



Graduate Musician in Residence

September 2026

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Contents

A message from the Principal of King's Ely	3
About the School	4
About the role	5
Person Specification	7
Working at King's Ely	8
Information for Candidates	9



A message from the Principal of King's Ely

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in coming to work at King's. I hope that what you read here will excite you and chime well with your ambitions so that you will want to apply for this position.

King's Ely is an extraordinary place to work: a family of schools educating around 1350 boys and girls aged 2-18 in our Nursery and Pre-Preparatory, Prep and Senior Schools in Ely in Cambridgeshire, and up to age 11 at Fairstead House School in Newmarket. Most of our pupils come from Ely, Cambridge and surrounding areas, while about 200 pupils are boarders from all over the world. King's employs about 540 people in diverse roles from teaching and pastoral care to administration, finance, IT, site services and maintenance and catering.

We often talk about 4 'P's which make King's special: our fundamental **purpose**, unchanged in over 1000 years, in providing the best education and foundation for life we can for the children in our care; our **practice**, ensuring the very highest standards of professionalism and excellence in every area of school life and our commitment to everyone's wellbeing, development and training to achieve this; as an exceptional **place** to grow up and work in with our beautiful 75-acre campus adjacent to Ely Cathedral and the wonderful historical, environmental, spiritual and technological resources available to us; and most of all our **people**, the outstanding and diverse community of pupils, staff and supporters whose commitment, experience and skills are the root of our success.

We welcome all types to join this wonderful mix, and I thank you in advance for the time and thought which I know goes into preparing each application; we really appreciate it and give every application the careful consideration it deserves. I look forward to hearing from you and, I hope, meeting you in due course.

With best wishes,
John Attwater

About the School

Purpose, Ethos and Values

King's Ely exists to make the most and best of childhood, and in particular to give the very best education, opportunities and pastoral care to as diverse a community of children as we can. In doing so we aim to prepare each one to live positive, productive, successful and fulfilled lives, for the betterment of themselves and the world around them. We achieve this through the operation of a family of schools centred around a 2-19 co-educational day and boarding school in Ely, aiming to draw fully on our exceptional environment, history, physical, cultural, spiritual and human resources in doing so.

History

King's Ely can trace its origins from at least 970AD, making it one of the oldest schools in Europe. The School was first established to educate the choristers of the worshipping community of Ely and throughout our history we have maintained strong links with Ely Cathedral.

In 1541, King Henry VIII founded a College of Canons at Ely Cathedral to replace the monks whose monastery has been dissolved in 1539 and the School received its Royal Charter, later becoming known as "The King's School".

King's Ely Today

In recent years King's has expanded rapidly, becoming co-educational in 1970, and today educating around 1100 children aged 2-18 at Ely, including 185 boarders.

The school is divided into three sections: King's Ely Senior (age 13-18) and King's Ely Prep (age 7-13), which occupy adjacent campuses and benefit from shared facilities, and King's Ely Acremont and Nursery (ages 2-6) which have their own self-contained campus about 400m from the main site. Additionally, Fairstead House School in Newmarket (for pupils aged 1-11) joined the King's Ely family of schools in 2022.

The main campus extends to around 75 acres and contains buildings spanning the thirteenth to twenty-first centuries, including many of the historic monastic buildings adjacent to Ely Cathedral as well as more recent, purpose-built facilities and almost 40 acres of playing fields.

King's Ely plays a key role in the local community. We are one of Ely's largest employers and contribute greatly to the local economy, and we also continue to educate the choristers of Ely Cathedral. King's Ely also offers a number of bursaries to enable pupils from all walks of life to benefit from the education it offers.

In its recent ISI Inspection (March 2025), King's Ely was found to meet or to exceed all regulatory standards. In addition, the Inspectors judged the School to have a *significant strength* in the way in which its high quality pastoral care is interwoven with a dynamic enrichment programme. This enables "pupils of all ages to develop their independence, intellectual curiosity, creativity and socialization particularly well".

The School is rightfully proud of the Inspection. It is testament to the community spirit of King's Ely and the commitment and respect shown each day by pupils, staff and their families.

King's Ely is affiliated with the HMC, Society of Heads, IAPS, the Boarding Schools' Association and the Choir Schools' Association.



About the role

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and accomplished Musician in Residence for September 2026 to join a successful department in one of the country's leading co-educational Cathedral choir schools. The position would ideally suit a Music graduate that is perhaps considering a career in teaching or instrumental/choral teaching. The nature of the role requires a musician with competent keyboard and strong theory skills who will be keen to assist in all aspects of a large and active music department. Performance opportunities are available across the school at all levels - Acremont, Prep and Senior, alongside outreach opportunities. These opportunities will be tailored to the skills of the successful candidate. A commitment to encouraging young people in their musical development and other aspects of boarding school life will be essential. This is a residential post, with accommodation provided.

The successful applicant will be passionate about their music-making and willing to share this passion and enthusiasm with young people across the full age range of the school. Good humour and excellent inter-personal skills are vital attributes, and it is expected that the Graduate Musician in Residence will have advanced ICT skills which also extend to confident use of music software and applications. The exact job specification will be tailored to suit the expertise and strengths of the successful candidate, and we are seeking a musician who would relish the opportunities that this role would present.

