



AMPLEFORTH DIARY
AUTUMN 2022



Ampleforth Diary





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FAREWELL TO ROBIN



The project was meant to last for four terms, and ends after ten. Just as it was in my cricketering days it is a surprise that I managed to get into double figures.

The aim, as expressed to all parents in my first week in the job, was to professionalise all aspects of the school, whilst maintaining and enhancing the ethos and values of the College, and by doing all of this regaining the trust and confidence of the authorities.

To satisfy the Independent Schools Inspectorate twice in 2020 and then to have to deal with even more intense regulatory interventions was surprising and difficult. We have now come out of the other side of all of that, stronger in all respects, and able to move forward with confidence with the aim of getting better and better. Ampleforth College is indeed back.

It is also very good for the College that we have carried out a planned, constitutional transition from one professional Head to another – some say that this has not happened in the College's history. To have someone arriving in January of the quality of Peter Roberts, with all his experience of leading two significant independent schools and his outstanding intellectual and academic ability, plus the fact that he is a very nice person, is great for the College. He and Marie, who will also be heavily involved with the school, will enjoy everything that the school has to offer and will undoubtedly usher in a new era of growth and success.

I would like to thank all staff for their loyalty and professionalism. They have been steadfast in confronting the many difficulties and concerns, and have patiently carried out the many changes that have been necessary.

Parents have shown similar resilience which has been expressed consistently with a great deal of passion. I cannot overstate the

power of this – without it we would not have been able to get through the hard times. It has been odd hearing the views of some observers when they have expressed scepticism about the feelings of parents; in this they have completely misread the discerning nature of the Ampleforth parental body.

Students have never lost faith, knowing only too well that their lived experience of the College is something they love and cherish. When I announced the inspection outcome to them in Big Passage their spontaneous outburst of unbridled joy will stay in my memory for ever. Thanks again to you all – staff, parents and students alike.

I would also like to thank the Governors for the confidence they have shown in the team during the difficult times. Under Edward Sparrow's leadership their resourcefulness has been most impressive. The Council, under the chairmanship of Lord Charles Moore has been quietly influential and a source of very valuable, independent advice and wisdom. Kevin Hollinrake, MP, has been a tower of strength in his support for the school and the local community.

Some very generous things have been said in the last few days in many messages to which I am enjoying responding. I am glad that the incredible work of staff, the SLT in particular, has been recognised. Without doubt it has been a team effort.

Ali Gardiner's work on my behalf has been unwavering, indefatigable and to be honest has rescued me on countless occasions. Thank you very much to Ali.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without Penny – most of my best ideas have come from her. SLT and others in the staff have not witnessed the cupboards being kicked and the expletives expressed in private reaction to the frustrations of the last few years. Penny, with the groundedness and stoicism of Yorkshire folk has enabled me to keep my confidence intact and my sights on what really matters.

We leave at the end of December, having loved our time at Ampleforth, delighted that the school can now move forward with security and confidence. We will cherish the memories of warm, hospitable people and such a beautiful place. We look forward to hearing good news from the Valley and very much hope to keep in touch with this wonderful community.

Robin Dyer
Head of Ampleforth College





Department Roundups

At Exhibition last May, our students gave an overview of the 2021/22 academic year and all that had happened in the Ampleforth Valley. We hope you enjoy reading some of the highlights here.



ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

This year, our teachers have focused on three areas – first, Independent Thinking, Learning and Coping, second, the recovery curriculum which is about ensuring that gaps in learning due to lockdowns are identified and filled – and third, progress for all, with everyone being as important as the next.

The Ofsted inspection last November included an in-depth review of our teaching and we were very pleased with their conclusions on the good quality of what we offer. Indeed, we have seen huge success this year both at department level and individually. Many students have enjoyed visits from external speakers, with particular highlights being two inspiring science lectures and some thought-provoking politics talks, including one from Sir Anthony Seldon.

In terms of individual success, in art Faye and Keza were selected to go forward to the regional finals of ARTiculation, a competition promoting the appreciation and discussion of art. In the Chemistry Senior Olympiad, Moyu won a prestigious Gold

Award and three others won Silver Awards, plus our junior team for the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition made it to the regional final of 28 schools. The Christian Theology department sent two teams to the Ethics Cup run by St Andrews University. In Maths, two students got gold awards in the UK Mathematics Trust Senior Challenge, and two more got the same in the Junior Challenge. There was also success in the national Mathematical Olympiad for Girls – with one distinction and two merits going to Kimi Middleton and Moyu Honjo. There were also three Physics Olympiad awards for Rufus Philpott, Hamish McNeil and Daniel English Brown; and a Year 12 Olympiad Challenge award for Arthur Kavanagh. Well done everyone.

The DT department recently took 50 students to visit JCB, to start the selection process for the JCB Scholarships which offer a fully paid gap year opportunity for one lucky Ampleforth student. Now that Covid restrictions are gone, there are a number of other exciting trips to look forward to with the Geography department organising a

residential trip to the Welsh coast, Physics students gearing up to visit CERN in Switzerland in December, and CT leading an expedition to the Holy Land in a few weeks' time.

By Mani Desai (T22)

Independent thinking, learning and coping has been very evident for Year 13s taking Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) and also Independent Research projects in languages – for which special mention should go to Louis Moss for his project on Debussy, Sam Lovegrove for his on Angela Merkel's Political Legacy, and Annie Aspinall for delivering two, one each for French and Spanish. EPQ titles have spanned a wide range of topics, from popular protests to feminism in Shakespeare, and from animal testing to the use of propaganda in war.

Academic societies are as popular as ever. As well as a thriving, student-led Debating Society, we have The Aquinas Society, which debates theological and philosophical issues, The Newman Group, particularly for those wishing to read Theology or Philosophy

at Oxbridge or Durham, the Poetry Society, and the Arcadia Classics Society, where a recent highlight was James Bridel researching and baking a Roman sweetbread called Libum. For Sixth Form Business Students, Young Enterprise has been a huge success - the team have set up an upcycling clothing business and are preparing for the regional finals next month. Another hit this year has been the new Learning Hub, which supports any students who need some additional help with their learning whether on an ad-hoc or regular basis. We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Brett for their vision and financial support.

Looking beyond the Valley, we have hosted a number of inspiring days for prep schools; including a maths day with an architecture workshop, several DT days involving rocket building and robotics, and the DaVinci Academic Decathlon, a challenging, cross-discipline competition, where our students took on teams from several other schools. Well done to our winning Junior team. Local schools also joined us - and over 55 delegates from Universities - for our Higher Education Conference.

BTECs also continue to be very successful. In content, they are every bit as challenging as A levels, but with a more practical focus and continuous assessment. This summer 21 BTEC qualifications will be awarded in Countryside Management, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, and Hospitality.

