



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

*The enduring gift of a
Bequest to Ampleforth*





Note from the Head



Thank you for considering the lasting impact of leaving a gift in your will to Ampleforth College. I am deeply grateful that you might translate your love for our school and its unique mission into a bequest that will transform the future of Catholic and Benedictine education.

Ampleforth is more than a school – it is a Compass for Life, grounded in the Benedictine expression of our Catholic faith. Rooted in prayer, community, and service, and inspired by the Monastic Community of Ampleforth Abbey, it forms young people in wisdom and virtue, guiding them towards lives of purpose. Here, education nurtures faith, intellect and character together, shaping hearts as well as minds to follow Christ's call with courage, compassion, and a commitment to serve others.

At a time when the world so often lacks moral direction, the teachings of St Benedict are more needed than ever. Everything we do here is influenced by his wisdom. Our Compass for Life helps young people grow into adults of integrity, compassion, courage, and insight, while also learning to be better stewards of the Earth and of one another. This is the intangible gift of an Ampleforth education: an inner experience that shapes character, creates loyalty beyond reason, and helps our pupils make sense of the world, even when the world itself seems senseless.

We need your help to secure this transformational education, to be open to all those who come to us, regardless of financial means, and to preserve our beautiful and historic buildings and landscape that all those connected to this place can return to as a place of sanctuary and meaning in their lives.

I hope you will join those who have already made this lasting commitment to Ampleforth's future, and the future of all those girls and boys who will be shaped by this place for the better of the world around them.

**Jon Mutton,
Headmaster**



Mission Statement:

"An Ampleforth Education is an invitation to young people to discover the value and the purpose of life, by entering into a transforming encounter with Christ through active participation in the life of a living Christian Community."

Founded in 1802 and set in a beautiful Yorkshire valley, Ampleforth College is the world's foremost Catholic day and boarding school, welcoming girls and boys of all faiths aged 11-18.

Each student's unique talents are recognised and nurtured within a welcoming community rooted in Benedictine values and our Catholic education. Ampleforth educates the whole person, unlocking what they can contribute to the world and fulfilling their academic potential. Proud of its academic excellence, the College does not select solely on ability and offers a system of dedicated tutors to ensure each student's progress. Students perform significantly above expectation. An Ampleforth education is a compass for life.

Over 80% of students are full boarders and come from across the whole of the UK and around the world. Currently one in four of our pupils are in receipt of a means tested bursary to enable them to be educated here.

We offer the breadth of opportunity for each student to discover and develop their interests and strengths and there is an exceptionally wide range of co-curricular activities. The College's first-class facilities are enhanced by expert staff who ensure that the students get the most out of them. There is a particular focus on charity work and service with many students involved in local community projects and joining the Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The Combined Cadet Force, with both Army and Royal Air Force Sections, is also extremely popular. Students develop the confidence to lead as well as the humility to serve. They learn to work independently and work well with others. Amplefordians are inspired to be caring and thoughtful citizens who make the right decisions in life.

The impact of a legacy gift

Legacies play an increasingly vital role in supporting both the short- and long-term mission of Ampleforth College. Their impact cannot be overstated: in recent years we have seen how a legacy can transform our school and the lives of the young people educated here.

Since 2019, Ampleforth College has been financially and legally independent of Ampleforth Abbey under the management of the St Laurence Education Trust, while retaining a close spiritual and practical connection with our founders. Today, we hold a modest endowment of £5m thanks to the generosity of past and present benefactors. However, we continue to depend on fee income to support our operations, bursaries, and investment in facilities — a model that would be unsustainable without philanthropic support, and one which could compromise the character and impact of our school if left unaddressed.

The rising cost of independent education, compounded by the government's VAT on school fees and the removal of business rate relief, means that more families struggle to afford Ampleforth. Catholic families are particularly affected, with fewer options for Catholic education and many unable to support more than one child. A legacy can change this — whether by providing bursaries for deserving pupils or by helping us preserve our historic buildings and valley, costs which otherwise place further pressure on school fees.

There are three key ways legacies can support Ampleforth's present and future:

- **Growing our Endowment** to secure the future of bursaries for families who cannot afford the full cost of education. Endowment gifts are invested wisely, ensuring long-term impact while supporting bursary provision year after year.
- **Preserving, renovating, and developing our iconic buildings for the future.** This also supports Ampleforth Abbey through rent provision and maintains the value of the estate we lease from the Monastic Community.
- **Providing immediate funding** at the time of a legator's death to meet urgent needs, such as hardship support for families suddenly unable to continue their child's education.

