

## Singing with Year 3 and beyond.....

We are delighted that Ian Roberts (Director of Music at Newcastle Cathedral) will be coming into school to work with Year 3 on Wednesdays during this half term. Mr Roberts and his family live in Gosforth, and he is an Archibald parent, so you may have seen him in the playground. He will teach each class various songs as well as developing general musical skills. He will also try to give each pupil a small flavour of life as a Cathedral Chorister.



The Cathedral chooses a number of 'partner schools' to work with each year. Mr Roberts is looking for the next generation of Newcastle Cathedral Choristers (7 years of age and above). The English tradition of cathedral choirs is centuries old, and a jewel of the nation's cultural life. It is notable that Newcastle Cathedral doesn't have its own choir school, and this provides a tremendous opportunity for boys and girls from across the region and all backgrounds to take part in this special opportunity. We think that there are musically talented and committed children at Archibald that could benefit from the experience. It's open to all, and families don't need to be church goers.

The Cathedral Choristers receive an unparalleled musical education worth approximately £2,000 pa completely free of charge. Each Chorister receives a small bursary which parents can give as 'pocket money', or perhaps put towards instrumental lessons. They also receive free individual singing lessons from one of the North East's most respected vocal coaches, and lessons in music theory. As well as a wealth of Cathedral Services (some high profile), other exciting opportunities include special concerts, CD recordings and occasional radio broadcasts. The choir also tours internationally, and a trip to Belgium is planned for October of this year.

The Girl Choristers sing on Mondays and Wednesdays after school and the Boy Choristers on Tuesdays and Thursday. When experienced, Choristers sing for one service on a Sunday during term time. If a number of Archibald pupils were interested, lift sharing is a possibility, or it might be feasible for the Choristers to travel by taxi during the week.

The benefits of serious singing extend beyond just the musical. Regular singing can help with literacy, numeracy, powers of concentration, physical fitness and many other things. For more information please contact Ian Roberts's [music@stnicholascathedral.co.uk](mailto:music@stnicholascathedral.co.uk)

