

NMPAT

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

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1 July 2026

Dear County Youth Choir members and families,

Final Information Letter: Gabrieli Roar Residential 2026

What: Gabrieli Roar summer residential course — rehearsals and a performance of Handel's *Saul* at Ely Cathedral

When: Friday 17th July – Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Where: Gresham's School, Cromer Rd, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6EA

Concert venue: Ely Cathedral, The College, Ely, CB7 4DL (Wednesday 22nd July)

Please read the attached Welcome letter, Code of Conduct, and daily itinerary from Gabrieli Roar.

Staffing

The NMPAT staff accompanying County Youth Choir are:

- Wendy Dawn Thompson – Choir Conductor / First Aid
- Adrian Taylor – Vocal Coach / Mental Health First Aid
- Elle Thorneycroft – Vocal Coach

The course itself is run by the professional orchestra and choir Gabrieli, led by conductor and Artistic Director Paul McCreesh, and Creative Directors Charles Béquignon-MacDougall and Emily Dickens, supported by a team of Vocal Leaders and additional pastoral staff.

Leave of Absence

For some members, the tour dates may fall during the final days of the school year. If so, parents must request leave of absence by writing to their school in advance. NMPAT can provide a supporting letter, please email office@nmpat.co.uk if required.

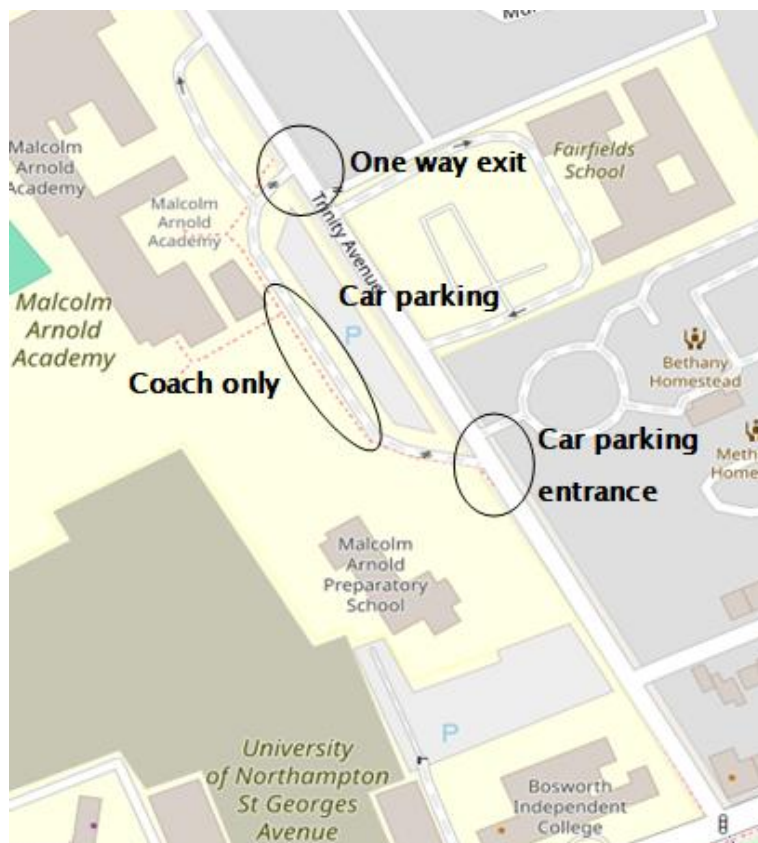
Travel

County Youth Choir members will share a coach to Gresham's School, Norfolk, NR25 6EA with students from Malcolm Arnold Academy. We will depart from:

Malcolm Arnold Academy,
Trinity Avenue,
Northampton,
NN2 6JW

When arriving by car, please note there is a one-way system. Enter from Trinity Avenue by the entrance next to Malcolm Arnold Preparatory School and park in the parking zone immediately on your right. Do not continue on to the drop-off area where the coach will be parked. Once parked, use the footpaths and pedestrian crossing to reach the loading area safely.

Please arrive by **9:15am** on Friday 17th July.



Students will be supervised on the bus by Mr Taylor and Mrs Thorneycroft with Ms Thompson travelling by car in convoy.

What to Bring

Music:

- Pencil, eraser, and water bottle.
- Copies of any solo vocal scores for yourself, your accompanist, and the masterclass leader, for use in masterclasses and lessons. a performing score of Saul will be provided on arrival.
- Any material or props needed for the talent show

Food and money:

- A packed lunch for Friday 17th July — all other meals, including a packed lunch on concert day, are provided by Gresham's School
- A small amount of cash may be useful in case snack purchases are possible, but is unlikely to be necessary

Clothing and luggage

1) Please bring one medium-sized and labelled suitcase — please pack:

- Clothing and outer wear for both sun and rain
- Running kit and trainers (optional — there is an organised 5k run)
- Concert dress: black trousers or skirt, black socks or tights, black shoes
- flat shoes are recommended
- toiletries
- bring suncream and a hat
- a towel

2) A day backpack for the coach journey, small enough to fit in an overhead locker — keep needed toiletries, medication, and food and water bottles in here, as luggage stored underneath the coach will not be accessible once loaded

Accommodation

NMPAT County Youth Choir will be accommodated as a group in Woodlands House at Gresham School. Each student will have their own room with bedding provided (please bring your own towel). There are shared facilities and separate female/male bathrooms.

Males will be housed on the ground floor with Mr Taylor, and female members on the first floor with Ms Thompson and Mrs Thorneycroft.

Rooms are each choir member's private space and are not to be used for socialising.

Attending the Concert

Tickets for the concert at Ely Cathedral are available here:

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/gabrieli-roar-handels-saul>

Travel information for Ely Cathedral (CB7 4DL):

<https://www.elycathedral.org/plan-your-visit/information-for-visitors/getting-here>

We expect all families to attend the final concert on Wednesday 22nd July and to collect their child afterwards. If you are unable to collect your child from Ely, please contact Wendy walthompson@nmpat.co.uk as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be explored.

Behaviour and Supervision

While on the residential, all choir members and staff are expected to adhere to both the NMPAT Code of Conduct and the attached Gabrieli Roar Code of Conduct at all times. Rules and restrictions are in place for the benefit of the whole group and must be observed by everyone. Where health and safety is concerned, staff cannot be held responsible for any student who wilfully disregards instructions.

As per the NMPAT Code of Conduct mobile phones are not to be used during rehearsals and we discourage their use at meal times and all organised activities during the residential. Any mobile devices brought by students will be their own responsibility.

As stipulated in the Gabrieli Roar Code of Conduct, The consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any time. No illegal substances or objects should be in anyone's possession at any time.

Contact

The NMPAT events phone number will be monitored by senior staff at all times during the tour, and students may also use it in an emergency:

01604 816311

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Dawn Thompson
Head of Vocal Studies - NMPAT
Director - Northamptonshire County Youth Choir