



JESUS COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

20 April 2026

Dear Headteacher,

We hope that you will be kind enough to publicise our 'Be a Chorister for a Day' event taking place at Jesus College, Cambridge on **Saturday 16th May**. Boys aged between 6 and 8 are encouraged to register for the event and their parents or guardians can email Eleanor Lancelot, Choir & Chapel Office Coordinator, on choir@jesus.cam.ac.uk for an application form. There will be a short vocal workshop and attendees will take part in Evensong with the Jesus Choristers. Tea and cakes will be provided, with the opportunity to talk to me and other members of Choir team here. No prior singing experience is necessary and we hope that attendees will enjoy making music in a beautiful setting. 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.

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 choir practices, all at no cost to the child or their parents. There are currently 19 boys in the Choir (alongside five 'probationers', or trainee choristers) and the College seeks to ensure that this opportunity is available to children from all schools and 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. It is important, however, that similar opportunities are afforded to girls and I am delighted that choristerships are available at St Catharine's and Pembroke Colleges, with whom the Jesus choristers often collaborate. 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 (www.caths.cam.ac.uk), and from Luke Fitzgerald, Director of Music at Pembroke College (www.pem.cam.ac.uk).

I am always happy to hear from parents/guardians who would like to find out more about this event or about choristerships at Jesus College and would be pleased to arrange an informal phone conversation. There are many opportunities for young people to sing in Cambridge and the surrounding area, and we hope that this taster event will play a part in encouraging children to explore further singing opportunities either at Jesus College or elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

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

BENJAMIN SHEEN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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