



**AMPLEFORTH**  
COLLEGE

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Dear parents and students,

I am pleased to introduce myself to you as Head of Sixth Form and to give you an overview of what is typically the most rewarding year of a student's educational journey with us at Ampleforth: Year 13.

As you will see from the enclosed timeline, the academic year is, unsurprisingly, given shape and meaning by the mock examinations that will prepare students for the final set of public examinations they will sit in the compulsory education system—examinations that will enable them to take up exciting opportunities in higher education, work-based training and the open labour market. Students sit one set of mock examinations in November, largely based on their understanding of the topics covered in Year 12, and a second set of mock exams in February, which will cover a much wider range of content from across the two years of A level courses. Alongside these assessment points, BTEC students will continue to complete their assignments as part of the continuous assessment process that characterises this qualification.

Students will submit applications to university in the UK through the UCAS online admissions system and to international universities directly in the autumn term while beginning to develop their personal revision plans and strategies in anticipation of the November mock exams. The careful decisions made at this point in the year will play a significant part in determining ambitions for the short one-and-a-half terms after Christmas.

In light of the above, all final-year students will need to recognise that the half-term holidays, the Christmas holiday and the Easter holiday will require a carefully planned balance between revision, rest and recreation beyond that which many students have experienced to date. There will be important knowledge and skills to be acquired and refined; there will be new revision strategies to be learnt, developed and perfected; and there will be additional pressures on social time, as new responsibilities come as a natural part of moving towards adulthood in a boarding school environment. At times, there may even be some challenging thinking to be done around establishing the right priorities for academic performance, extra-curricular commitments and socialising with peers. In this respect, the Year 13 experience is unlike any other year in the College and I cannot emphasise enough just how competitive A level and BTEC grading are for Generation Alpha in the world of post-COVID examinations. Well-developed skills of time-management and self-direction, combined with a determination to look beyond any prescribed course of study have never been more important in the pursuit of the highest possible grades.

There will, however, be plenty of opportunities for forging deeper friendships; for meeting and learning from a range of high-profile speakers from outside the College as part of the Headmaster's Lecture and Supper programme; and for establishing deep, powerful working relationships with the tutors, house staff and chaplains that culminate in the greatly enjoyable and enriching Year 13 Retreat and the Exhibition Leavers' Ball.

Year 13 is defined by two things: its intensity, and its brevity. At times, it can feel like there is more to do in a single day than can possibly be accomplished in a week. The year will frequently be punctuated

by 'last things' - the last mock exam paper, the last House Punch, the last lesson in that subject that is only now fully making sense. But no-one negotiates this year alone - every student completes this final year with the help and encouragement of a supportive community of staff, peers and people at home. Success in Year 13 really comes down to doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time and seeking timely advice when the right thing seemingly disappears from view, the right way becomes hard to identify, and the right time risks being missed. The tutorial system is designed to ensure that every student in the year group can meet the challenges of the final year of compulsory education with calmness and confidence and is a great support to those who recognise the valuable role that it plays in shaping every Amplefordian and ensuring they live up to their aspirations for themselves.

I hope you all return from the holidays in good shape and are excited about the year ahead. I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Christopher Vowles

Head of Sixth Form

#### Key Dates for the year:

Term	Item	Date(s)	Parents to attend?
<b>Y13 autumn</b>	September exeat	Friday 19/9 – Monday 22/9	
	Revision lists shared for the November mocks	October	
	Y13 Parents' retreat	Friday 26/9	Y - limited spaces. Please see newsletter.
	Y13 Parents' Day	Saturday 27/9	Y - face-to-face or online - please see newsletters for details
	October half-term incl. half-term effort grades. <b>Mock exam revision needed 4-5hrs per day.</b>	Thursday 23/10 – Monday 3/11	
	(I)GCSE English & Maths November resits where applicable	First week of November - TBC	
	Y13 Mocks 1	Monday 10/11 - Friday 14/11	
	November exeat	Friday 21/11 – Monday 23/11	
Christmas holidays incl. effort grades & reports (Subject, Tutor, Houseparent, Headmaster). <b>NEA (Coursework) work needed here where applicable.</b>	Thursday 18/12 – Wednesday 7/1		

<b>Y13 spring</b>	(I)GCSE English & Maths January resits where applicable	Early January - TBC	
	BTEC January Exams	Early January - TBC	
	February half-term incl. half-term effort grades	Thursday 12/2 – Wednesday 25/2	
	Y13 Mocks 1	Thursday 26/2 - Wednesday 4/3	
	<b>Y13 Study day and Higher Education Conference (HEC) - Y13 have some involvement.</b>	<b>Friday 13/3</b>	
	Pupil progress meetings reflecting with each student on their exam performance	Monday 16/3 to Saturday 21/3	
	Y13 Retreat	Wednesday 25/3	
	Easter holidays incl. effort grades & reports (Subject, Tutor, Houseparent, Headmaster). <b>Revision needed at 4-5h per day.</b>	Friday 27/3 – Wednesday 20/4	

<b>Y13 summer</b>	A level and BTEC Exams start in earnest - there may be some BTEC exams before this.	Monday 12/5	
	Exhibition - House events, Y13 Leavers' Mass, Prize-giving, CCF Inspection, Art Displays, Music performances to name but a few.	Friday 22/5 - Saturday 23/5	Y
	May half-term incl. half-term effort grades	Saturday 23/5 – Sunday 31/5	
	<b>A level &amp; BTEC Exam Contingency Day - holidays can only be booked after this date</b>	<b>Wednesday 24/6</b>	
	End of term/year incl. reports (Tutor, Houseparent, Headmaster)	Friday 26/6 at 17.00	
	<b>A level &amp; BTEC Results Day</b>	<b>Thursday 13/8 at 08:00</b>	