99% of the top year have university offers for next year, with over 60% to Russell Group universities. 18 of us gained Oxbridge interviews and I am greatly looking forward to reading PPE at Keble College, Oxford after a gap year. Special mention too to Finn Pennings who has a place at the highly competitive Harvey Mudd College in California.

Although taking exams is naturally stressful, Mani and I, along with most Year 13 and 11 students, are grateful that things have returned to normal and we are given the chance to show the knowledge we have gained in the most fair way possible.

By Phoebe Heintz (A22)

CULTURAL ENDEAVOURS

The Drama department has thrived this year with fantastic productions and examination pieces. The practical work of all Drama students has been outstanding, with some gaining incredibly high levels of performance and technical ability.

Those of us in Year 13 were fortunate to work with a prolific professional Theatre Director and we used these workshops to prepare ourselves fully for our examination pieces.

Whilst we were busy preparing, so too were the cast and crew of our musical, Footloose. They worked exceptionally hard to create this energetic

production for three nights in January plus a performance for local primary schools. While the audiences loved it, the highlight for us was to be back in the Theatre, enjoying this moment together at last and sharing in the feel-good factor of the 1980s.

The cast and crew for our Junior Play, Michael Morpurgo's epic *Private Peaceful*, have worked equally hard in the run up to their four performances this week. Those of you watching the final one this afternoon will be moved by this heart-rending story. Well done to all involved.

Our LAMDA students achieved an excellent seven distinctions and four merits between them in this term's exam and special congratulations must go to Ned Sladden who secured a role in *Oliver* at Harrogate Theatre, and Nico Shaw who beat hundreds of others to be given a leading role in the National Youth Music Theatre's production of "Chess".

We shared the joy of all of our achievements at a wonderful celebratory Theatre Dinner a couple of weeks ago. Drama has been such a huge aspect of my Ampleforth career and it has been such an enjoyable, rewarding and valuable experience.

This month, all of the Year 7 and 8 students participated in our annual "Two plays in Two Days". The students presented highly creative and imaginative pieces based on Norse Mythology, including *Odin*, the

God of the Vikings, and Norse hero, Prince Sigurd.

By Molly Upton (A22)

Music has played an integral role in my life here for the last five years, and although this year we've had to recover from so much lost rehearsal time and live music-making, there are so many achievements to be proud of.

There have been some fantastic performances from the school choir, the Schola cantorum, which Zara will tell you more about later. Their weekly contributions enhance the life of the school, and

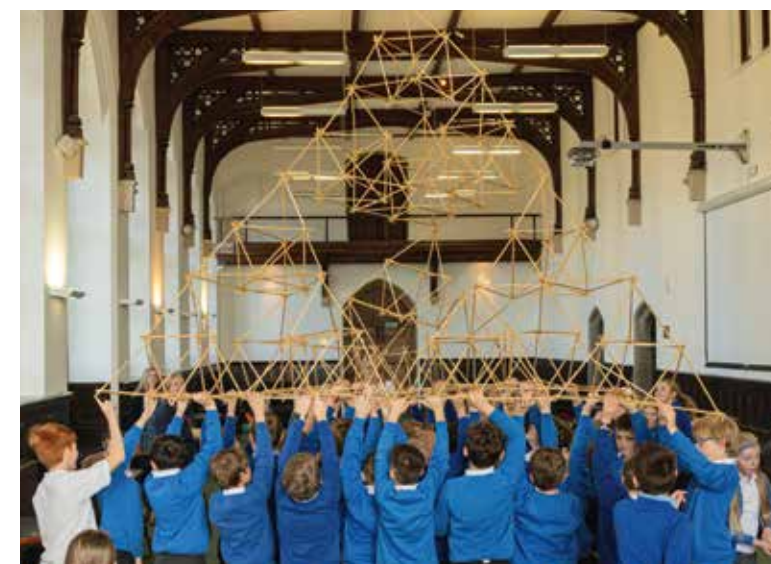
hugely enrich the opportunities for musicians, myself included through having the privilege of accompanying them on the organ. That's something I'm going to miss, making music on an instrument the size of a building with one of the best school choirs in the country.

The new initiative of Lunchtime Recitals by House is a popular addition to our successful recital programme. It's great seeing the strength of House communities and striking to hear people immersed in performance who may not have any musical involvement typically.

Other concerts include the Parents' Day recitals from each year group, as well as the St Cecilia Concert. As a musician it's so important to have these goals to work towards.

The school give us time and space to create many student-led projects for which we are very grateful. After all the attempts stifled by Covid disruptions it was third time lucky with SHAC Rock, our school rock concert. We've also had a great time performing live music on Saturday nights at The Windmill.

By Louis Moss (J22)



SPORT IN THE VALLEY AND BEYOND

Sport is a fundamental part of every student's development throughout their time here in the Valley. It plays a key role in advancing and reinforcing positive values such as honesty, teamwork, work ethic, problem solving, and community, both as part of a team and as an individual competitor.

We enjoy a wide variety of sports here and are very fortunate to have such quality facilities. I have been fortunate enough to represent Ampleforth at 1st team level hockey and netball during my time here and the friendships and connections built within the sporting community in the Valley is something which will stay with me for life.

We're all delighted that the school is able to start touring again now, beginning with the 1st 15 rugby tour to Lisbon in the October half term, a junior boys and girls tour to Sri Lanka next Easter to play netball, rugby and cricket and a girls 1st team hockey tour to the Netherlands in February 2023.

By Loyce James (B22)

Sport is not about winning at all costs - participation and enjoyment are key to learning positive life lessons on the sports field, whatever level you are playing at. At Ampleforth, all of our students are actively participating in sport and with our wonderful setting and facilities, they can get involved in everything from hockey to dance to shooting and a lot more in between.

I have personally experienced the inclusivity of our sports programme. When I arrived in Year 9, I had never played rugby nor even heard of the sport! Yet, thanks to the constant support of my coaches here over the years, I've developed a great love for it. I played in a 1st XV game last season and received a rugby cap.

Not only can we represent the College, but there is also the honour of representing one's House in a full programme with competitions ranging from touch rugby to swimming, squash, tennis, and my personal favourite, house cross country.

There have been many highlights over this sporting year so far and special mention goes to:

- Cricket - where the 1st 11 boys are on course to beat the win record for a season and have progressed to the North East of England stage of the National Schools T20 competition. The U15A Girls XI have also had a fantastic season, winning the North Yorkshire Indoor County Competition and reaching the final stages of the National Indoor Regional Finals.
- Rugby - where the 1st XV reached the fourth round of the National Vase Competition
- Netball - with a resurgence this season as over 100 girls engaged with fixtures against other schools
- Hockey – where the U14a Girls Hockey team were victorious in the Yorkshire

Hockey Championship and remained undefeated in their block fixtures list. Special mention to Emma Boxshall, top scorer amongst the boys' and girls' hockey with 17 goals.

