



Post:	Choral Scholar: Alto, Tenor or Bass
Line Manager:	Director of Choral Music & Organist
Hours of Work:	45 hours per week, 33 weeks per annum (term time). This is a one-year fixed term contract, commencing on 1 st September 2025.
Salary:	Depending on experience. Free accommodation and meals are provided in term time.
Location	Dean Close Preparatory School

The Role

The Choral Scholarship is a unique role. The post holder divides their time between working within the music department at Dean Close Preparatory School, and singing with Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum in its daily services at Tewkesbury Abbey.

The Choral Scholar will sing alongside the lay clerks and choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum in the Abbey. Working under the direction of Simon Bell, the Director of Choral Music, the Choral Scholar will also help with junior chorister rehearsals every morning and will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the choir library. The choristers rehearse in the Song School at Dean Close Prep School, and the full choir rehearses in the Abbey prior to each service. The most important aspect of the choir's work is the day to day singing of Evensong (on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), although there are concerts and special services on some weekends.

The Choral Scholar is also known as "music support tutor" and will be fully involved in the busy life of the Prep School Music Department, under the direction of the Director of Music, Mr Tim McVittie. Duties will include support of rehearsals and examinations. Any musical skills that the Choral scholar can bring to the role, from playing to arranging will be embraced by the department. They will join a team of gap students (over ten 'gappers' each year) in the prep school and exercise an important pastoral role over the choristers, alongside the Chorister tutor. This involves liaising with staff across the school, chaperoning the choristers at the Abbey and on the chorister bus, various musical and administrative tasks, support of concerts and utilising any musical skills or interests that they may have. The ability to help with music theory for choristers is essential.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible in their approach to the role and will be expected to take a full part in daily life at DCPS, from duties to lesson support and they will be available to the Boarding Housemaster and Deputy Headmaster to assist with various duties, although never in conflict with choir commitments. The Choral Scholar may also, from time to time, be invited to sing with the senior school choirs.

This post is ideally suited to a young graduate who is wanting to sing on a daily basis in the back row of Schola Cantorum, and also experience life in a school environment. We will, however, also consider applications from singers who are taking a gap year before going to university. The position is open to Altos (male or female), Tenors and Basses.



Music Staff

Mr Simon Bell is Director of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum, and Director of Choral Music at Dean Close School. He was formerly Assistant Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral, having also held posts at Southwell Minster and Westminster Abbey. Mr Tim McVittie is the Director of Music at Dean Close Preparatory School. He is also a professional singer and performs with many ensembles. Regular singing lessons are included as a part of the choral scholarship.

The Choir

Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum, the choir of choristers and adults which sings the weekday services in the Abbey, was formed in September 2006 when The Abbey School, Tewkesbury closed. The choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum are educated at Dean Close Preparatory School, which is a full member of The Choir Schools' Association. Since September 2021, chorister places in the choir have been open to girls as well as boys.

Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum enjoys a busy schedule of engagements. The choir has undertaken regular live Radio 3 broadcasts and international tours. It has also sung in performances of Bach's St Matthew Passion in Gloucester Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey, Mahler's 3rd Symphony, Bach's St John Passion and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

The choir tours abroad frequently; engagements abroad have included concerts in Italy, Germany, France (Paris, Bordeaux and the Alps), The Netherlands and Sweden. The choir has an extensive discography and records exclusively for Regent Records. At the heart of the choir's work is the service of Evensong, sung on weekdays, at 5.30pm, in Tewkesbury Abbey. The choir's repertoire is large ranging from motets by John Sheppard and Thomas Tallis to masses by Mozart and anthems by James MacMillan and John Tavener. For further information about the choir's work, please visit: www.scholacantorum.org.uk and <https://www.deanclose.org.uk/school-life/preparatory-school/choristers>

Person Specification

- Recent experience of singing in a liturgical choir to a high standard
- A young singer who has a well-established technique who is wanting to further develop their skills
- A team player who is happy to undertake administrative tasks
- Someone who is comfortable playing a significant role with the training of probationer choristers
- Be loyal, honest, trustworthy and reliable
- Enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised
- Confident, proactive with a helpful and flexible approach
- Able to demonstrate initiative and creativity
- Ability to work well in a team and alone, with minimum supervision, maintaining a professional and enthusiastic approach
- Ability to communicate effectively with all colleagues
- Strong desire to improve knowledge



Terms and Conditions

- Health cash plan
- Community events
- Free three course lunch, during term time
- Free onsite parking
- Use of the gym and swimming pool, at specified times
- Discounted Bacon Theatre tickets
- Company sick pay entitlement
- Company pension scheme
- Discounted golf fees at Brickhampton Golf Club

All staff are expected to

- Work towards and support the Dean Close Foundation values of love, courage, contribution allowing pupils and staff to flourish.
- Demonstrate and develop the following skills:
 - Critical Thinking
 - Compassion
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Communication
- Support and contribute to the Foundation's responsibility for safeguarding pupils.
- Work within the Foundation's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, students and visitors.
- Promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff, both current and prospective.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties required that are related to the job purpose from time to time.

The post holder may be required to perform duties other than those given in the job description for the post from time to time. The particular duties and responsibilities attached to posts may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed.

How to Apply

Applicants must complete a Dean Close Foundation application form in order to be considered.

<https://www.deanclosefoundation.org.uk/vacancies>

The Dean Close Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.