

King’s Ely

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Job Description

**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

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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.

#### King’s Ely International

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KEI was set up in 1999 as a bridge for international students to gain the language and study skills they need to study in Britain. Students follow a broad curriculum up to GCSE and many of them make the transition into the appropriate year group within the mainstream King’s Ely either before GCSE or for their A level studies. To all intents and purpose KEI is fully integrated into the life of KES.

#### 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. A Saturday programme for some co-curricular programmes and sport is in operation; however there are no formal lessons that day. 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 a large, capable orchestra, string orchestra, concert band, jazz band and numerous smaller instrumental ensembles. Many 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 a National reputation. There has also been growing interest in Choral and Organ Scholarships which are managed by both school and Cathedral music department personnel.

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. Most recently, a sixty strong Chapel Choir toured Barcelona in the Summer of 2016 performing at Sagrada Familia, Barcelona Cathedral and Montserrat Monastery. Musical life at King’s is demanding and rewarding and it is certainly very busy.

Academic music is taught to A Level. Results are strong and the number of pupils choosing to continue to GCSE and beyond is increasing. We offer music scholarships into Year 9 and Year 12. The Director of Music works closely with his counterpart in King’s Ely Junior and the vast majority of boy choristers continue into King’s Ely Senior where they are joined by the girl choristers to provide a healthy and talented core to our practical music making. A new appointment of Head of Academic Music was made in 2014, effectively subsuming some of the duties associated with an Assistant Director of Music. The Director of Music works closely with this colleague concerning curriculum delivery, schemes of work and lesson provision/allocation.

Ely Cathedral is, in effect, our school chapel. As a school we worship there twice a week and celebrate all major feast days. Whole School Eucharist Services usually take place once a term. It is the place in which we come together as a whole school community and celebrate the main events of the school year. In 2012 we made a recording of singing, in many of its guises, as it manifests across the school, culminating in the whole school singing the school hymn, *How shall I sing that Majesty?*

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

**Job Description**

The appointed candidate will be expected to build on the reputation of the school as a centre of musical excellence both within and beyond the community. He or she will work closely with colleagues involved in the delivery of the school’s co-curricular programme, including Sport and other activities.

***General***

* Have a clear overall strategy for both the development of musical excellence in the School and the participation by pupils of all abilities in musical activities for enjoyment and lifelong engagement.
* Give inspirational and dynamic leadership, ensuring that all musical activities have clear direction and that the colleagues in charge of the various areas of musical creativity work together as a team.
* Develop close liaison with feeder prep and maintained schools and facilitate transfer of talented young musicians to King’s Ely.
* Ensure that an effective Extension and Enrichment programme exists to enable the development of the most able.
* Oversee a balanced and stimulating programme of concerts.

***Finance, facilities and equipment***

* Have overall responsibility for the Music Budget, overseeing the management of the various individual budgets including equipment and expenses.
* Facilitate the work of VMTs with the support of the Performing Arts Administrator
* Ensure all aspects of Health and Safety are fully understood and all procedures followed
* Ensure that all music equipment is organised, stored and maintained appropriately and treated with due care by all users
* Liaise with the member of staff responsible for letting of facilities
* Produce and update the Music Department Handbook to include policies and procedures to be undertaken.

***Staff management***

* Ensure that each colleague in the department is managing his/her area effectively and working with colleagues as a cohesive music department
* Ensure that all music staff receive regular, appropriate INSET
* Oversee, in liaison with the Personnel Coordinator, the engagement of VMTs, accompanists and other professionals
* Ensure all new colleagues receive appropriate induction especially with regard to Health & Safety requirements and Child Protection issues
* Co-ordinate publicity for all aspects of music at King’s Ely in liaison with the Press Officer

***Academic Leadership in conjunction with the Head of Academic Music***

* 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
* Responsible for the academic progress of pupils studying Music;
* 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;
* Liaise with pupils and parents at Parents Evenings throughout the school year;
* Set and mark internal examinations and the writing of schemes of work;
* Keep up to date with developments in Music and recent curriculum initiatives.

***Concerts and Tours***

* Ensure that a suitable programme of concerts is provided for the engagement, extension and enjoyment of pupils of varying ages, stages and tastes
* Ensure that all pupils are smartly turned out for public performances
* Work with colleagues to provide opportunities for concert tours as appropriate

All members of the academic staff are expected to take pastoral responsibility for a group of pupils. Those who do so for boarding pupils receive additional remuneration.

**Remuneration**

King’s Ely has its own salary scale which guarantees to be at least as good as that in the maintained sector. The salary for the Director of Music will be commensurate with experience and will recognise the major whole-school responsibility this new post entails.

The school gives a 50% fees discount for the children of members of staff in Years 1 to 13. The school is a member of the Teachers’ Pension Scheme.

Further information about King’s Ely can be found on our website: [www.kingsely.org](http://www.kingsely.org).