- Tennis – with over 100 students having one to one tuition with one of our three tennis pros, tennis is thriving as our fixtures results testify.

Supporting and encouraging elite performance and development is a measure of the success of any sports programme, and I am pleased to say that we have over 15 students who are involved in performance pathways in rugby, cricket, hockey, athletics and karate. A special mention goes to Stephen Armstrong who has represented Scotland in karate.

We are so pleased to see sport within the Valley flourishing and are grateful to have been part of its onward development over the last five years.

By Cyrus Lee (DO22)

CCF

It is an honour to stand before you on this occasion and speak for the Combined Cadet Force, known as CCF, which has given so much to me over the past five years.

We have had another successful year. We had a clean sweep in the National Clay Championships in June, with members of the Ampleforth Team being selected to shoot for the combined service team and even go on to be selected



to join the elite GB Pathway Schedule, and in April, Mr Reece won the CCF Adult National Competition.

There have been many successful exercises, ranging from survival training and self-reliance for the Army Year 10s, to 24hr and 48hr fieldcraft exercises in which we practised numerous advanced skills in testing conditions. We were fortunate enough to be hosted by the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion at Catterick for our annual Army field day and RAF Leeming for the RAF field day. We also ran a fantastic adventure training camp in the Lake District, plus 15 CCF cadets tested their courage and resolve by taking part in a series of tandem skydives from 15,000 feet.

Over the next 12 months the CCF will be running the annual

summer and shooting camps as well as providing opportunities for cadets to attend adventure training courses in the UK and undertake expeditions to Nepal in October, and Borneo next summer.

Whilst the CCF is still the largest activity in the school, shooting comes a close second, and our shooting team has excelled in the National Staniforth and Country Life Small Bore competitions.

By Alasdair McKell (J22)

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

As well as evening activities running throughout the week, every Friday afternoon is given over to activities for all students at Ampleforth which shows how much the cocurricular programme

is valued here. This allows every student to pursue their interests and devote enough time to make significant progress. Doing something radically different from in the classroom also provides a valuable break and is an important way to maintain our mental health and a well-balanced life.

I have devoted Friday afternoons to the CCF which has provided me with amazing opportunities over my time here. Others may decide to rotate their activities termly or half-termly and can choose from a list of 110 activities over the course of the school year - some seasonal, others all year-round. This term, 73 activities are running including archery, cooking, fly-fishing, coding and programming, kayaking, Ampleforth TV – which films, edits and produces videos -

HOUSE ROUNDUPS 2021-22

jewellery-making, fundraising for our school charity FACE-FAW, land-rover restoration, equestrian club, Ampleforth News - which produces our student newspaper - all manner of sports – we added volleyball and badminton this term - shooting, sewing, a wide range of musical groups, chess, hiking, Green room – which constructs and operates theatre sets for productions - gamekeeping, survival skills – you get the picture.

Regular trips to places like York, Whitby, and the Seal colony at Ravenscar have all been running again and not surprisingly, these are very popular.

We also have a diverse range of student-led societies, from the new Warhammer Club, a miniature medieval wargame which players has to be built and painted before playing, to Eco Society which works to improve the school and local community's environment.

By Simon Mounde (T22)

I auditioned for Schola when I joined in Year 9 and have been involved ever since. Schola is a big commitment, but it is a cocurricular activity that not only encourages you to push yourself but also to see the value in community service. The Schola celebrate mass every Friday and every Sunday with the whole of the school. Mr Seymour, who runs Schola admirably well, has introduced a wide repertoire, from Handel's Messiah and Mozart's Requiem to more contemporary composers like Macmillan and Dove.

The inspiration I got from Schola encouraged me to join Ampleforth Singers, a select group who perform at Exhibition, at our annual Christmas recital at Corpus Christi in Convent Garden, and various other concerts. My love for music also encouraged me to participate in the school musicals, a core memory for me during my Ampleforth career.

The school offers such a wide range of cocurricular activities for the students, and I am glad I made use of these. It has shown me how vital it is to have a balanced lifestyle and not mindlessly sail through days. These activities allow young people to search not only for their talents but also their passions, which can carry on into life after school. I know that I will carry on singing.

By Zara Mayer (M22)

SPECIAL PRIZES

It is my privilege to be introducing two extremely special awards that demonstrate what Ampleforth is truly about. And at the heart of this is our Chaplaincy, which has flourished this year under the leadership of Miss Foster with the help of the House Chaplains. Deaneries, Lectio and House mass have been excellent opportunities for us to enhance our commitment to the House and school community, and ensure that our formation as people, as well as our service to others, is at the forefront of our minds as a Benedictine community.

This is evident throughout the year groups:

- Year 9 have been busy preparing resources and leading the children's liturgy each week in the village parish.
- Year 10 have been learning about campaigning and fundraising to help others as part of CAFOD's young leaders programme
- Year 11 have taken up leadership roles in Lectio Divina, the practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer
- Year 12 have been raising awareness and reaching out in service to make sure we do our part as a school. They have visited St George's crypt, a homeless centre, and carried out a review of waste in school.
- Year 13 have been leading school assemblies and having weekly meetings over breakfast to discuss life's big questions.

I was asked to introduce the McAndrew and Elwes prizes as I was last year's winner of the Douai Award, an annual prize among the English Benedictine schools for the Year 11, 12 or 13 pupil who best demonstrates the eleven Benedictine values.

The McAndrew and Elwes prize are further examples of our students going above and beyond, proving themselves consistently as role models in all areas of school life. Many congratulations to all the recipients.

By Serena Hopkins (B22)

see in the achievements of the girls this year, from winning the House Tug-of-War and Bake Off, to Oxbridge success and the many academic and co-curricular achievements we have celebrated. There have been physical upgrades to the House kitchen and common room, which have aided regaining the best of communal living after the restrictions of 'lock-down' and 'bubbles'. We are excited to start the new school year, picking up where we left off and striving for ever better things academically, spiritually and socially. It's the girls who make a House and we're grateful for the contributions of every one of the St Aidan's family as we accompany them on their journey here.

By Ceri Dent, Housemistress

ST BEDE'S HOUSE

The highlights for St Bede's House this year were balanced between our successes as a House at Sports Day, House Punch, and walking to Gilling for World Peace. St Bede's girls also starred in Private Peaceful, Footloose and many other musical and dance extravaganzas. Most importantly we were blessed with sharing individual milestones such as Tate's baptism, Anamika's First Holy Communion, and the Confirmation of several of our girls.

By Charmaine Smith, incoming Housemistress

ST CUTHBERT'S

I write this review of the 2021/22 academic year towards the end of the summer holidays. Thoughts have, inevitably, turned towards the sound of suitcases





rattling their way up from Theatre Square, but what a year we have had in St Cuthbert's. Our Year 13 and Year 11 students did themselves proud with some outstanding results, particularly Quinlan (2 A*s and 1 A) and Maxime (six Grade 9s).

In House sport, we have been led superbly by some enthusiastic students and the passion of Mr Metcalfe, our Assistant Housemaster. We celebrated victories in Junior House tennis, House squash, House badminton, and there were some impressive event wins in House Athletics. Nicko and Freddie R finished first and second in the Intermediate House Mile event. Our Sixth Form were mainstays of the school's Squash and Tennis teams, whilst six boys

represented the 1st XI cricket team in their historic season, including Rollo – a Year 9 student who we were proud to see represent Yorkshire Under 14s in the Valley a few weeks ago. It is in hockey, however, that we have seen the most impressive growth of participation and credit is due to our Assistant Housemaster Mr Metcalfe for driving this and encouraging so many of our boys to strive to represent the school.

We have celebrated the artistic achievements of our boys this year; the performances of James S and Benedict A-B were superb in Private Peaceful, whilst Nicholas in Year 13 produced a moving performance for his A level assessment. Our younger years,

particularly, are regulars in the Music School.

The spiritual life of St Cuthbert's enriches our whole community. Fr Richard's faithful service has inspired James T in Year 9 to contribute to Children's Liturgy at St Benedict's, Ampleforth, as well as produce a short documentary on the service of the Community in our school.

This snapshot of our year reflects a little of our ethos: there is only one thing asked of Cuthbertians, and that is kindness. The value of being at a school such as Ampleforth lies in the encounters the boys have on a daily basis with their teachers, coaches, friends and peers. We ask them to be open minded,



and to lead through being decent young men. Five of our Year 12 boys have been invited by the Headmaster to be School Monitors; just reward for their role in helping to shape a House of which we can all be proud.

**By James Rainer,
Housemaster**

**ST DUNSTAN'S
& ST OSWALD'S**

2021- 2022 was the year of the return to some sort of normality in Bolton House. Led by Sam, the House has enjoyed a year where all the boys have thrived. We have been a very tight community where all the boys are valued and everyone's talent and abilities are celebrated.

The boys have thrived in the classroom and much, much more. We had six boys in the Schola and many in the House playing musical instruments. The reward for their hard work in practice was seen in their House music performance in the Main Hall where a high percentage of the House showcased their talent.

On the games field the House has been highly active. We have won most of the House competitions and also had very high participation in school teams as the boys represented the school with distinction.

The spiritual side of the House is equally important to the boys and whether it be at Mass, Lectio or Deaneries the boys

take full and meaningful part in this aspect of their life at school.

The House will have many changes as it moves into 2023 but the boys are ready to welcome Mr Steinebach and continue their successes in September.

**By Geoff Thurman,
Housemaster**

**ST EDWARD'S
& ST WILFRID'S**

St Edward's and St Wilfrid's House has been a dynamic hive of activity which included competitive challenges such as the Da Vinci Day, chess tournaments, Maths Challenge, kayaking on the lakes and lively Deanery debates in House.





Our students have represented the North East Region in hockey and trained with Yorkshire Cricket. Many have represented the senior teams in golf, rugby and cricket. We had excursions to Flamingo Land, Alpacere Water Park near Scarborough, the National Centre for Birds of Prey, Headingley Cricket Club, Chester Zoo and Cathedral, York Minster and Fountains Abbey. Our students have painted on the walls, baked in the kitchen, studied in the prep room and played outside at every opportunity. It has been a whirlwind year which was thoroughly enjoyable to be a part of and the children are very excited for what next year will bring.

**By Charmaine Smith,
Housemistress**

ST HUGH'S

St Hugh's House farewells a tight-knit Year 13 and wishes them all well in their future endeavours. They have led the House well this year with Head of House, Cosmo MacLellan, and Deputy Head of House, Rufus James, setting a high standard of conduct

for St Hugh's boys to follow. There were several highlights throughout the year. A popular student-led initiative, Speakeasy was launched; an evening group that discusses and debates current affairs and topical issues. Our swimmers won the intermediate inter-House competition, while our boys also claimed the title in Squash. The House had excellent participation across the school: debates, music, theatre, sport, art, the CCF and other activities. Our boys were charitable, raising money for Ukraine through Lent projects, taking part in the Big Walk, raising awareness of mental health challenges and joining the pilgrimage to Lourdes. Our Year 10s have committed to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, our Year 11s have finalised their GCSEs after much hard work, and our seniors toiled for their A level exams and BTEC courses. Next year our seniors will boast four school monitors, credit to what is another strong level of seniors coming through: Charlie Mitchell will serve as Head Boy, Freddie Anders as Head of St Hugh's House, James Bridel as Deputy Head of House and Felix

Depkat as a St Edward's & St Wilfrid's House Monitor. We look forward to welcoming another group of fine new Amplefordians next year from around the world and wish to thank Assistant Housemaster, Hugh Ainscough, Matron, Dawn Butler, our first-rate Housekeeping team, Maureen, Terry and Angela, and our committed tutors Mike Slingsby, Jacob Shepherd, Sam Rea-Knowles, Hannah Pomroy and Ralph Pallister.

**By Dan MacDonald,
Housemaster**

ST JOHN'S

It was a tremendous year for St John's. As well as 13 new starters amongst the boys, we welcomed several new tutors to the staff team – Mr Rough, Mr Dodds, and Mr Emsley – who made a positive contribution in support of the boys. Fr Cedd also joined as the new House Chaplain, and quickly became an integral part of the St John's family.

A focus of the year was a push on academic standards, and the boys rose to the challenge of improving their

net Ampleforth Point scores. We introduced new support mechanisms in the House, including the 'prep club' in one of the nearby classrooms and tutors developed a coaching approach in their weekly one-to-one meetings with the boys. Some individual academic successes of the year are worth recording. Rufus was placed in the top 6% of mathematicians in the UK Maths Challenge; Trevor and Hugh took part in the prestigious RSC National Chemistry competition, whilst Daniel won a silver award in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad. Finn also secured a place at the competitive Harvey Mudd College.

There was a good mix of social events, often joining with other Houses. Highlights were a trip to the cinema to watch James Bond; a Year 11 evening in the range shooting with Lt Col Blackford; and the Sunday deli nights that ran through the year. It was a joy to be able to celebrate House Punch and Christmas Dinner properly this year, free of Covid restraints. The House performed well in inter-House competitions including being fastest on the lake in the Raft

Race and convincing second place in the Tug-of-War and House Athletics.

Seven St John's boys received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, and two received Holy Communion for the first time. We had regular Lectio sessions, led by George and Seamus in Year 11. A final draft of a new House prayer book – bringing together the best parts of our existing prayers – is nearly ready for publication.

