate String Orchestra which led to the development of the first Chamber Music Programme.

Helen performs regularly alongside Jon Boden from the award winning band 'Bellowhead' and has recently performed with Opera North and in the BBC Maida Vale studios. She runs the highly acclaimed folk record label 'Hudson Records' along with her husband.

Working Day: Tuesday

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**Tim Harris, BA  
Teacher of Guitar**

Tim joined the Music Department in 2006 and has guided countless young guitarists into careers in music. He holds a BA in Music alongside qualifications in Guitar, Music Technology and Piano. He is a celebrated composer of children's songs and his original songs and music videos are known across the globe.

Tim is a passionate educator and has been instrumental in developing the rock band programme at NGHS.

Working Days: Monday - Friday

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**Tim Browne, BA (Hons)  
Teacher of Saxophone and Clarinet**

One of our longest serving members, Tim has been working at NGHS for 41 years. He holds a degree in Music from Huddersfield University and qualifications in Clarinet and Sax. Also a keen flautist, Tim has inspired many woodwind players throughout his time at NGHS. He has a keen interest in Mozart and the classical period and is a huge fan of Bob Dylan.

Tim has been running the school's swing band for over 40 years and has seen many accolades during that time.

Workings Days: Monday - Thursday

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**Emily Jones, BA (Hons) Dip ABRSM  
Teacher of Bassoon**

Emily is one of the latest additions to our team, joining in January 2020.

She has a First Class Honours Degree in Music from the University of Nottingham, where she specialised in contemporary flute performance. She performs regularly with a variety of ensembles across Nottingham and Derbyshire, as well as giving solo recitals where she really loves to play new and exciting repertoire.

Emily has already developed her first ensemble and has joined the Symphonic Orchestra team at school.

Working Day: Thursday

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**Gordon Truman, LRAM MISM  
Teacher of Brass**

Following studies at The Royal Academy of Music, Gordon has always made music his career. A respected performer in many Midlands based theatre orchestras, Gordon also plays trumpet for the nationally renowned orchestra 'Viva'. With over 30 year's experience at NGHS, Gordon continues to inspire and guide many of our young musicians. Alongside his work at school, Gordon teaches Trumpet at The University of Nottingham.

He has been instrumental in developing brass bands and ensembles in school and supports the Symphonic Orchestra here also.

Working Day: Thursday

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**Jilly Quine, LLCM TD Cert Ed  
Teacher of Flute**

Jilly started playing the flute aged 13 and has never looked back. She turned down a university place to study Sociology to take Music at a local college and refers to this as 'the best decision of her life'. She has studied with the likes of Russell Parry, John Francis, Kate Hill and Chris Hankin.

Jilly has been instrumental in the success of music at NGHS and her flute choirs have performed in many international tours and taken part in masterclasses with world-class tutors such as Janna Huneke and Krzysztof Kaczka. She is a former member of the London Flute Ensemble.

In 2023 Jilly will be celebrating her 40<sup>th</sup> year at school!

**Working Days: Tuesday - Thursday**

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**Jay Robertson, BA (Hons)  
Teacher of Drum Kit and Percussion**

Jay began playing percussion at the age of 11 and passed his Grade 8 Drum Kit with distinction in 1999. He then went on to graduate from the Leeds College of Music with a BA Hons Jazz degree in July 2004 majoring in Drum Kit performance while studying under Tony Mann (Chet Baker, Miles Davis). He also studied with guest lecturers; Dave Hassell (Cuban percussion), Jim Chapin (Moeller technique) and Omar Puente (Latin percussion studies). Jay continues to have a busy performance schedule alongside his percussion and drum kit teaching including his long standing work with Dan Swana (Swing Out Sister) – an internationally acclaimed bassist, pianist, vocalist, composer and educator.

Jay joined the Music Department in 2015 and has been instrumental in the school's music excellence.

Working Days: Monday - Friday

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**Gill Shaw, Bmus (Hons), PGCE DipABRSM  
Teacher of Piano**

Gill is a piano teacher and accompanist at NGHS. Since graduating, she has gained over 20 years' experience working in varied roles and settings within music education, as both an instrumental and classroom teacher.

She is currently studying for a Masters in Music Education at the Royal College of Music. As a strong advocate of the wide-ranging benefits of positive musical experiences and participation, Gill aims to provide a fun, supportive and creative learning environment which is tailored to each student.

Gill is a professional member of EPTA, a student member of RAM and a founding member of the Curious Piano Teachers. When she's not teaching, Gill most enjoys live music, spending time outdoors with family and friends and great food!

**Working Days: Tuesday - Friday**

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**Kevin Leese, GRSM, ARCM, LTCL  
Teacher of Piano**

With over 30 years' teaching experience at NGHS, Kevin is a departmental institution. Known for his gentle nature, Kevin has inspired a love of piano playing in musicians over the years and continues to develop young pianists at NGHS.

Kevin has extensive experience of teaching, performing and accompanying, studying at both the Royal College of Music and Trinity College.

**Working Days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**

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**Isla Keys, MA (Hons) ATCL PGCE MISM  
Teacher of Voice**

Having graduated with an MA (Hons) in French & Music from the University of St. Andrews, Isla Keys studied singing in Switzerland with Hansia Gmur, John Duxbury and Sena Jurinac as well as piano accompaniment with Madeleine Depraz, and began to perform professionally.

She returned to the UK, married, had two daughters, and completed a PGCE, becoming Head of Music at a local prep school until its closure in 2014, in addition to teaching singing at Dagfa House School. Throughout, she continued to sing solo soprano in many performances in the UK, France, Italy & Switzerland. She also ran several youth choirs, two of which gained 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in the Nottingham Music Festival.

More recently, Isla became involved in the organisation of Nottingham Young Musician of the Year, and was appointed Chair in 2019.

**Working Days: Tuesday - Thursday**

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**Freya Hales, Bmus (Hons) PGCE  
Teacher of Voice**

Freya holds a Bmus in Music from Birmingham Conservatoire and a lifetime of experience of choral singing. She coaches the celebrated and award winning Cantamus Girls' Choir alongside the training choir. In just 11 years of teaching at NGHS she has taken her Senior Choir on four international tours.

Working Days: Monday - Thursday

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**Emily Trease  
Musician in Residence**

This year we are fortunate enough to have obtained the addition of Emily Trease in the Music Department. At the age of 18 she already has a strong reputation as a performer and composer and is often found playing Harp at weddings during her weekends. With a Grade 8 in Harp and Voice, Emily is also an accomplished choral leader and set up the school Acapella Choir whilst studying in Year 12. In August 2022 Emily obtained a A\* in Music receiving full marks in her composition.

Prior to Emily reading Music at university in September 2023, she will be providing support to the department throughout the year working on the school choirs, musicals and working with the Instrumental Department.

**Days Working: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday**