



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

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25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents,

You may recall I said at last year's Exhibition that I had told the Board I would step down as Chair of Governors at Ampleforth College at Christmas after five years in the role. I feel strongly that chairs of boards should not stay too long but should allow their institutions to benefit from fresh ideas, skills and energy. However, when we appointed Jon Mutton as Headmaster, I undertook to him that I would stay on for six months to support him and give him some continuity as he settled into his new role.

I am delighted to introduce the next Chair of Governors. Edmund Craston was educated at Ampleforth (in St Oswald's House), and with his wife, Rose, is a parent of two boys and a girl who were educated at the College, the fourth consecutive generation of the family to be so. After Ampleforth, Edmund went on to Queen's College, Oxford to read Classics, followed by a twenty-year investment banking career. From 2009 he was Managing Partner of a real estate investment management firm investing in property throughout Europe on behalf of major global institutions. Since 2021, he has been an independent consultant acting as Senior Advisor or Non-Executive Director in a variety of property businesses. Amongst his appointments, he is also a Director of the Trustee company of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster.

Edmund joined the Board last September and has served as Deputy Chair and a member of our Finance and General Purposes and Governance and Nominations Committees. He brings fresh skills, ideas and energy to the role and will make an outstanding Chair. You will have an opportunity to meet and talk to Edmund at Exhibition and he will assume the role of Chair after our Board meeting on 12 June.

I leave my role confident in the future success of the College under its excellent new Headmaster. Jon has made an outstanding start and, with Sara and his two young daughters, will be with us for many years. It has been an honour and a privilege to have served Ampleforth over the last nearly six years. We have been through some challenging times but it has been inspiring to watch, at close quarters, the extraordinary dedication, loyalty and success of our Heads, Robin Dyer and Peter Roberts, their Senior Leadership Teams and the whole staff; the unwavering support of Father Gabriel, Abbot Robert and the Monastic Community, the students and their parents and the wider Ampleforth Community; and the selfless hard work and support of all of our Governors, many of whom had no connection or reason to support Ampleforth. Thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Sparrow

Chair of Governors