Exhibition was, of course, an opportunity to celebrate the success and life of the House. We had a splendid gathering of families on Friday evening. St John's was awarded more individual prizes than any other boys House, which was testament to the breadth and depth of involvement across the school. Achievements in extra-curricular activities included Daniel, who retained his trophy in the Ampleforth Mile competition and took part in National Athletics meetings and Joshua won a place on the Yorkshire Developing Player Programme for rugby. St John's was well-represented in the CCF, with

Alasdair as the Senior Under Officer. Hugh and Clovis completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, whilst Johnny undertook a grueling 72km walk through the night as a member of the Big Walk charity event. Archie and Alfie had leading roles in the Exhibition Play, Private Peaceful, and Louis-Emmanuel was accepted onto the Erasmus scheme.

There was a joyous reunion for 2020 leavers, who returned to St John's for their long-postponed Leavers' Ball. The event was a reminder that the friendships made in the House are life-long; as is the inspiration to be drawn from our values and prayer life.

**By Chris Starkey,
Housemaster**

ST MARGARET'S

A joyful year for the St Margaret's girls ending in academic success during the summer holiday. We were sad to see the departure of such an outstanding Year 13. In many ways they gave so much to the House; not only in their academic and sporting



achievements, but as role models to the other girls with their exceptionally high standards in their encounters with each other.

St Margaret's girls won House competitions galore - hockey, netball, swimming, tennis and House cross country to name but a few. Although important and morale boosting the most important parts of life last year were those where we were able to encounter each other and God. House retreat was one of those moments. Thanks to the staff and the girls we had a truly lovely time and were able to put ourselves in the shoes of those less fortunate. With that in mind, the girls were generous in their donations to the Ukrainian Appeal, and we could see the House community unite in solidarity for those caught up in the conflict.

The House itself has undergone a few facelifts with the kitchen, snug and the outdoor seating areas having a revamp. The girls in St Margaret's treat their surroundings with such respect, so it's a pleasure to make these changes for them.

Life in the House continues to embody the ethos of the

College and our Benedictine values. The transforming encounter that we have with Christ is in part due to the way we live with each other. Where we see and meet Christ in each other. As St Paul said 'we are all the body of Christ' and we can really see that in our girls. Maybe not all the time, but most of it!

**By Rebecca Paterson,
Housemistress**

ST THOMAS'

The last year was one of fun, enjoyment and, in typical St Thomas's manner, support and friendship. The House benefitted from a consistent tutor team with the addition of Mr Phillips as Assistant. This gave the House a familiar feel, further support and a family atmosphere. The House continued to be a place for those with a love of country sports, who made the most of the outstanding surroundings we enjoy but as always, the welcoming and nurturing environment allowed all boys to be themselves and excel in their own ways.

The House benefitted from a good number of social

events and House Punch was a roaring success, with staff and guests alike thanking the boys for hosting such a wonderful evening. The speeches, in particular, were warmly received and demonstrated the boys' ability to convey humour, humility and gratitude in a mature and engaging manner. St Thomas' is proud of the way in which it opens its doors and hosts other Houses and one such event was the Race Night with the girls of St Margaret's which further showed the welcoming nature of the boys. Wine tasting evenings for the Sixth Form, led by Dr Moses, allowed for a different pace of social and the pupils showed great palates. St Patrick's Day gave Mr Lynch-Frahill the opportunity to host a wonderful event which involved Gaelic football and singing Ag Croist an Siol as part of the St Patrick's Day service. Year 13 enjoyed a simulated clay day courtesy of the White family, perfectly timed to help them relax during examinations. Food is a mainstay of events in House with a banquet on Chinese New Year produced by the boys, through to 'Neeps and Tatties' on Burns Night, we will always accept any excuse for a feast!

Exhibition was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the House as well as the wider school. On the Friday evening, we were joined by lots of parents for a lovely curry before congregating on the bounds for a wonderful picnic lunch on the Saturday with tasty cakes and treats. It is always lovely to welcome the whole House community together to such a celebratory and positive event. St Thomas' was well represented in the prize giving and it is testament to the breadth of skills and commitment to developing them that we see from the pupils in House.

Notable achievements in the co-curricular life of school include Jonty's role in the school play, Private Peaceful. Anyone who saw the show was blown away

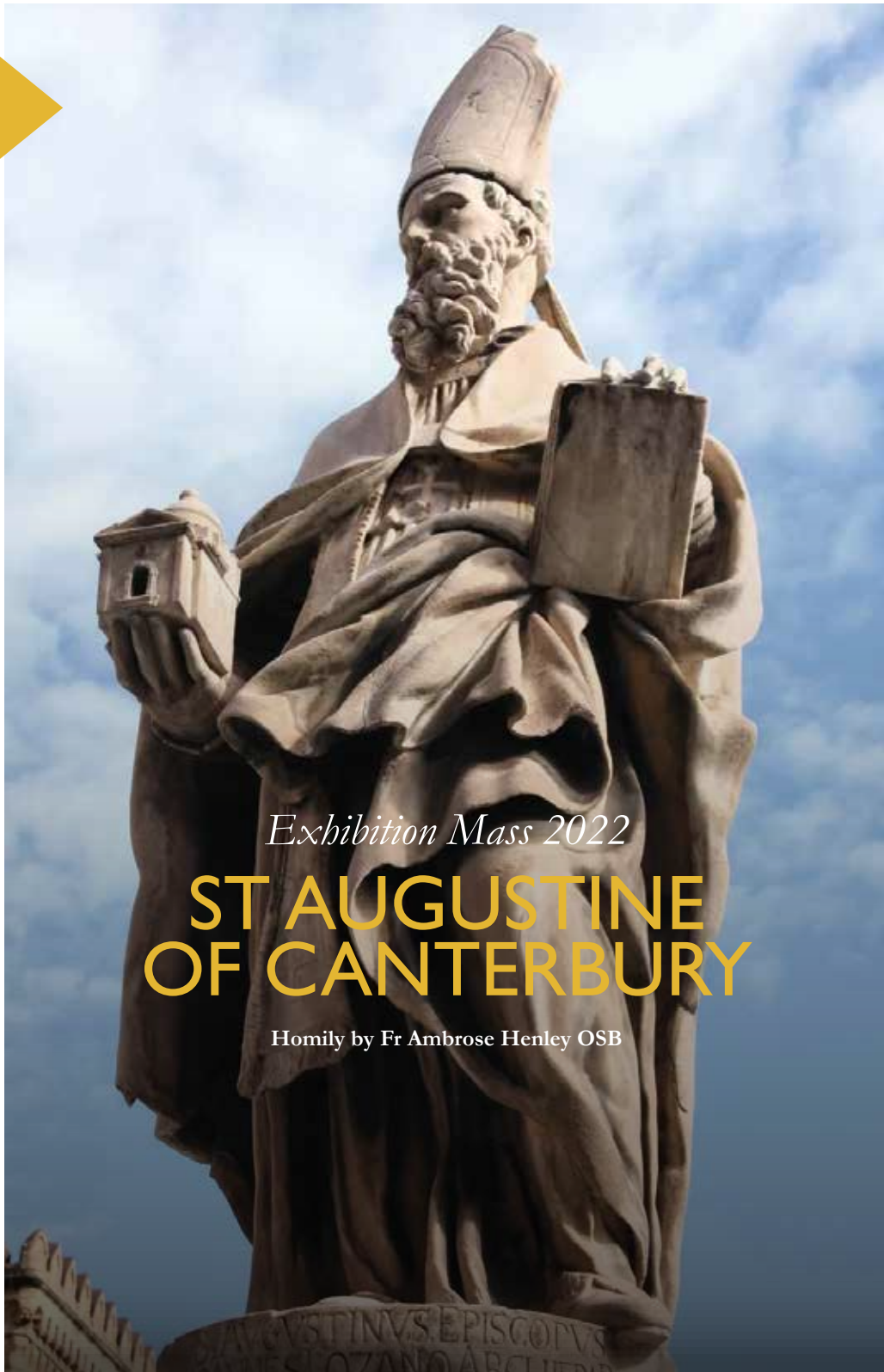
with the professional manner in which it was produced, and the maturity of the students involved. Freddie represented Great Britain at the Table Soccer World Cup and is currently ranked 17! George continued to excel at show jumping and picked up many awards throughout the year for doing so. Hamish and Gauthier showed leadership in CCF. George, George and Jonty starred in the school production of Footloose. Many pupils represented the school at rugby, football and cricket with the juniors performing impressively in House competitions.

