



APPOINTMENT OF GAP YEAR CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLARS

Required for the academic year September 2021 to end June 2022

SHERBORNE



Parents and boys talk about the head in glowing terms. They say he has upped the academic ante, put an emphasis on kindness and smartened up the uniform. In turn, the Head is full of praise for the pupils. 'The boys are interesting, engaging and decent,' he says. 'They know their own minds but there is a reservoir of kindness there. People say that you never meet an unpleasant old Shirburnian and it's true.'

Good Schools Guide 2019

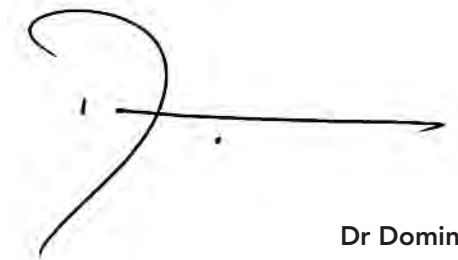
An introduction to Sherborne

Re-founded by royal charter in 1550, Sherborne is an independent boys' school situated in the shadow of Sherborne Abbey.

The School community is a warm and vibrant one and we enjoy a rich heritage and ambitious outlook. The boys are talented, engaged and so, too, are the staff. The co-curricular provision is of outstanding breadth and quality.

Our distinctive features include:

- A full-boarding environment where boys live, work and study together seven days a week during term time. This generates a sense of community and purpose, and ensures there is plenty of time away from the classroom for boys to play, reflect, socialise and develop their talents
- An all-boys education. Shirburnians are allowed to be boys – something that we believe is essential to their growth
- A strong partnership with Sherborne Girls, meaning our boys can socialise with girls and occasionally study alongside them, while enjoying the benefits of a single-sex education
- A unique location in a beautiful market town that is peaceful and safe, without being sleepy, and has excellent transport links to London
- Outstanding opportunities to excel, whether academically or in co-curricular activities. We are ambitious for our boys: with our help, they go on to achieve great things as evidenced by the highly distinctive and diverse alumni record



Dr Dominic Luckett
Headmaster and Chief Executive

Sherborne Abbey Choir

Sherborne Abbey Choir is made up of 16 boy choristers and 12 'back row' adult singers who sing Choral Evensong and some Holy Communion on Sundays. The full choir rehearses weekly on a Friday evening from 7.30pm until 8.45pm. There are two choral services each Sunday during term time.

The School enjoys a close relationship with the Abbey, where two services (Wednesdays and Sundays) take place every week within term time. In addition, the School has its own 400 seat Chapel, just a stone's throw from the Abbey.

Auditions and Interviews - Choral Scholars

The audition involves presenting two contrasting solo pieces and being given some unprepared sight-reading. An accompanist is provided, as is rehearsal time. If performance on an instrument is also being offered, which is strongly recommended, time will also be given for rehearsal/practice.

The interview is with the Director of Music, James Henderson, and a member of the pastoral team to cover Safeguarding. During these Covid-19 times, auditions and interviews are held on Zoom. Some candidates may prefer to send in video performances of their singing (and instrumental playing, if applicable) rather than sing on Zoom, but there would still be some sight-reading to be undertaken on Zoom.

Auditions and Interviews - Organ Scholars

Under normal circumstances, auditions would be held in the Abbey, but during these Covid-19 times video performances are recommended. Everything else will follow the same format as for Choral Scholars.





Safeguarding

All young people deserve the right to live and learn in a safe and happy environment.

All Sherborne School staff share the responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people for whom they are responsible or with whom they come into contact. In doing so, staff are expected at all times to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding Policy. If any member of staff becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School, they must report any concerns to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Headmaster.

We have a strong Safeguarding culture and all staff are required to attend regular training and updates.

As Sherborne School is registered to ask 'exempted questions' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, successful applicants will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service before this appointment is confirmed. This will include details of cautions, reprimands or final warnings. This post is also subject to receipt of two satisfactory written references, one of which must be from your current or most recent employer.

The Music School

The Music Department is led by the Director of Music (who is also currently the Director of Music at Sherborne Abbey). He is supported by a team that includes the Head of Academic Music & Keyboard Studies; the Head of Instrumental Studies & Music Timetables; a Teacher of Music Technology/Rock & Pop; and the Music School Manager. Additionally, there is a part-time Head of Strings, part-time Head of Brass, part-time School Organist, up to four gap year Organ/Choral Scholars and 30 Visiting Music Teachers.

