



## **CHORISTERS AT BRISTOL CATHEDRAL**

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are now in the second year of our new scheme for probationary choristers in Bristol Cathedral Choir, and we're looking for talented children in Year 4 NOW!

After an initial audition boys and girls in Year 5 can spend their first year in the choir as probationary Choristers, becoming accustomed to the routine of the choir and receiving a musical training specifically geared to them. They participate in a reduced timetable of singing, joining the Cathedral Choristers on certain weekdays and alternate weekends.

During their time as Probationers their singing will be developed in a supportive atmosphere and they may participate in the Royal School of Church Music's award scheme, at the appropriate level for their voice. Regular attendance will be vital. The Cathedral Director of Music will give regular updates on progress. If both are satisfactory the child will have the opportunity to apply for one of the 8 places at Bristol Cathedral Choir School under the faith criterion. BCCS will admit up to 8 pupils of the Year 7 intake on the basis of membership of the Cathedral Choir. The Probationer Chorister Supplementary Application Form is required to be submitted. In Year 7 they may then join both the School and Cathedral Choir.

To be a chorister in Bristol Cathedral Choir offers a unique education that the child will always value and never forget. Nowhere else can s/he experience the privilege of being a member of a professional choir, whilst being educated in a pastorally sensitive school where the teaching staff is sympathetic to the musical child. This is a school with a Christian ethos that will always value its close relationship with the Cathedral.

However, there is no doubt that membership of Bristol Cathedral Choir places large demands on both the child and their parents. These are the benefits which we offer in return:

- ✓ Each full chorister has the possibility of gaining up to £500 per year 'pocket money' (paid at the end of each term) according to attendance and experience. A Probationer will receive a bursary of up to £50, subject to attendance. At the end of each term the Master of the Choristers will write a progress report.
- ✓ Each full chorister, in addition to the coaching received in rehearsals, is given termly singing lessons in a small group.
- ✓ Each full chorister has an annual £200 voucher to offset against instrumental lessons, either in school or with a private teacher.
- ✓ The hope is that each chorister will tour with the choir regularly, possibly alternating a trip abroad with a tour in the UK.
- ✓ There will be extra activities such as chorister camp, inter-school chorister sports and social activities.
- ✓ Bristol Cathedral Choir School greatly values its choristers who quite often represent the school at high profile events.

If you're interested in an opportunity to sing in Bristol Cathedral Choir with the possibility of a place at Bristol Cathedral Choir School, a state music academy and very much in demand, then this is for you!

Please contact Mark Lee, the Master of the Choristers, on 0117-926 4879 or [organist@bristol-cathedral.co.uk](mailto:organist@bristol-cathedral.co.uk) or Sarah Jenkinson (0117-975 6250 evenings) for more information or to arrange an audition ASAP – places are going fast!!

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Mark Lee**  
***Director of Music***  
***Bristol Cathedral***

**NB Details re admission to BCCS subject to final DCSF ratification**