



JESUS COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

26 April 2024

Dear Headteacher,

We hope that you will be kind enough to publicise our 'Be a Chorister for a Day' taking place at Jesus College Cambridge on Saturday 18th May. Boys aged between 6 and 8 are very welcome to register for the event and their parents should email Eleanor Lancelot, Choir & Chapel Office Coordinator, on choir@jesus.cam.ac.uk for an application form. The rehearsal will begin at 4.00pm and attendees will sing in Evensong at 6.00pm with the Chapel Choir. No prior singing experience is necessary and we very much hope that this event will provide attendees with the opportunity to experience the joys of making music in a beautiful setting, something which our own choristers do each week during term-time. Parents are, of course, very welcome to attend the service and we ask that a parent or guardian remains in the Chapel throughout the event.

There are many opportunities for young people to sing in Cambridge and the surrounding area, and we hope that this event might play its part in encouraging children to explore further singing opportunities either at Jesus College or elsewhere.

Jesus College is one of only three Colleges in Cambridge with boy choristers, and the only College where these choristers attend local schools instead of a boarding choir school. The choristers receive regular voice lessons and tuition in music theory in addition to the training received through weekly choir practices, all at no cost to the child or their parents. There are currently 24 boys in the Choir and the College seeks to ensure that this opportunity is available to children from all schools and all backgrounds. The boys also receive a small sum of pocket money each term and the College operates a bursary scheme to contribute to the cost of instrumental tuition.

Boys have sung at Jesus College for over five hundred years and we remain committed to maintaining that tradition. However, I am delighted that the University is able to offer similar opportunities to girls at St Catharine's College and Pembroke College. The St Catharine's girls attend local schools and sing a service in College each week in addition to concerts and other special events. Pembroke College founded a girls' choir in September 2018, performing on a weekly basis alongside regular concerts and tours. More information on these choristerships is available from Dr Edward Wickham, Director of Music at St Catharine's College, on music@caths.cam.ac.uk or on the College's website, www.caths.cam.ac.uk and from Anna Lapwood, Director of Music at Pembroke College, on arel2@cam.ac.uk or from www.pem.cam.ac.uk.

More information about the activities of the Choir at Jesus College and about choristerships can be found at www.jesuscollegechoir.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Sheen'.

BENJAMIN SHEEN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8BL

Tel: +44(0)1223 339474/339699 Email: director-of-music@jesus.cam.ac.uk

Website: www.jesuscollegechoir.com

Registered Charity No: 1137462