

Director of Chapel Music Scholarship

Role Description

Main Responsibilities

- Lead, develop and motivate the choir, encouraging a “team” ethos.
- Rehearse the choir on a weekly basis in preparation for College chapel services along with special services and concerts.
- Conduct the choir in regular term-time services, special services and concerts.
- Develop the overall singing skills of the choir, working to achieve the best standard both individually and collectively.
- Select and recommend music for rehearsal and services throughout each term under direction and guidance from the Vice Principal and Chapel music team.
- Coordinate termly Chapel Music Recitals and the associated publicity materials.
- Ensure the College’s Music Library is well maintained and music is properly filed away after use. All music loans to other College must be approved by the Vice Principal.
- Develop and maintain links with organisations within the University and City including Durham Cathedral, Durham Student Music and the wider region.
- Coordinate outreach activities for the choir in conjunction with the Vice Principal, Chapel music team and College Chaplain.
- Audition and recruit Choral and Organ Scholars and volunteer singers in collaboration with the Vice Principal.
- Support the ongoing development of the College Organ Scholars and Choral Scholars in accordance with their Scholarship agreement and in conjunction with the Vice Principal and College Organist.
- Work closely with the College Organist who will coordinate the playing rota for the Organ Scholars.
- Offer opportunities to choir members to develop their skills where relevant.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Experience of choral conducting
- A working knowledge of sacred choral repertoire as well as secular choral music
- Ability to inspire, lead, develop and motivate the choir
- Ability to work collaboratively with the College Organist, College Staff and all College Common Rooms to widen participation in the musical life of the College
- A commitment to attend all rehearsals and services throughout the academic year on the understanding that the role must be given priority over other musical commitments as far as possible.
- Strong organizational skills in relation to the management of rehearsals and administrative matters relating to the choir.

- Punctuality and an ability to lead by setting a positive example.
- An understanding that the choir is committed to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming ethos alongside a desire to strive for the best possible musical standards.

Desirable

- Keyboard skills
- Experience as a choral singer

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

- The Director of Chapel Music is appointed for one year with the possibility of renewal subject to agreement with the Vice Principal.
- The Director of Chapel Music Scholarship carries a value of £1,500 per year to be paid in termly instalments.
- It is the College's intention that the scholarship is used to support the Director of Chapel Music's personal development as a musician. It is therefore strongly encouraged that the scholarship holder uses at least part of the scholarship to fund conducting lessons, attendance at masterclasses/workshops etc.
- The scholarship holder will be asked to complete an online form setting out the full terms and conditions of the scholarship and confirming their agreement to them.
- The College reserves the right to rescind the scholarship at any time.

Last Edited: September 2026