

Interim Head of Academic Music

Information for applicants



History

King's Ely can trace its origins to the Abbey of Ely established by St Etheldreda in the 7th century AD. The monastery was re-founded by St Dunstan in 973, and the school later gained royal charters from both King Henry VIII (1541) and King Charles II (1662). Every year since 1541 the senior boys who are academically most gifted have been nominated King's Scholars; in 1973 Queen Elizabeth II requested that similarly talented girls be known as Queen's Scholars. Additionally, each year, two of the highest achieving King's Ely International students are nominated as International Scholars.

Governance

The school is administered by a Board of Governors who are also Directors of the Company. The Dean of Ely is ex officio a member of the Governing Body, with two of the remaining fourteen governors appointed by the Chapter of Ely Cathedral, one by the University of Cambridge, and one by the Ely Diocesan Board of Education.

Links with Ely Cathedral

The school has always been closely linked with the great Cathedral of Ely. All pupils attend a school service in the Cathedral at least once a week. Pupils who are not members of the Church of England are made welcome and almost all attend cathedral services. Several medieval monastic buildings are still in use by the school, including the splendid monastic barn, now the dining hall. We educate the junior boy and senior girl and boy choristers of the cathedral.

A Modern School

Our history, however impressive it may be, is only a small part of the story. We are a modern place of education with all of the facilities that you would expect of a successful school. In 1996 new buildings were opened for junior Music, Art and Technology (including Information Technology and Food Technology). In 2001 a new senior Music School was opened, and a major new teaching block for Junior School pupils in Years 7 and 8 was opened in 2003. Our new Arts Centre was opened in 2010 and the recent acquisition of The Old Bishop's Palace provides us with an opportunity to create unique facilities for members of the Sixth Form.

Pupils

King's Ely has approximately 1000 pupils, boys and girls, aged from rising 3 to 19 and almost half of King's Ely Senior boards. Most of the boarding houses are segregated by gender and by age. The school offers a large range of subjects for GCSE and A-level. Almost all of our students go on to higher education; most of them to Russell Group universities.

Ethos

The development of every child is watched closely, carefully and with a genuine interest. We value individuals and that is key to our philosophy and ethos. Teaching takes place from Monday morning through to Friday afternoon with sport and other activities taking place on Saturday afternoons for older pupils. Sport, outdoor pursuits, art, drama and music are strong in the school. The Ely Scheme, our outdoor pursuits programme, is exceptional and develops personal skills such as leadership and initiative as well as practical skills such as navigation or climbing. Children are encouraged to try different things; to reveal their particular talents and passions and to develop the courage and self-belief to take them as far as they are able.

King's Ely is a very happy school. Parents and the pupils themselves are the first to acknowledge that relations between staff and pupils are excellent and that pupils grow up confident, well-adjusted, and prepared to meet the adult world.

Music at King's Ely

King's came into being over 1000 years ago as a cathedral school, providing a top line of music for worship and giving in return an education unparalleled in East Anglia. King's is a school that fosters creativity and independence of mind, inciting a love of learning and a life-long zest for education. It provides a challenging, yet nurturing environment where young people are empowered to achieve beyond expectation. Music is the beating heart of the school. It exists in many styles and caters for the varied tastes of our pupils. They, themselves, drive the contemporary music scene and have created a number of bands and groups that come into their own at the annual House Music Competition.

At the other end of the spectrum we have an orchestra, string orchestra, concert band, jazz band and numerous smaller instrumental ensembles and Chamber groups. . A large number of our pupils take individual lessons on at least one instrument and over five hundred lessons are delivered each week. Many study voice and over recent years, a good number of students have continued their studies in music at university or Music College. Choral music is a particular strength of the school. We provide the young people for two cathedral choirs. Generations of boys aged 8 – 13 years have sung in the choir that has supported worship in the cathedral for centuries. In 2006 we introduced Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir, (ECGC), who all attend the senior school, ranging in age from 13 -18years. Under their Director, Sarah MacDonald, they have quickly acquired an enviable reputation. A new initiative for 2013 saw the introduction of the status of Choral Scholar for boys and girls in the Sixth Form and the introduction of a Sixth Form Organ Scholarship.

Music is housed in the purpose built Gibson Music School which was completed in 2002. In addition to a large recital hall, we have two class teaching rooms, a music technology room and a number of individual teaching/practice rooms. We plan to create additional ensemble rehearsal space during the coming summer break. The music school lies adjacent to the Hayward Theatre, our main assembly hall and forms part of a quad completed by new art and drama facilities which were built in 2010.

Numerous concerts for varying forces take place throughout the year and a highlight is the annual Music Festival which culminates in a Finalists' Concert in the Cathedral each spring. Added to this we enjoy full scale choral concerts in the cathedral, public lunchtime concerts, regular trips to perform or listen and the music that enriches every major event in the school calendar. The music department combines with the drama department to produce a major musical on an annual basis. Tours, usually international, are taken regularly by choirs or the concert band. Musical life at King's is demanding and rewarding and it is certainly very busy.

Academic music is taught to A Level and we also currently offer Music Technology. Results are strong and the number of pupils choosing to continue to GCSE and beyond is increasing. We offer music scholarships into Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12.

Ely Cathedral is, in effect, our school chapel. As a school we worship there three times a week and celebrate all major feast days. It is the place in which we come together as a whole school community and celebrate the main events of the school year.

King's Ely is a vibrant and energetic school and our music provides the rhythm that runs beneath.

Job Description for Interim Head of Academic Music

We find ourselves in the position of having to appoint an Interim Head of Academic Music for a fixed term of 12 Months.

- To develop and lead the academic life of the Music Department in King's Ely, Senior.
- Responsible for academic music teachers, supporting their work as subject teachers;
- Deputise for the Director of Music in their absence;
- Encourage, manage and support the professional development of staff within the Music Department;
- Encourage consultation and discussion within the Music Department;
- Responsible for the academic progress of pupils studying Music;
- Communicate effectively with parents and guardians.
- Excellent, dynamic and creative teacher with a high level of subject knowledge and skills;
- Determination to enhance, deliver and promote the teaching of their subject;
- High expectation of pupils both in academic achievement and behaviour;
- Commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, which leads to the teaching of challenging and differentiated lessons in the classroom;
- Produce high quality preparation and delivery of lessons to stimulate and encourage pupils' learning;
- Set and mark prep (homework) in line with school and department policies;
- Undertake regular reviews of pupils' academic progress and acknowledge student success;
- Keep good records of pupil achievement and progression;
- Set targets to improve the quality of learning and complete regular reports for pupils according to the school calendar;
- Attend and contribute to all Departmental and Academic Committee meetings;
- Establish good professional relationships with staff, learners and parents;
- Liaise with pupils and parents at Parents Evenings throughout the school year;
- Endeavour to provide extra-curricular learning opportunities and trips when required;
- Set and mark internal examinations and the writing of schemes of work;
- Keep up to date with developments in Music and recent curriculum initiatives.

Remuneration

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience of the appointee. Staff of King's Ely are able to educate their children at the school at 50% of the full day fee. Part time staff will receive a pro rata fee remission.