



EXETER CATHEDRAL

ELITE MUSIC SCHOOL BECKONS HEAD OF EXETER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

The head of Exeter Cathedral School, Stephen Yeo, is to become headmaster of the UK's elite music school, the Purcell School for Young Musicians.

Stephen, who has been at ECS for four years, said he was sad to leave, but had been offered a "wonderful opportunity and challenge" to lead the prestigious Purcell School, in Hertfordshire.

He said: "It has been a huge privilege to lead this very special community here at the Cathedral school, and to live so close to one of the finest Cathedrals in Europe. My new appointment has come about because of the wonderful learning experiences I have had here. I encourage the children in the school to – in the words of the 17th century Quaker, George Fox – 'live adventurously' and now I find myself having to follow my own advice."

He will take up his new role in January, and the process to find a new head for the 800 year old Cathedral School is already underway.

In his time in charge, the number of pupils on the school roll has increased significantly, to around 300 pupils aged 2-13, of whom 36 are choristers in the Cathedral choir.

He and the governors have also begun an expansion and refurbishment of the school's buildings, which saw the opening of its new nursery this week and the approval of plans to rebuild the school's concert and music rooms.

Chair of governors, the Dean of Exeter Cathedral, Jonathan Draper said: "We are thrilled that Stephen's talents have been recognised and that he has been offered this wonderful and rare opportunity, but we are very sorry to lose him.

"Stephen will leave ECS a strong and healthy School – symbolised by our flourishing pupil numbers and the wonderful new nursery building opened by Baroness Floella Benjamin earlier this week – and we are very grateful to him for all that he has done to put the School and its future on such a sound footing.

“We are confident that, because of Stephen’s hard work and the continued excellence of the school musically and academically, that we can attract a really outstanding headteacher to lead the Cathedral School into a bright future.”

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Notes to Editors

Stephen Yeo began his musical education as a cathedral chorister at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff, progressing to King's College, Taunton. After graduating with a B.Mus degree from the University of Sheffield he spent five years in Dublin where he sang, played the organ, and taught at St Columba's College and the music department of the Dublin Institute of Technology. He was then Director of Music at St Elphin's School, Matlock, followed by eight years as Head of Music and Performing Arts at King Edward VI Handsworth School in Birmingham. Stephen then joined the leadership team at Bedales School, and subsequently became Head of Lyndhurst School in Camberley. For the last four years he has been Head of Exeter Cathedral School. In addition to his music degree Stephen holds a music education diploma from Trinity College, London and his National Professional Qualification for Headship (Secondary). He is also a boarding and team inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate and an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Communications
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