



AMPLEFORTH
COLLEGE

A COMPASS FOR LIFE



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE



for Life

Welcome

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



Families from across the UK and around the world are drawn to our beautiful valley in North Yorkshire, passing many other excellent schools on their way. They come because they are looking for something distinctive: an education that develops not only the intellect, but also character, confidence, and a sense of meaning and purpose.

We offer an ambitious and vibrant education that challenges and inspires students to discover and develop their particular strengths, and to engage wholeheartedly with a rich breadth of academic, creative, sporting, co-curricular and spiritual opportunities. Through these experiences, we seek to kindle curiosity, confidence and an enduring love of learning.

What gives this education its particular character is our centuries-old Catholic ethos and Benedictine tradition. The wisdom of St Benedict, rooted in hospitality, humility, attentiveness and service, has a striking relevance to the world our young people inhabit. At a time when life too often rewards immediacy, self-interest, and the superficial, our students are encouraged to pause, listen, think deeply, and seek what is true and worthwhile. We ask them not simply what they can achieve, but what kind of person they wish to become, and to discover the meaning

and fulfilment that come from using their gifts in the service of others.

This sense of purpose is woven through our shared life here. This is a community that values both belonging and individuality, giving young people the confidence to find their own voice while learning to look beyond themselves and care for others. Our staff know the students really well and have the privilege of helping them grow in character as well as knowledge, encouraging them to become thoughtful, principled and compassionate members of society.

The result is an education that stays with our students for life: one that gives them the confidence to pursue their ambitions, the wisdom to make good choices, and the desire to contribute positively to the lives of others.

I am proud to serve this remarkable community. I warmly invite you to visit us, experience the spirit of Ampleforth for yourself, and discover our vision of an education that is both ambitious and transformative.

Jon Mutton, Headmaster



COMMUNITY *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





GUIDE *for Life*

Our Benedictine character

Our 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

Ampleforth 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 most of our students gain A* to B grades in 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. Whilst 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. At Ampleforth, you will be encouraged and supported to fulfil your academic potential.

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.



HOME *for Life*

*“ 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





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 each person's 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. Learning to fly a plane, making stained glass, surviving in the wild, signing up for dance classes, creating a theatre set, starring in a musical, restoring a Land Rover, going riding, fishing, beagling, shooting, and trying out anything from archery to karate.

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 the 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.



Home from home

At 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 and 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.



FRIENDS *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 three Old Amplefordians





A COMPASS for Life

A compass for life

At Ampleforth, we place an emphasis not only on the academic progression, but on providing a holistic education where mind, body and spirit are nurtured and 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 alumni visitors who come back for Mass, see favourite members of staff, spend time on retreat, attend a social or sporting event, or 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 others and to the common good.



for Life

If you would like to learn more
please get in touch.

Email: admissions@ampleforth.org.uk

Tel: 01439 766000

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Ampleforth College, York, YO62 4ER
01439 766000