



**AMPLEFORTH**  
**COLLEGE**

**An**  
**Ampleforth**  
**education**  
**is**

*A Compass for Life*

“There is a great sense of community here.  
I think it is very special. Ampleforth is more  
than just a school.”

**Katie Radcliffe, Old Amplefordian**



# Welcome

It is an enormous privilege to be the Headmaster of Ampleforth College and part of this wonderful community.

Families from all over the UK and the world come to our beautiful valley in North Yorkshire, passing other good schools along the way. They come because we offer something unique: we educate the whole child, mind, body and soul, enabling them to flourish to the full at school and in life beyond.

Our focus is on providing an excellent and vibrant education which challenges and inspires pupils to actively participate in the richness of all that we offer and enthuse them with a love of learning.

We live in a time when the transformative nature of St Benedict's teachings provide a notably contemporary response to the needs of our young people. They are encouraged to have the highest expectations of themselves in a world that too often values the superficial and the easy path. They learn to give of themselves, to listen to and serve others, to reflect, and to seek the truth.

Our Benedictine ethos and mission is at the very centre of all that we do. Our strength comes from the whole Ampleforth community, working together and appreciating and encouraging everyone's unique talents and contributions.

All staff share the wonderful responsibility of forming our students, developing in them an understanding of what it means to live a life of service, inspiring them to go and make a positive difference to the world. What we do is of infinite value and impact and provides a compass for life.

I am proud to lead such an illustrious school and look forward to welcoming you very warmly to this special place with its compelling vision of what constitutes a great and transformative education.

**Jon Mutton,  
Headmaster**



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*“Everyone at Ampleforth grows together. The longer you are here the more you grow in respect and love for one another.”*

Henrietta May, Year 13

## *Our Benedictine character*

**O**ur founders and brothers, the Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey, bestowed a character and purpose to our educational mission which is more compelling in today’s transactional and commoditised world than ever before.

We believe that every child is a gift from God, with unique talents and potential. Our students understand that everyone has something to contribute, that we grow and learn from our differences and are made better people by looking for the good in others. Through this, students develop a strong sense of respect for - and service to - others.

This Benedictine approach provides a guide to finding meaning and purpose in life. As such, Ampleforth offers a transformative experience, a journey of self-knowledge, self-acceptance and self-giving, as students realise that, although they may not be the best at everything, they each have unique talents and gifts to share, and something to give to the world. This acknowledgement of their own worth gives them confidence, and a recognition of the equal value of those around them. Amplefordians are inspired to be grounded, discerning, thoughtful, compassionate and proactive members of society. They contribute and do good in the world.





# *A lifetime of learning*

**A**mpleforth has a strong scholastic tradition. If you have the ability to gain four A\*s at A level, you will do so here. Exam results are consistently good and two thirds of our students gain A\* to B grade in the main A level subjects. The majority go on to top universities in the UK and all over the world.

However, learning is so much more than exam results - we provide a holistic education which prepares children for life. We are very proud of the range of academic ability of our students and believe the best kind of education is one you choose for yourself. Following the Benedictine tradition of scholarship, we nurture intellectual curiosity, independence of mind, and a lifelong love of learning.

All of our students are stretched in their academic studies. Our broad curriculum, personalised teaching, and wealth of enrichment opportunities - including over twenty academic societies from Astronomy to Politics - enable us to fully develop each child's unique talents. At Ampleforth, you will be encouraged and supported to fulfil your academic potential.

Whilst our academic scholars are expected to participate in all the societies and enrichment activities relevant to them, these opportunities are open to all of our students. Being 'academic' is a state of mind, a desire to know and learn more, behaviour everyone can develop. Our approach to scholarship is inclusive, something all students can embrace, whether they go on to Oxford or Cambridge, follow other academic paths, or choose different routes altogether. It is about being the very best version of yourself and performing as highly as you can. At Ampleforth, staff and students alike nurture and celebrate the talents of all.

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*“We are encouraged to think and challenge. Teachers are passionate in what they are doing and we have a healthy balance between study and play.”*

**Michael Cheng, Old Amplefordian**



“Ampleforth is a very special and supportive place where everyone has the opportunity to excel at something.”

Antonia Szapary, Old Amplefordian

## Space to grow

Our magnificent valley is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty in North Yorkshire. This naturally encourages a healthy outdoor life and following the Benedictine tenet of stewardship, we work to cultivate a sense of responsibility and care for the world around us. Although we are under three hours from London by train and car, this is a different world where wellbeing comes naturally.

