

# Life as a Worth Chorister



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# My story: Freya Barker

Worth has many different opportunities available, especially in the Music department. One of these is the Worth Abbey Choir, which sings at Thursday Worship every week, and at Mass on a Sunday morning every other week. The choir is an incredible thing to be a part of, as we sing some breath-taking and beautiful music, and the sound that it makes in the Abbey Church cannot be found anywhere else. It is a privilege to be in the choir and it is so much fun to sing surrounded by like-minded students, who are enjoying the music as much as you are. Mr Oakley, our fantastic Director of Music, is an inspiration to us, as he is constantly helping us develop as singers as well as helping us achieve the amazing sound that we all aspire to make as a whole. I have also made so many friends through the choir, in other years as well and I have found many different people to talk to as a result of being in the choir.

Last year in April, the Worth Choir had the incredible opportunity of going to Rome to sing alongside the Sistine Chapel Choir in the magnificent location of St Peter's Basilica at a Papal Mass. I am sure that this touched every one of the members of the choir, as we were so close to the infamous choir that sings for the Pope almost every day. We were also able to sing for the Mass in St Maria Maggiore and in the Pantheon for the tourists that were there. We came home having thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the wonderful experience, and we continue to aspire to be the best singers we can be.



# My story: Christopher Ritchie

Being a chorister at Worth has been a fantastic experience. It is a big commitment as the Abbey Choir sings for services on Thursdays as well as Sundays, but it has introduced me to a wide repertoire of church music from Tallis and Palestrina to Howells and Eric Whitacre. I also sing with the Worth Choral Society, which includes parents and other members of the Worth community. This has enabled me to sing larger scale choral works such as Mozart's Requiem and Vierne's Messe Solennelle.

When I came to Worth in Year Seven, I was quite nervous about joining the choir as I hadn't much experience of choral singing at my prep school, but I soon came to really enjoy it. We work hard in rehearsals, but they are good fun and the senior members of the choir are very supportive. The choir is a great way of getting to know people in other years.

One of the highlights of being a Worth Chorister is the trips, either local, such as singing evensong at Chichester Cathedral or overseas. My favourite moment came last year, when Worth was the first ever school choir to sing at a Papal mass in Rome, alongside the Sistine Chapel Choir. We sang at other famous locations such as the Pantheon and Sancta Maria Maggiore Basilica, but looking out over the sea of 80,000 people gathered in St Peter's Piazza was a life changing experience that I will remember forever.