Every legacy is a cherished gift, shaping both the present and the future of Ampleforth. We honour these gifts with the deepest gratitude, taking seriously our responsibility of stewardship and remembrance within the life of our whole community.

Legacy Story

Miles Wright (T62)

Miles Wright (1943–2012) was one of four brothers to attend Ampleforth College, three of whom entered the Monastic Community of Ampleforth Abbey, including the late Abbot Timothy Wright. Deeply devoted to Ampleforth Abbey, the College, the monastery's foundation at St Louis, and the Old Amplefordian Cricket Club, Miles was warm, welcoming, and wonderfully good with people. A familiar figure within the OA community, he served as a Trustee of The Ampleforth Society and supported the College faithfully throughout his life.

Miles gave generously to many appeals, from the Bicentenary to a significant contribution to the Bursary Fund two years before his death. With no children of his own, he thought carefully about how his estate could reflect the institutions and communities that had shaped his life. On his passing, he left his estate to be shared between Ampleforth Abbey, St Louis Abbey, and Ampleforth College, making an impact that continues to be felt today.

Thanks to Miles's generosity, the First XI Cricket Ground and Pavilion were fully refurbished, creating one of the finest cricket grounds of any school. His memory lives on there, both in the play of hundreds of pupils and visitors and in his portrait in the Pavilion. More enduring still is the **Miles Wright Bursary Fund**, a £1.4m endowment whose income provides a transformational bursary to children who could not otherwise attend Ampleforth. Many pupils already owe their place here to Miles's foresight, and countless more will follow.

Through these lasting gifts, Miles's generosity continues to shape the lives of young Amplefordians — a legacy of faith, friendship, and service that will endure in perpetuity.

"It is the best school square in the North and is highly regarded by all who play on it, from our youngest students to County Cricketers who visit. We are very fortunate that Miles had such a passion for the sport and Ampleforth, realizing the best possible impact his gift could create."

Sebastian Phillips (COO), Head of Cricket



My Bursary Story

Rory Smith (H09)

One of my first and lasting memories of my time at Ampleforth was the sheer scale of the place. When I first started, the sight of the Abbey, the size of the campus and the seemingly never-ending outdoor space was initially overwhelming but it was soon a place I came to know and love.

I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary during my time at the College, which enabled me to access far more than just an education. The lessons I learnt at Ampleforth continue to shape all aspects of my life today; from the way I build my career and communicate with others, to starting a family and raising my children. After leaving, I decided to travel alone, to India to work as a reporter for a national newspaper in Chennai. A move that cemented my interest in writing and kick-started my career in journalism. Having the confidence to make that initial move - no matter how daunting - was down to my experience at Ampleforth.

Now, as I look back with a bit of perspective gained from exploring the wider world and everyday experiences, it's funny to think of Ampleforth as ever being daunting or overwhelming. Instead, it's proved to be one of the few constants in an ever-changing world. I now know that the sense of scale I recognised as a teenager, is not just about the size of the buildings or the extent of the grounds, but more the scale of the opportunities available to someone with an Ampleforth education. I don't know who provided the funding for my bursary and I'm sure I never will but there isn't a day where I'm not grateful for the kindness someone once showed me and many others. Regardless of the size or scale of that financial contribution at the time, a bursary donation has a lasting impact, which can be felt much further down the line.



“My time at Ampleforth was essential to making me become the person I am today. I think it taught me to be independent, curious about different things, but more importantly, it taught me to be a better person overall. I truly believe Ampleforth gives you a compass for life.”

Pierre Panhard, Old Amplefordian



“Ampleforth is very much a community in its own right and even as a part time staff member, I feel included, involved and that my work here is valued. The College team are friendly and supportive and it is clear that everybody here is passionate about their role. The College is unlike anywhere I have ever worked before, no two days are ever the same, and I really look forward to coming to work.”

Legacy Story

David (E46) and Susan Keane

David and Susan Keane lived most of their lives together in Canada, after David left Ampleforth. They regularly kept in touch, often joining Old Amplefordian events in North America. During his lifetime David often reflected on how much the experience and atmosphere of his education meant to him, and was generous to Ampleforth in his lifetime.

“I was in St Edward’s House and want to make a gift to Ampleforth as it means a great deal to me. I would like my funds to be put towards the cost of a new building, a renovation or upgrading at Ampleforth, or even be used to pay down bank debt already incurred for those purposes. Please remember my wife Susan and me in your prayers. Long may Ampleforth flourish in difficult times!”

