



ASSISTANT ORGANIST (1-year)

ST LAURENCE EDUCATION TRUST



INFORMATION PACK
FOR CANDIDATES



Introduction

Ampleforth College is a Roman Catholic boarding co-educational Independent School (HMC), with c. 600 students aged between 13 and 18 years set in a rural environment in North Yorkshire.

The school was established by the Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey in 1803 and it remains a work of the monastic community, with a small number of monks on the teaching staff, monks as House chaplains throughout the school, and monks working in partnership with lay people as trustees. The presence of a community committed to the highest standards of Catholic education ensures the preservation of an education rooted in the Catholic Benedictine tradition.

The monastic community has a long history, dating back centuries before the community finally settled in North Yorkshire in 1802. The works of the community include not just education at Ampleforth College but also St Benet's Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford, the pastoral care of a number of parishes, and a dependent monastery in Zimbabwe, founded in 1997.

The School

Education has always been one of the main works of the Benedictine monastic community and a year after the community settled at Ampleforth in 1802, a school was established comprising twelve boys. Today, nearly six hundred students, male and female, from many parts of the world, come to Ampleforth to benefit from a Benedictine Catholic education.

In 1999 Ampleforth College was formally opened to VI Form day girls, and VI Form boarders followed in 2001. The school became fully co-educational in 2010-2011.





Benefits of Service

Professional Opportunities and Career Development

The St Laurence Education Trust supports and resources continuing professional development programmes for all staff. The Trust operates an annual professional review and appraisal scheme that both recognises the work of staff and identifies suitable training and development opportunities for them.

Working Environment

This is an enjoyable and stimulating place to work. Our staff body seeks to work to core values and codes of conduct developed from the Rule of St Benedict:

They are:

Attentiveness
Hospitality
Respect
Integrity
Stewardship
Equilibrium

Facilities such as the sports centre and golf course are available to staff and their families on subsidised membership.

Although the site was not originally designed with the motor car in mind staff parking is available within a five minute walk of any part of the Ampleforth campus.

Remuneration and Benefits

- Ampleforth salary scale.
- Ampleforth discretionary allowance
- Contributory pension scheme
- Notice – one term on either side
- Rented accommodation may be available from the College
- Some assistance with removal expenses.





Selection Process

The Trust is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and will take every possible step to ensure fair and equal treatment of all.

All Trust policies and practices will support the commitment to equality of opportunity in respect of any recruitment, and selection process. No member of staff or applicant will be unfairly disadvantaged by the Trust policies or practices without justification.

The Application Process

The successful applicant will take up post in September 2018. The interview process will include a formal interview, and a practical assessment. Further details will be provided once the short-list has been agreed.

Applications should be sent to:

The Human Resources Department,
Ampleforth College, York,
YO62 4EY.
Telephone: 01439 766817
Fax: 01439 766770

e-mail: HumanResources@ampleforth.org.uk

or from our website at:

<https://www.ampleforth.org.uk/>



Candidates should be aware that all posts in a school boarding environment must be interviewed on the basis of an application form. CVs will not be accepted in substitution.

Safeguarding and Child protection at Ampleforth Abbey Trust

Ampleforth College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All applicants must be willing to undergo recruitment screening processes including interview, references from past employers and a Disclosure and Barring check will be carried out on all successful applicants.

All posts at Ampleforth are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. We therefore require applicants to declare all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as 'spent'. All information provided will be treated as confidential.

Our Child Protection Policy can be accessed from the following link:

[Child Protection Policy](#)

Any offer of employment is made subject to a full range of checks and satisfactory references.



Ampleforth College

Music Department

Music is at the heart of Ampleforth, above all in the Abbey Church, but also all around the campus and beyond. Over the years an ever-widening diversity of instrumental and choral music has developed and more recently that experience has been shared with children and adults beyond the valley.

Music features strongly in the academic programme of both schools and the department has excellent facilities, including a dedicated computer suite and recording studio. The recent ISI inspection report noted that “The College’s music is of the highest quality. Music plays a central role in the life of the school with high levels of participation and achievement recorded.”