A stand-alone purpose-built Music School was opened in 2010. All rooms are sound-proofed and facilities include two recording studios linked to a well-equipped Control Room, and a Recital Hall to seat 120 people. In addition to several other performance spaces around the School, the state-of-the-art teaching facilities include three suites of Apple iMacs running Sibelius 8 and Logic Pro X, and a fleet of grand and upright pianos. There are four organs: there is access to the Abbey organ for School Services as required, a two manual neo-classical mechanical action instrument in the School Chapel, a Hauptwerk instrument running the Hereford sample-set, also in the Chapel, and a Viscount electronic instrument in the Music School. Sherborne boasts among the best music facilities in the South of England

The department runs a busy programme of recitals and other performances. There are frequent formal and informal concerts, including weekly lunchtime recitals that are very well attended by the local community. Instrumental music is exceptionally strong, with particularly large numbers of pupils performing in ensembles that rehearse in a partially ring-fenced time on two days a week after lunchtime (known as 'Q Time') and at 8.50 p.m. on four evenings a week. The very large TTBB Choir (currently 104 singers) sings Evening Prayer twice a week in the Abbey. The Chamber Choir, of around 22 singers which sometimes begins the year as an SATB (trebles) choir, is comprised of many ex-cathedral choristers from Salisbury, Winchester, Exeter and elsewhere. It sings an Introit each week in the Abbey, visits cathedrals, and tours Europe with selected instrumentalists every other year.

There are currently 49 Music Scholars, many of whom have Grade 8 Distinction and a significant number of whom hold ATCL performance diplomas with one current pupil holding an LTCL. Two orchestras are run jointly with local schools including Sherborne Girls and play regularly in Bristol, Oxford and London. There is also a solely Sherborne School Chamber Orchestra, a [BBC-style] Radio Orchestra and a Concert Orchestra which sometimes tours with the Choir. Orchestras rehearse for an hour and a half on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m., but attendance by musicians is by negotiation with other School events on the basic premise that the Orchestras get priority.

There are many chamber music groups, particularly amongst Lower School Music Scholars & Exhibitioners who have considerable instrumental skill. The Swing Band is nationally considered to be a very fine 'big band' and undertakes many concerts a year, having additionally visited Barbados on tour every other year since 2010. An annual open-air 'RocSoc' concert in the historic main Courts welcomes enthusiastic audiences of up to 800.

Class Music is taught to Third Formers (Year 9) who have opted for Music before arrival at Sherborne. Numbers studying GCSE Music range from 14-20 in each year group, and there are usually around five A Level candidates (there are currently 9 in the Upper Sixth) and up to five Music Technology candidates in each of the Sixth Form years. Several boys go on to read Music at university, including Oxbridge.



Person specification

Choral and Organ Scholars are expected to be good sight readers as the repertoire of both choirs is wide and varied and in both cases rehearsal time is limited.

The working week is 40 hours during term time (34 weeks) plus one week at Easter and one week at Christmas. Working hours are divided between duties within the Music School and singing/performing in musical ensembles.

Duties include record-keeping for music lesson absences, collecting pupils for music lessons, setting up rehearsals in terms of chairs, stands and putting out music. The day is divided into three with a Choral/Organ Scholar taking responsibility for at least a third of the day. Light administrative tasks are also asked of the Choral/Organ Scholars and an understanding of Sibelius software is particularly useful.

Choir Practices are on Monday and Friday evenings, with School services in the Abbey on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, and two Parish services on Sundays. Generally Saturdays are free. Weddings and funerals are optional and carry their own fee.

Whilst the work at Sherborne School may be tailored to the strengths of the successful candidates, it is expected that successful Choral Scholars will be drawn from those singing with courses such as the Eton Choral Course, and who will go on to sing as choral scholars at Oxford and Cambridge Colleges or other similar universities and colleges.

Any offer of appointment at Sherborne School is conditional upon the provision of a self-declaration of physical and mental fitness to discharge the responsibilities of the post

Please note that all areas of the School, both internal and external, operate a no-smoking policy (including accommodation and company vehicles).

Pay and Accommodation and Holiday

Choral and Organ Scholars will receive £8,224.60 per annum, which includes payment for 36 weeks work, plus 5 weeks holiday (pay is to be reviewed in April 2021). Accommodation is provided in the town and all meals during term time are available for free in the School Dining Hall, which has a reputation for the quality of its food.

Choral and Organ Scholars are generally free of commitments during the School holiday periods with the exception of singing and playing in services during the week before Christmas, including Christmas Day itself, and in services during Holy Week which ends after Eucharist on Easter Day; holiday cannot be taken during Sherborne School term time.



How to apply

A letter of application together with a completed application form and the names, with contact details, of two referees should be sent to the Recruitment Manager, Mrs Samantha Belgeonne, at Sherborne School, Abbey Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AP.

Electronic applications should be sent to:

hr@sherborne.org

Applicants selected for interview will be informed within a week of the closing date for application. Applicants who have not heard from the School by this time must assume that, on this occasion, their application has been unsuccessful. Candidates short-listed for interview will be required to bring to interview proof of ID, qualifications and their right to work in the UK.

Closing date:

9am on Tuesday 23 February 2021

Interviews are likely to take place:

During week commencing Monday 1 March 2021



Many things here are simply world class. High academic expectations and outstanding pastoral care are, and must remain, the bedrock of a Sherborne education. Our musical, artistic and sporting provision is outstanding and all our boys have access to an extraordinary range of co-curricular opportunities.

Dominic Lockett - Headmaster and CEO

For further information please contact

Sherborne School

Abbey Road

Sherborne Dorset DT9 3AP, UK

Telephone: +44 (0) 1935 810502

Email: hr@sherborne.org