Letter from David before his death

David died in 2014 and, after the passing of Susan in 2017, their joint legacy came to fruition in 2022 when their generous gift of £120,000 was received and divided equally between Ampleforth College and Ampleforth Abbey.

Their funds made it possible for the College to undertake much needed work to restore the façade of the “Old School” building, housing The Big Passage, The Library and The Big Study, some of Ampleforth’s most treasured spaces. This included the reinstallation and repair of the stained glass windows at the end of The Big Passage.

Without David and Susan’s friendship, these projects would not have been possible from our own funds, and thanks to them we have preserved and enhanced the centre of our school for generations to come.

David and Susan are prayed from amongst our benefactors, by the school community and at Matins everyday in the Abbey Church. Soon, a small plaque will be placed in the Big Passage to commemorate their gift and lasting impact on the beauty and heritage of the school.

How to make a planned gift in your will

There are four types of gift that can be included in your will or a codicil to an existing will.

Residuary legacy

A residuary legacy is the gift of the remainder of your estate (or a percentage of the remainder) after all other gifts to family and friends have been distributed and all other testamentary debts and expenses have been paid. A residuary legacy increases with the value of your estate, which means that even a small percentage of residue can greatly benefit Ampleforth

Pecuniary legacy

A pecuniary legacy is a gift of a specific sum of money. When making a pecuniary legacy it is possible for you to index-link the gift in order to ensure its intended value over time

Specific legacy

A specific legacy refers to the gift of a specific asset (for example stocks and shares, property, a life insurance policy or jewelery) rather than a monetary amount. Ampleforth has benefitted in the past from specific gifts of educational or monetary value that have created impact, either through their use in the College or through realizing their value to support our endowment. Please do discuss wishes about items you intend to leave to Ampleforth College so we can ensure they are used according to the purpose you intend for them.

Reversionary legacy

A reversionary legacy is effectively a postponed gift. It allows a specifically named person(s) to benefit from your estate (or part of it) during their lifetime and on their death, your estate (or part of it) then passes to Ampleforth College.

As your will is one of the most important documents you will ever make, Ampleforth College recommends that you consult your legal advisers before drafting a new will, updating an existing one or making other plans for your estate.

Whilst the Development Office cannot offer legal or financial advice to you, we would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about your wishes, to help you to discern how you would like your legacy to make an impact at Ampleforth and ensure that in due course your intentions can be fulfilled.

Tax efficient giving

The St Laurence Education Trust is a registered charity (Charity Number 1063808) and accordingly all legacies made to the school are exempt from UK Inheritance and Capital Gains Taxes. Under current rules, if you leave 10% or more of your chargeable net estate to charity the Inheritance Tax rate on the whole of your estate is reduced from 40% to 36%.

| | Without charitable bequest | With 10% charitable bequest |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Estate | £1,000,000 | £1,000,000 |
| Less Nil Rate Band ("NRB") | (£325,00) | (£325,00) |
| Net Estate | £675,000 | £675,000 |
| Charitable Legacy (10%) | | £67,500* |
| Taxable Estate | £675,000 | £607,500 |
| Inheritance Tax | @ 40% £270,000 | @ 36% £218,700 |
| Estate available for distribution | £730,00: 325,00(NRB) + 405,00 Effective IHT rate 27% | £713,800: 325,00(NRB) + 388,800 Effective IHT rate 21% |

*A charitable legacy of £67,500 reduces the taxed estate available to beneficiaries by £16,200.

If a surviving spouse is able to claim a double nil rate band, the net estate will reduce and any charitable donations will result in a lower taxable estate.

More detailed information is available from the HMRC website.

Important notes and how to also support Ampleforth Abbey

Our Development Office are available to help you along your journey to making a legacy and will be with you during your lifetime to keep you up to date with news and developments at the school.

To remember Ampleforth College in your will you will need to stipulate that the gift is made to "The St Laurence Education Trust, Registered Charity 1063808, Ampleforth College, York, YO62 4ER".

Many legators also have a strong desire to support the Monastic Community of Ampleforth Abbey, which we welcome and encourage. Gifts to Ampleforth College do not directly benefit Ampleforth Abbey, although indirectly they do with the school's continuing financial support through rent and other contributions to the Abbey. If you also wish to support the Monastic Community, we are happy to have an initial conversation with you and provide you with further information from the Abbey to help you make your decision about how to support the monks. All gifts to the monastery should be left to "The Ampleforth Abbey Trust, Registered Charity 1026793, Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO62 4EN



An Ampleforth education is
A Compass for Life

Catholic co-educational boarding and day school for ages 11 to 18



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