

THE BRIAN RICHARDS ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR PUPILS ATTENDING LEWES PRIORY SCHOOL.

The chapel at Lewes Priory School was built as a memorial to the 55 ex-pupils of the school who lost their lives on active service in the Second World War between 1939 and 1945.

The music of the Chapel Organ brings back memories to many past pupils at the school and the instrument itself is a magnificent Victorian example of the organ builders craft. The Chapel Trustees, aided by financial gifts from past pupils, now offer an Organ Scholarship to current pupils of Priory School.

The scholarship will normally be awarded to a pupil in year 9 who has shown enjoyment, enthusiasm and talent in their piano lessons and who wishes to develop those skills into those of an organist. The scholarship is intended, subject to satisfactory progress, to continue through year 10 and year 11. The intention is for a 3 year rolling programme with one scholar in each of years 9, 10 and 11 and as the year 11 scholar leaves the school, a new Year 9 scholarship is awarded to maintain the 3 scholarships.

The scholarship will pay the entire fees of approximately 30 lessons of 30 minutes each on the school organ by the school organ tutor during a school year.

The Trustees see this as an important project to further the links between the chapel, its history and the school and provide something of relevance and significance to the modern educational environment.

Below is an e-mail received from the parents of the first scholar:

“Further to our conversation at school last week, I wondered whether you would be kind enough to pass on to those responsible for the organ scholarship our great appreciation of the opportunity Will has been given.

He has already developed a real love of the organ, and between his

lessons with Anthony Wilson and his practice sessions at St Michael's he is making amazing progress. In addition, he has just been offered a place on a residential course at Easter that Mr Wilson put him forward for, at Oundle School near Peterborough, where he may have the opportunity to play the organ in Peterborough Cathedral, and he is gradually becoming part of a wonderfully supportive network of fellow organists. I really feel that the scholarship has the potential to be a life-changing opportunity for him, and we are very grateful.”