We believe in achieving the right balance in life and discovering your interests and talents. Every student is encouraged to make the most of our huge range of co-curricular activities and have the richest possible educational experience. You can learn to fly a plane, make stained glass, survive in the wild, sign up for dance classes, create a theatre set, star in a musical, restore a Land Rover, go riding, fishing, beagling or shooting, and try out anything from archery to yoga.

Our team of professional coaches ensure students with sporting ability can develop their skills to a very high level. We love watching the progress of Old Amplefordians who have gone on to successful sporting careers. But sport at Ampleforth is not only about winning and being the best. It's also about lasting friendships, lessons in tolerance, collaboration, and overcoming personal challenges, as well as the mental and emotional wellbeing that comes with a healthy body.

Music flows through the school in a way that every student encounters and values. We sing together frequently and our outstanding Schola performs publicly in the Abbey Church at least twice a week and gives concerts around the UK and abroad throughout the year. Every type of musical ensemble is on offer, including the largest school (bag)Pipe Band south of the Scottish border.

Service is at the core of our Benedictine ethos. Students help with gardening on the school estate, working in local primary schools, charity shops, and care homes, as well as running and fundraising for our school charity which supports projects all over the UK and overseas. They learn to embody the Benedictine tenet of hospitality by serving at Mass and making and serving coffee for parents and visitors afterwards.



*“Ampleforth has given our four children such stability, and the kindness and support they have each received has given them a strength of character that can be measured by how they look after other people. The Benedictine ethos of greeting strangers becomes a natural habit, and the school’s expectations for the children are focused as much on their approach to life, as well as their results in exams.”*

**Lucia Bridgeman, Mother of 4 Amplefordians**



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*“When parents ask me how to choose a House I always say they will win whatever House they pick!”*

Chris Starkey, Housemaster of St John's

## *Home from home*

**A**t the heart of everything we do at Ampleforth is the pastoral care of our students, supporting them to live happy, fulfilled and responsible lives. Boarding Houses are real homes where children in different year groups mix and form lasting friendships creating a second family.

Each of our Houses has a dedicated team of staff who know every student extremely well, love and cherish them. Healthy and trusting relationships are the foundation of our care, so that every child has the confidence to seek support when they need it, but also to be equipped to learn and grow from mistakes and setbacks, and to flourish as an individual.

The transition from child to adult can be difficult at times. Full boarding provides a safe and fun environment for growing independence with all the benefits of a vibrant social calendar alongside expert pastoral staff.

Boarding does not mean that parents are cut off from their child's life at Ampleforth. We are very much a family school and, as well as creating strong internal bonds, consciously work at connecting with parents and keeping them in touch. A fundamental principle of Catholic education is that parents are the primary educators of their children and our educational mission works best when it is a partnership between College and home, wherever in the world that may be.

Families love coming to visit and being part of our welcoming community. Unlike most boarding schools which empty out at weekends, we grow in numbers as families from all over the UK and the world make the journey as regularly as they can to watch sports matches on Saturday and join us for Mass and coffee on Sunday.





# *A compass for life*

*“Meeting Amplefordians speaks volumes. They are quietly confident, courageous and caring. I don’t know another school which attracts so many people because of the character of its alumni.”*

**Ben & Anna Gibson, Parents of 3 Amplefordians**

**A**t Ampleforth, we place an emphasis not only on the academic function of education, but also on providing a holistic education where mind, body and spirit are nurtured so the whole human being is developed.

Our students are very happy at school and love their time in this beautiful valley. When it is time to leave, the transformational nature of Ampleforth’s education means they do so with the self-esteem and personal resilience needed to deal with the challenges and pressures that life will no doubt throw at them. They are well-rounded, independent, and confident in their own skin as well as being responsible members of society committed to serving the common good. They have a Compass for Life.

It is perhaps not surprising that Old Amplefordians make their mark in every conceivable walk of life - the list of eminent alumni speaks for itself. What is exceptional is the strength of connection that so many retain with Ampleforth and the sense of familial belonging they have to their school, wherever life has taken them.

Throughout the year we welcome a steady stream of visitors who come back for Mass, to chat with a favourite member of staff, spend time on retreat, attend a social or sporting event, or even get married or have a child baptised here. These ties go beyond friendships, beyond memories of achievement, and beyond nostalgia for the beauty of the valley. They are rooted in the experience of growing up in a school where they were nurtured, discovered who they are, and found purpose in life through service to the common good.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.**

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*Co-educational Catholic boarding and day school for ages 11-18*



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