Key Responsibilities:

School:

- To contribute to the delivery of a programme of theory lessons to the boy and girl choristers
- To become an integral member of the residential boarding team
- To support the work of the King's Ely Prep Music Department through providing some in-class support
- To support the work of King's Ely Acremont by providing support for the school's musical activities, including productions, concerts and recitals
- To accompany students in assemblies, for performances, productions, and for their Music examinations.

- To complete routine administration tasks alongside colleagues within the Music Department
- To contribute to the general staff duty rota and boarding duty rotas compiled by the Deputy Heads of King's Ely Prep

Boarding:

- Walsingham House and Priory House are occupied by our youngest boy and girl choristers and non-chorister boarders
- To assist the Housemistress and Resident Assistant House Tutors in ensuring the smooth running of the Prep Boarding Houses
- To complete duties within Walsingham and Priory Houses according to the schedule prepared by the Housemistresses and Deputy Heads of the Prep school (some duties are before school, some evening and as part of the weekend team on rotation)
- To accompany boarders to and from and supervise the students at meals in the Monastic Barn when on duty
- To supervise children during their free time, prep sessions and at play when on duty
- To accompany the boarders on some excursions off site
- To support boarding choristers with learning theory and music practice according to the schedule agreed with the Housemistress and Deputy Heads each term

Walsingham House and Priory House are two mediaeval boarding houses used by the pupils of the Prep section of King's Ely. The buildings are home to the boarders between the ages of 7 and 13, some of whom are choristers. The Houses consist of common rooms, kitchen, music practice rooms, large gardens and a range of dormitories. The Housemistresses and their families occupy wings of the buildings, and the Resident Assistant House Tutor has a flat in another wing of each building.

During the year, the Graduate Musician in Residence will be able to live, rent free, in shared school accommodation on a full-time basis. During school holiday periods, the appointee will not be required to work within the Houses, but the accommodation will continue to be available. The Graduate Musician in Residence will be entitled to take all meals during term time in the Monastic Barn, but these will not be provided during school holiday periods.

King's Ely prides itself on its strong extra-curricular programme and all staff are expected to be involved in this element of school life. Other than music, King's has very strong Drama, Sports and outdoor pursuits departments which candidates may wish to get involved with when time allows.

The successful applicant will be joining a thriving community of learners including several fellow Graduate Assistants and GAP students. The contract will run from 1st September 2026 through to 8th July 2027.



Person Specification

Experience, Knowledge, and Skills	
Be a passionate musician, willing to convey enthusiasm for instrumental, theory and choral work to children	<i>Essential</i>
Have an understanding of safeguarding in a children's residential setting	<i>Desirable</i>
Personal and Professional Qualities	
Be keen to work intensively with young people between the ages of 4 & 13	<i>Essential</i>
Be flexibly minded and dynamic in approach	<i>Essential</i>
Enjoy working as a supporting member within a large team of professionals	<i>Essential</i>
Identify with the specific additional needs of working choristers and busy young musicians	<i>Essential</i>
Have stamina and the ability to lead children calmly when working under pressure	<i>Essential</i>
Have a great sense of humour and an ability to help children thrive, making the most of a school environment	<i>Essential</i>
Willingness to be involved in all other aspects of boarding school life beyond music	<i>Essential</i>

Working at King's Ely

King's Ely is committed to rewarding our employees who share our passion, vision, and values, and to investing in their wellbeing and continuous professional development.

King's Ely has its own, generous salary scale. The salary for the role will be commensurate with experience and will recognise the responsibility this post entails.

In addition to the above, employees at Kings Ely benefit from:

- Generous fee-remission, subject to availability of places and successful admissions procedures. Staff currently enjoy a discretionary discount on fees for children in Reception year onwards, details of which will be provided upon request.
- Enrolment in the statutory auto-enrolment pension scheme. The contribution rates for the auto-enrolment pension scheme are Employee contribution of 5% and Employer contribution of 3%.
- The school offers a private healthcare insurance scheme, which staff may opt to join at their expense, shortly after the start of each academic year (the policy year starts on 1 November each year). The scheme can only be joined at the start of the policy year, not part-way through the year.
- Use of school gym facilities and use of the swimming pool at specific times (during summer school holidays – small fee applies).
- Access to Salary Sacrifice Schemes such as: Cycle2Work, Home and Tech Scheme, and Local Gym Membership
- Limited free on-site car parking
- School lunch provided when at work over lunch time and tea and coffee throughout the day.
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme, available to the employee and their dependents.
- Discounts at local businesses including Poets House, A Little Something Ely, The Almonry Tearooms, Ely Grazing Company, Sushi and Salad, Griddle Bar and Meathouse, and The Pantry (Newmarket).

Information for Candidates

Applications should be made via My New Term, you can do this by clicking the 'Apply Now' button at the top of the advert. The final closing date for applications will be **noon on 24th February 2026**.

Where Applicants have been successful in the shortlisting process they will be contacted for interview. Interviews will take place shortly after the closing date.

We reserve the right to invite candidates for interview prior to the closing date. Therefore, we encourage interested applicants to submit an application as soon as possible.

If you are selected for interview, you will need to provide proof of identity, birth certificate, documentation confirming your NI number or your right to work in the UK and certification of qualifications.

Shortlisted Applicants should be aware that references will be requested as part of the interview process.

King's Ely is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Thank you for completing your application and your interest in King's Ely.





King's Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4EW

www.kingsely.org