



St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Scholar

Alto (male or female), Tenor or Bass

Application pack

2026-2027



St Edmundsbury Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is situated in the historic market town of Bury St Edmunds, and serves the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It is at the heart of community life, a natural gathering place for worship, reflection, refuge, celebration, mourning, pilgrimage, debate, questioning and storytelling.

Our story begins with the founding of the Abbey in 1020 by King Cnut. He named the Abbey after Saint Edmund, martyred in 869 by the Danes, and to this day Cathedral, Abbey and town carry that name. Over the succeeding centuries, several churches were built within the precincts of the Abbey. The nave of today's Cathedral is the successor of one of those churches, started in 1503. Our Grade 1 Cathedral was further altered from the 18th century onwards, the most recent additions being a new Gothic style tower, cloisters and chapels. A sculpture by Elisabeth Frink entitled Crucifixion stands by the Treasury steps. The medieval Susanna Window contains Flemish glass and the west window depicts The Last Judgement - a magnificent example of late nineteenth-century craftsmanship. A painting of The Martyrdom of St Edmund by Brian Whelan sits in the Lady Chapel. The Ancient Library, founded in 1595, has over 550 books mainly dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; providing a valuable resource for students and research.

The successful candidate will be joining the Cathedral community of this special place at a time of unique opportunity.

Bury St Edmunds County High School

County High School is in the beautiful market town of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Students join us at the age of 13, in year 9, and enjoy and benefit from the extensive academic, pastoral and extra-curricular opportunities that we offer to all of our students up to the age of 16. Together with Tollgate Primary, Horringer Court and Westley Middle Schools, we are part of Unity Schools Partnership.

The close working of our four schools ensures curriculum continuity and provides a huge range of extra-curricular experiences. We are renowned for the supportive, happy, nurturing communities we foster, the high standards we achieve and the forward looking education we offer from nursery through to 'A' level. We have a strong tradition of music and performing arts excellence and have great links to the Cathedral.



Choral Scholar and Bury St Edmunds County High School Musician in Residence

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is looking to appoint a Choral Scholar for the academic year 2026-2027. The scholarship offers the opportunity to work with the music department at an exciting time in the Cathedral's ministry and musical development.

County High School is a highly regarded and inclusive secondary school and wishes to appoint a Musician in Residence.

The joint award is initially for one year, though it may be extended depending on individual circumstances. Applications are welcome from graduate or pre-university gap-year students.

This is an exciting opportunity for a young musician to gain experience both within a Cathedral music department and in the life of a busy school setting in the vibrant cathedral and market town of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.





St Edmundsbury Cathedral Music Department

Director of Music: Claudia Grinnell

Assistant Director of Music: Richard Cook

The Cathedral Choir consists of approximately 16 boy and 16 girl choristers and around 8 adult singers. Each set of choristers takes an equal share of the singing duties. Coming from various schools across Bury and further afield, they rehearse and sing at services on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, as well as on Sundays. The adult singers of the choir consist of Vicars Choral, voluntary Lay Clerks and a Choral Scholar.

The Cathedral Choir sings for the majority of Cathedral services.

The St Edmundsbury Singers is a ladies choir run by the Assistant Director of Music. They sing Evensong on Wednesdays, alternating with the Youth Choir, and on certain special occasions throughout the year.

The Cathedral Youth Choir is a chamber choir for teenage singers, intended partly to provide former choristers an opportunity to continue singing at the Cathedral. They usually sing for Wednesday Evensongs in alternation with the St Edmundsbury Singers, and participate in special services and events throughout the year.

The Cathedral houses several world-class instruments: the main organ was fully restored in 2010 by Harrison and Harrison, including the creation of two spectacular new cases; a chamber organ by Robin Jennings is housed in the quire; and a Steinway 'Model D' grand piano is situated in the Nave and frequently used for concerts.

Duties at the Cathedral

- To sing at all services at which the adults (altos, tenors and basses) of the Cathedral Choir sing
- To sing with the Cathedral Youth Choir
- To sing with the St Edmundsbury Singers if appropriate
- To prepare appropriately for services and performances with daily practice
- Assist with Chorister Probationer training
- Assist the Chorister Supervisor with the choristers
- Assist the Librarian with the preparation and organisation of the Cathedral Choirs' music
- Assisting the DoM and ADoM with administrative tasks and preparation for afternoon rehearsals
- There are occasional services and events outside of the usual routine, for which plenty of notice will be given



County High School Music Department

The subject is very strong at this well-renowned 13-16 upper school which has an enviable reputation for the Arts. It was selected by the BBC for a national feature because of its support for, and programme of, Arts education at a time of decline across the country.

We have strong links with the County Music Service whose Western Area Hub is based within our school and we train music teachers from a variety of ITT providers. Our school is part of an all-through trust with two middle schools and a primary. We provide support and additional music experiences to these pupils and there is an annual trust performance at the Apex.

The Musician-in-Residence plays a full role in the Music Department, in particular by running the highly regarded Chamber Choir, which has recently performed at many occasions within Bury St Edmunds including on BBC Radio Suffolk. The post-holder will develop strong organisational and administrative skills, acquiring classroom experience as well as the opportunity for one-to-one musical tuition.

Duties at County High School

This post would suit someone with a love of singing and working with young people. Candidates must be enthusiastic, proactive, and work well in a team. Candidates will be expected to perform the following roles:

- teach one-to-one singing lessons to pupils from a range of musical backgrounds
- lead or support choirs or other singing ensembles as required
- lead or support rehearsals for the annual school musical as required
- build positive relationships with young people from a wide range of backgrounds
- offer and implement ideas that create opportunities for young people to sing and perform





Essential

- At least Grade 8 Singing or equivalent
- Confident sight-reader
- Committed to the musical traditions that underpin cathedral life
- Proven track record of working within a team and on own initiative
- Experience of teaching singing
- A confident conductor
- Experience using music notation software
- The ability to remain calm under pressure
- Good time management
- A positive outlook with high expectations
- An understanding of safeguarding

Desirable

- A musical diploma, professional qualification or equivalent
- Confident pianist
- Previous experience working in a church, chapel or cathedral setting
- Previous experience of having conducted choirs containing children and young adults

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults who may be vulnerable, who are involved with and/or visit the Cathedral or School. This will include adherence to policies and procedures, following good practice in relation to their own behaviour and conduct and undertaking any safeguarding duties commensurate with their specific role.

The appointed candidate will need to have an enhanced DBS check (including barred list check) before commencing work. Safeguarding training will be supplied.

Remuneration

Alongside an honorarium of £9,000, the Choral Scholar is provided with accommodation (with a minimal charge to cover the cost of utilities such as gas/electricity/broadband) within walking distance of the Cathedral. The Cathedral supports the Choral Scholar with the cost of singing lessons. Conducting tuition will also be available. There are also opportunities to sing for extra services, for which a fee is payable.

To Apply

Potential applicants are welcome to contact the cathedral or school for an informal conversation about the post. Please contact:

Claudia Grinnell

Director of Music, St Edmundsbury Cathedral

01284 748739

claudiagrinnell@stedscathedral.org

or

Sam Berridge

Head of Music, County High School

sberridge@countyhigh.uk

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview and singing audition, where we will ask you to perform three contrasting pieces (one of which must be unaccompanied), and to sing a piece of music from sight. You may also be asked to join the Cathedral Choir to sing Evensong.

Closing date: 5pm, Friday 7 November 2025

Interview: Thursday 20 November 2025

Please submit your application by sending the Cathedral's application form to:

Drew Parnell

Human Resources and Safeguarding Administrator

Cathedral Office, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

01284 748720

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