May saw the 75th Anniversary of St Thomas' House and there was a celebration dinner held in London, which was very well attended by Old Amplefordians both new

and old. It demonstrates the ongoing sense of community that is established when pupils are here.

As in previous years, St Thomas' pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion for the first time. Faith continues to be at the foundation of all that we do in House and the school community. House retreat was an opportunity for reflection and culminated in pupils writing letters of gratitude to people who have supported them. We remain grateful for the support, guidance and inspiration that we can draw from our values and prayer life which is supported by the whole community.

**By Simon Rudsdale,
incoming Housemaster**



Exhibition Mass 2022

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

Homily by Fr Ambrose Henley OSB

When St Augustine, whom we celebrate today, landed in Kent those 1400 years ago, and first brought the Christian message to the English, he did so with the Rule of St Benedict, as it were, tucked under his arm: a blueprint for community living, constituted in God's love. He had Jesus' great commission ringing in his ears: *it is by your love for each other, they will know you are my disciples.*

So that means, and I speak particularly to all you leavers: your Benedictine credentials are a kind of birth certificate of the English peoples, of which you can be proud. And there comes with it, an inheritance: which is, a joy; a joy that is not a feeling of selfish well-being, but a certainty that springs from faith, that soothes the heart and provides the ability to proclaim the good news of God's love.

It means, that from now on, your greatness will lie in the costliness of your love, that will mark you out from the merely powerful or successful in life.

It means, the greatest masterpiece of your life must be other people: the lives you've touched for the better.

But you are far from the finished product. Indeed none of us are. And one special vow Benedictines make which marks them out from all the others, is the vow of conversion of life. Which means never losing touch with

the truth we're only fully alive when growing and maturing – and in particular, open to being changed and seasoned by the needs of the people around us. Family, friends, and closest to Christ's heart, the poor.

So a conversion of heart is needed therefore, in the way we love: no longer living-for-me, but dying-for-them. And make no mistake that in the short time you've been here, global disease and war in Europe have left their mark. They've revealed that, in spite of our sophistication, we remain vulnerable to the same old illusion: that love first means me, and only then, and only if there's any left over, does it mean you.

Maybe we're afraid of the letting go. Perhaps we're afraid of the world seeing through the brave face we put on. Or perhaps we're afraid because we wanted to believe adulthood is about the world dancing to our tune now. But the saints are people who are not afraid to be touched by the mercy of God, in a heart broken open; who know that a deeper happiness comes to those who are prepared to learn what it takes to be happy first of all for others, even those we find it hard to like, perhaps even those who've hurt us. After all, what a sad and empty occasion this would be if it suddenly became clear we were all here, not because we are grateful and happy for each other, but united only by being pleased for ourselves.

So where do we find such a profound love that it changes everything?

A lot of people think Christians are people who sit around in despair at a world passed away – but Christians are instead those spurred on by an inspiring glimpse of humanity's capacity to be a living image of God. So when Jesus preaches, when he eats with sinners, when he is moved, when he reaches out to touch and heal, when he sets free, when he kneels to serve, when he weeps, when he laughs, when he walks, talks, challenges, loves, forgives, suffers, dies. He reveals to us who God is.

Christians know that the true beauty of life cannot be experienced without having real faces to love, that it's true nobility is found in a life freely given away.

That's you. You have been the bearers of this message entrusted to you these years here at Ampleforth, for each other. Now for the world. Do so with grace, reverence, humility, generosity of spirit and self-sacrifice, and they will know you are Amplefordians in the best tradition. And God will say, *my eyes will be upon you and my ears will listen for your prayers, and even before you ask me, I will say to you: here I am.* (Isaiah 65:24).

And here we will be, praying, as we do, every single day for you.





FAREWELL GEOFF

By Jon Mutton, Deputy Head Pastoral

Geoff Thurman leaves us as the longest serving member of the lay staff, having arrived in the Valley in September 1986 after starting his teaching career in Wednesfield High School. Thus, he has educated boys and girls at Ampleforth for a remarkable 108 terms!

On joining the Games department, Geoff worked under Games Master John Willcox before taking over as Head of Department in 1988. A keen sportsman himself, he has always been dedicated to his vision of Games and its place in the wider life of Ampleforth College, taking great satisfaction from students representing the College in all sports. Nevertheless, he will be best remembered for his love of rugby, where he supported numerous students who subsequently went on to play for representative and even international teams, and cricket where he ran the 1st XI side for numerous years, working with cricketers who showed outstanding commitment and enthusiasm. Geoff's ability to attract large crowds of students, staff and parents down to the Pavilion is extraordinary.

As Games Master when the school introduced girls for the first time in 1998, Geoff helped the transition to co-education and worked closely with an array of colleagues to ensure equal provision for girls in sport. Under his aegis the Games Room was always a popular hub of staff life, not least because Geoff encouraged so many colleagues to participate in extra-curricular sport. Many OAs will remember him as a part of their Ampleforth experience whether in the Valley or on the various tours he ran and supported, including to Australia, India and Sri Lanka, as well as to Ireland and a regular London tour.