Ampleforth’s commitment to choral music is strong and the liturgy is supported by two separate choirs: the boys of the Schola Cantorum and the girls’ Schola Puellarum. These groups share the singing of Mass and other offices in the Abbey. In addition, the choirs sing meditations at key moments in the Liturgical Year and join together with professional soloists and orchestras for the big oratorios. In recent years there have been annual performances of Handel’s Messiah, as well as Haydn’s The Creation, Bach’s St Matthew and St John Passions, Mozart Requiem, Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, Britten’s Ceremony of Carols. A long-standing tradition is the performance of Fauré’s Requiem every year around the Feast of All Souls. There have been many tours abroad undertaken by one of the choirs, the most recent being to Tuscany at Easter. Ampleforth is an affiliated member of the Choir Schools Association.



There is a similarly important programme of instrumental music, of which the St Cecilia Concert in November and the Exhibition Concert in May are the main showcases and when the large ensembles play: College Symphony Orchestra, Pro Musica string ensemble, Big Band, Brass Group and Pipe Band. Chamber groups, the student-directed Ampleforth Singers, the Barber Shop Quartet and instrumental soloists, perform at

informal concerts on Sunday mornings and on other occasions in the Main Hall, as well as in various local venues. The Ampleforth Highlanders’ Pipe Band which wears the tartan Murray of Atholl performs regularly at school events and has had considerable success in national Piping and Drumming competitions. Musical outreach has developed significantly in the last ten years and we have established links with over 30 primary schools

Music Scholarships are offered for entry at ages 13+ and 16+ and honorary awards are conferred upon those students in the school who show exceptional diligence combined with support for extra musical activity. A number of students have won choral and organ scholarships to Oxbridge and Cathedrals in recent years.



THE FACILITIES

The Music Department is situated in two buildings on the campus: The New Music School which houses the 10 teaching and practice/rehearsal rooms, the new Performing Arts Centre with a Kawai Grand piano, the music office and a computer suite, and the Old Music School which has 11 practice and teaching rooms and a rehearsal hall. Both buildings are equipped with good quality pianos in all of the rooms.

The organists have access to the famous 1961 4 manual Walker organ in the Abbey, a 2 manual (tracker) teaching organ by Principal Pipe organs (1990), a large 3 manual Wyvern Digital organ, a 2 manual harpsichord and a 4 stop chamber organ built by Lammemuir Pipe Organs (2009).





Job Description

A musician with the enthusiasm and desire to work with young people, a significant portion of which will be in the context of the liturgy of the Abbey Church, and the school's involvement with, and preparation for, services and concerts. This position will also offer an ideal opportunity for a musician for self-development as an organist within a vibrant school choral tradition.

Carrying out duties in the most cost-effective and efficient way, demonstrating all due care to safer practice for children and for all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT ORGANIST:

EXTRA-CURRICULAR and ACADEMIC:

- Playing for all school services: Sundays and Fridays with the preceding rehearsals in the Abbey, for other occasions such as Holy Days of Obligation, carol services and for other events such as funerals and weddings.
- Accompanying concerts and meditations throughout the year for the Schola and other ensembles, e.g. continuo work for Oratorio performances, and for outreach events.
- Assisting in weekly rehearsals (sectional) of the Schola.
- To teach some piano and organ.
- To teach theory and help to run the aural perception (tests) for ABRSM candidates.
- To help with the practice supervision programme, particularly at weekends.
- To assist in the running/rehearsing of other ensembles as appropriate.
- Involvement in the wider pastoral care of students outside of the music department. This may include:
 - Be attached to a boarding house, offering activities in the evening.
 - Offer emergency pastoral cover in the boarding houses where necessary/possible
 - Refectory duties – breakfast or supper
 - Assist Senior Resident in the pastoral care of the GAP and other graduate employees.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed will satisfy all or most of the following:

- Has a good degree in Music and/or a Diploma in Organ Performance
- Has additional qualification in Music or in Education
- Has excellent sight-reading ability and keyboard test fluency
- Has experience of working effectively as part of a team
- Is competent in the use of ICT both for administration and within the classroom (if relevant)
- Is empathetic to the aims and objectives of a Catholic Benedictine School
- Is well organised and adaptable, able to prioritise tasks and show initiative



- Shows the ability to establish good working relationships
- Shows the ability to evaluate and improve their own performance
- Satisfy all criteria and checks relating to suitability to work in a school environment
- Is able to contribute to the extra-curricular activities within the department
- Is willing to take on pastoral responsibilities
- Is able to contribute to the wider life of a full boarding school by offering activities and tutoring