



13 September 2024

Dear Members,

I want to offer a very warm welcome to our newest Society members, the College Leavers from the class of 2024 and the new parents at the College who have now joined our ranks.

The Trustees of the Society have been working together with Emma & Lizzie in the Development Office to deliver even more to members this year. The events on offer to you around the country and the globe continue to increase, particularly with the support and involvement of Old Amplefordians and Parents helping to make these a real success. This is our Society for all of us to enjoy, so if you can offer your time to reach out to others and make them feel welcome or reconnect with us, then please do get involved and speak to Lizzie about how you can help.

We are delighted that we will return to sending you an annual magazine in the summer next year and I hope many of you will contribute your news to it in due course. Please support this last edition of the Ampleforth Journal in its current format by purchasing a copy.

This week I joined the school's Governors for their annual strategy day, to understand the school's priorities better and ensure that the Society is doing all it can to help the College. I am impressed by the great strides the school has made over the last year and have offered my thanks to Peter Roberts on behalf of the Society for his hard work. It is brilliant to see the school growing again and we must support this effort. The Trustees look forward to working with Jon Mutton and the leadership team to bring the Society along with them as they continue to drive the school forward in the coming years.

I will also continue speaking with the Abbot and monastic community to understand what help we can offer the Abbey as well, but for now I encourage you to visit the excellent new Visitor Centre and Tea Rooms in "Alban Roe House", known to many of us as the old Junior House.

I am delighted that the Society is beginning to work with our counterparts amongst the other Benedictine schools. In today's world our unique Benedictine influence is something to be proud of and take forward. A working group has been formed between the Old Amplefordians and the Old Gregorians of Downside to offer you more faith activities, building on the influence at the two schools of the Benedictine Manquehue Apostolic Movement. There are also all the social benefits of "WADS" events (Worth, Ampleforth, Downside and Stonyhurst) in regions of the globe where small numbers of former pupils can gather, it is good to see our Benedictine hospitality being generously extended to the Jesuits of Lancashire.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months and wish you all the best from the Trustees of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

The Lord Stafford DL (C72)

Chair of the Ampleforth Society