In the History Department Geoff is something of a legend. Regarded by all with affection, not unlike the way in which the nation regarded the Queen, and having taught History here almost as long as she was on the throne, in the department, he has been the model of reliability and consistency, teaching generations of Amplefordians with his characteristic enthusiasm and commitment. What he teaches matters to him, be it the First World War, the Russian Revolution or what happened

in Germany between the wars, and he wants his students to understand the importance of these events too: one can sense this palpably when in his lessons and the students he has taught, decade after decade, will have sensed this too. Equally, he wants everyone he teaches to do well and to this end he helps them develop the knowledge and skills they need for success. Geoff has taught students of all abilities and even though all have done well with his guidance, it is perhaps those less confident in their own abilities who have thrived most in his care. Geoff is a great explainer, a patient teacher with the wonderful ability to make complicated things clear and comprehensible to all. Many students have gained huge self-confidence from his teaching, as well as a love of the subject, and I am sure they will always be grateful to him for this. Geoff will be sorely missed in the History Department; he will leave a hole that will be difficult to fill.

Between 2013 until 2018 Geoff served as Co-ordinator of Outreach, travelling up and down the UK visiting prep schools where he inspired students to look at Ampleforth

and choose the College as their next destination. He increased the mileage on his car significantly in this time, but also his air miles, managing to persuade senior leaders of the need for annual trips to Kenya. In this outreach role he was very useful to then Director of Admissions, Rachel Fletcher, as a key ambassador for Ampleforth to the prep school world. It was a role which was ideally suited to Geoff's personal warmth, loyalty to the school and open friendliness.

Over the years Geoff has served as a tutor in St Thomas', St Bede's, St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's and through his length of service knows the House system intimately. In a moment of inspiration in September 2018, nearing the end of his career, Geoff volunteered his services to run St Dunstan's House, transferring his excellent relationships and rapport with children into the task of Housemastering.

The cliché that it is not possible to teach a dog new tricks certainly does not apply to Geoff! He was only supposed to be in post for two terms as

interim Housemaster, but has never looked back and is now completing his twelfth term in the role. New Housemasters rarely find inheriting a boarding House easy and when he took on the reins of St Dunstan's in 2018 Geoff had in Ben Pennington quite a tough act to follow; despite this, he managed the change seamlessly in his first year. Subsequently he has developed into something of an expert in managing transition, becoming joint Housemaster of St Dunstan's and St Oswald's in September 2019, before leading the move of both Houses from Nevill to Bolton House in September 2020. This merging of two rival next door Houses was not the easiest of sells to both sets of boys who rightly took pride in their House identities. Yet despite the potential difficulties, Geoff has managed to create harmony between the boys in the new House and a real House identity, with the boys creating a new Saint in their nickname for the House – St Doswald's. He has worked tirelessly for the pastoral needs of his charges; they know that he will always support them in their endeavours and be ready with a good one liner when they

need cheering up. In his four years as Housemaster Geoff has been a key member of the Housemaster and Housemistress body, always available for advice for new members of the team and ready with a joke and a laugh when a sense of perspective is needed after a busy week. He will retire from the teaching profession this summer, allowing him to enjoy some well-earned time with his children Ben, Holly (with grandson Joah and an expected second grandchild) and Dan – all OAs themselves.

Geoff understands fully the need in boarding schools for balance. He epitomises the ethos and values of Ampleforth College. He is renowned for his hospitality, be that towards visitors or in helping new members of staff to settle in at the College. He has positively impacted generations of Amplefordians and will be dearly missed by colleagues, parents and students. He has become something of an Ampleforth institution and we wish him a happy retirement. It is fitting, finally, to thank his wife Carol for all of her sacrifices while Geoff has given his time and commitment to Ampleforth.





LEAVERS' BALLS

By Hannah Pomroy, Deputy Head

Leaver's Balls have long been part of the Ampleforth College calendar, but those in 2020 and 2021 were yet another casualty of the pandemic. It was therefore particularly wonderful to both be able to hold a ball for this year's leavers at Exhibition in May, and to have a weekend of events welcoming back the 2020 leavers in early April.

meeting House parents old and new, we all congregated in the refectory for a fantastic meal and dancing hosted by Mr and Mrs Dyer. Having parents there too made it all the more special.

In May we made use of the Exhibition marquee and again welcomed Year 13 students and their parents to a Leavers' Ball on site. The excellent band who entertained us so well in April repeated the trick, and the Great Gatsby themed meal and decorations was a great success. Having had a break from being able to extend a broad welcome to site due to Covid made the Ball all the more special; for some families this represented the first time at a major function at Ampleforth, for others the conclusion of a very long and happy association with the school as parents.

In April 2023, we are looking forward to seeing the 2021 leavers when they join us here in the Valley for their celebrations.

The weekend in April began with a cheese and wine reception on Friday evening in the Main Hall. Seeing everyone greeting friends they had not seen for so long, and catching up on tales of gap years, university, work and life in general was absolutely fantastic. Memories of that day back in March 2020 when we had to suddenly depart from the College came flooding back bringing to mind once again the surreal difficulties of the last few years - friendships suddenly cut off rekindled with joy and delight over a glass of red wine and a piece of brie! Having had a chance to further catch up on Saturday afternoon in Houses



The History of Girls at Ampleforth

By Hugh Codrington (Member of staff 1987-2015)

To begin with a possibly apocryphal story. In the mid-1980s parents gathered at Exhibition and, as they took their places awaiting the arrival of the Headmaster's party, they read the magazine published by sixth formers. The leading article commented on the forthcoming announcement that Ampleforth was about to become a fully co-educational school. Conversations of astonishment went through the audience. Fr Dominic Milroy, the Headmaster, arrived, stood and invited the sixth formers who had executed the hoax to come forward and congratulated them on a first-class joke.

Only about ten years later, in 1996, girls were first officially admitted to Ampleforth.

Now they make up almost half the school roll. Ampleforth is unquestionably a co-educational school and a very different establishment from the all boys' school it had been since its foundation in the first years of the nineteenth century and since the enterprising sixth formers had committed their jape. It may be of some interest to reflect on why and how the College went through the process of change. At the time, I was the Director of Admissions and so I had some insight into the transition but it transpired I had a vested interest as well with two daughters of school age and a number of nieces interested in the prospect of coming to school in the Valley.

I say 'officially admitted' because a number of girls had been educated in the Sixth Form since the early 1970s, almost exclusively the daughters of lay staff. However, they did not officially exist – they appeared on no school lists, were not counted in the school roll and even struggled to find a suitable loo!

It would be churlish to deny that the main reason for considering the entry of girls to the school was economic. Like many similar all boys' boarding schools, Ampleforth's numbers dropped in the early 1990s. With the exception of roughly half a dozen schools, almost exclusively in the south of the country, many of the traditional schools had already admitted girls or were considering the co-education option. The boarding sector as a whole was shrinking but Ampleforth was prone to particular pressures. The importance of a specifically Catholic education for Catholic families was declining, a trend experienced in other Catholic independent schools such as Douai,

Belmont and Buckfast all of which were to close. There was, moreover, a trend for those families who chose the boarding option to pick schools relatively close to home to make access to their children easier. Ampleforth's relatively remote location is a curse as well as a blessing.

