



AMPLEFORTH
COLLEGE

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to introduce myself to you as the Head of Middle School (Years 9 to 11). I will be assisted by Mr Hugh Ainscough, who will have a focus on Year 9. I would like to take the opportunity to give you a brief overview of the year.

Year 10 is a pivotal year for our students where much of their GCSE course content is delivered ahead of Year 11 and their public examinations. Ensuring students develop good study habits and have an academic focus is, unsurprisingly, one of our priorities for Year 10 students. We will also encourage our students to engage with our co-curricular program and ensure they are both pastorally and spiritually nurtured. Year 10 will have a House Retreat starting on the evening of Wednesday 15th October running until the end of Thursday and a Year-Group Retreat on 22nd June. All students will attend an activity of their choice on a Friday afternoon and are expected to engage with two evening activities. We also have a series of social events which typically take place weekly on a Saturday evening.

Students will have revision techniques modelled to them throughout the year in classes by their teachers. Tutors are also instrumental in helping students develop effective revision strategies. Students can expect to have one assessment per subject per half term ensuring there are many opportunities for the continuous development of study skills and exam techniques. In the first half of the Summer Term students will also go off-timetable for a week and sit their end of year exams. These exams will begin 27th April. Students will use the same venues as the public exams and will be given the same access arrangements (e.g. extra time, a scribe) where required, in essence they are an early GCSE mock exam. Students will be given feedback at the end of the exams and will have the remainder of the Summer Term to act on the feedback with a final in-class assessment before the end of term. It is not uncommon for students in Year 10 to have occasional low assessment scores as they develop their study habits and trial new techniques. Tutors will unpack each grade with their tutees and monitor for any trends ensuring that students are making good progress overall.

Students can expect to have a 1-to-1 meeting with their tutor once per week. We understand that Year 10 can be a personally challenging time for your daughters and sons. Tutors alongside House Parents will ensure the wellbeing of each student. Tutors will also monitor the academic progress of each student and give them personalised targets and goals to ensure they progress well in all aspects of Ampleforth life. Open and effective communication is key to a successful partnership between school and home. Tutors will, if they have not already, be in contact to introduce themselves to you and will continue to be a point of contact throughout the year and ensure you are kept informed of your daughters' and sons' progress. Parents' Day is 24th January with Parents' Retreat the day before on 23rd January.

If I can be of any help throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,
Oliver Beveridge
Head of Middle School