Two important meetings took place at this time that considerably helped our strategic thinking. Firstly, a parent, Alfons Brenninkmeyer, generously invited a small group comprising Abbot Timothy, the Headmaster Fr Leo Chamberlain, the Procurator Peter Bryan, Fr Gabriel Everitt and me to a conference in Amsterdam. The purpose was to see if any lessons could be learned from the decline in Dutch Catholic education. Secondly, we invited marketing experts from Cranfield School of Management to offer advice. Together these meetings were very useful and helped us to concentrate on finding solutions to the problem of our declining numbers. Adopting co-education was an obvious choice.



2006



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014

Early discussions concentrated on Sixth Form entry only. Doubtless there were extensive discussions within the monastic community but in the College itself there were practical considerations such as where the girls would be housed and what provision could be made for games and numerous other matters. We consulted other schools which had already admitted girls in the Sixth Form to anticipate any teething problems. Concern was expressed about what effect the decision would make on the girls' Catholic schools such as St Mary's Ascot, Woldingham, St Leonard's Mayfield, New Hall and St Mary's Shaftesbury. Weighed against this was the importance of keeping up our Sixth Form numbers so that we could offer a comprehensive range of A levels.

Thus, a small band of girls entered the Sixth Form in September 1996. They were housed in St Aidan's on the upper floors of the old school and the Main School building. In anticipation, St Aidan's as a boys' house had been phased out with no new entrants and the remainder distributed to other houses. It was always recognised that this accommodation was inadequate in terms of both facilities and volume. So it was that a new St Aidan's House was constructed parallel to the road to Aumit Hill and almost adjacent to the St Alban's Sports Centre. The girls moved into their new home in September 2002.

Meanwhile, discussions were underway about the future of the prep school at Gilling Castle. In 1992 Ampleforth's two prep schools, Junior House and Gilling Castle, had already merged to form Ampleforth College Junior School (ACJS) on the Gilling site. Even so, numbers became increasingly unsustainable: boys only boarding schools with children boarding as young as seven years old were certainly in the rare breed category and threatening to be an extinct species. Something had to be done.

St Martin's in nearby Nawton was a prep school also struggling for numbers. A merger

with ACJS made sense as the schools had much in common, not least in that both were Catholic foundations (indeed St Martin's had been founded as a spin off from Gilling many years earlier and members of the Monastic Community were school chaplains). The merger took place in September 2001. St Martin's Ampleforth was born and funds from the St Martin's Trust were invested in the Gilling site.

The only snag was that St Martin's was already a co-ed school and so now, in effect, Ampleforth was a mixed school at the bottom end (8 to 12) and the top end (17 to 18) but not in the middle years (13 to 16). This problem was foreseen for some time and various models had been discussed but in April 2000 the Conventional Chapter agreed in principle for Ampleforth to become a fully co-educational school.

Perceived wisdom advocated that a proper co-education boarding school should have a ratio of at least 60/40 boys to girls. To achieve this two new girls' houses were created. Fairfax House was built overlooking the games fields to accommodate St Hugh's, who moved out of Aumit House, and the new St Margaret's. In September 2004 St Margaret's House admitted the first cohort of 13-year-old girls. Initially they lived in the vacated Bolton House until Fairfax House was ready at the beginning of the Summer Term 2005. In the meantime, St Bede's was phased out as a boys' house and the vacated Aumit House was redeveloped and re-opened as a girls' house in September 2006. The final building project was the extension of the new St Aidan's House to accommodate the junior years.

What was Ampleforth's appeal to families with girls? To begin with there was the conviction that a mixed school was the right educational experience and there was the practical consideration of having family members in one establishment. A quick, very unscientific survey reveals a range of motives:



2015

"My brothers were there and I wanted to know what all the fuss was about."

"A number of my cousins had attended and all seemed to enjoy their experience."

"I had been at an all girls' school since I was seven. Aside from my brothers I hadn't spent time in a working environment with people of the other sex; I did not want to go to university never having studied with boys."

"Going to boarding school forced me to set my own timetable and my own revision plan. This was excellent preparation for university."

"Access to incredible facilities and teachers; academic and sporting success."

"I think the opportunities that were available - to learn new subjects, to have more time with teachers, and most of all the opportunity to play sport every day!"

"Constantly in the learning environment (rather than going home at the end of the day) created a hard work ethic and prepared me more for "outside" life. There truly was something for everyone, even if you weren't the smartest - it was a true "all-rounded" approach."

"The biggest challenge, coming from a big comprehensive school, was catching up academically. Even though I'd done the same subjects and done well in my GCSEs, my peers seemed to have learned so much more by the time we started AS levels so it took time to catch up."

"A benefit was that there were options for all students of all interests. You didn't have to be really sporty or arty or musical or particularly academic to fit in, you could just do what interested you."

"The biggest benefit was just the sheer opportunity that I don't think I would have been afforded elsewhere - this goes from the amount of sport available, to the smaller classrooms, more teaching time and "connections" that were formed. Also, I think a big one was if you worked hard and got on with things, you were trusted and given responsibility that definitely helped me in later life."

A major concern was how the boys would react to having girls in the school. After all there is nothing more conservative than a schoolboy! From our conversations with other schools we knew this was likely to be an issue particularly until the first cohort of girls had been through

the school and there were no longer boys who had experienced Ampleforth without girls. Indeed, there were problems and plenty of incidents ranging from minor irritations to major disciplinary concerns.

"A lot of what happened with the boys and the way they treated us wasn't good."

"Obviously there was the underlying attitude of some against having girls in the school, but this was not something that I was particularly affected by and was pretty easy to ignore!"

"A key challenge was being thrust into a predominantly male environment that was geared towards boys rather than both boys and girls. However, this was part of its charm and made us first group of girls pretty resilient - we just found ways to make our voices heard."

There is a hint here that many of the girls who came in the early years were mature enough to realise that there could be difficulties with some of the boys' attitudes but they were prepared to ignore them, put up with them or even challenge them. Even in those early days, a visit to a girls' house left one with the impression of a community strong in friendship and support. On the other hand, the majority of boys arrived at the school having been to co-educational prep schools. For them co-education was the norm and they welcomed the presence of girls – even if they didn't want to admit it to their mates! There was a strong view that co-education reduced bullying that characterised many single sex schools: boys disapproved of the bitchiness of girls and girls disapproved of the casual violence that characterises interaction between some teenage boys. Of course, not all girls enjoyed their time at Ampleforth, but then again, nor did all boys.

There were efforts made by the school to aid integration such as creating social spaces and laying on social functions. Extra-curricular activities such as the theatre and music helped enormously. There were occasions of great significance, such as the first time girls read at mass or, more controversially, served mass on the high altar but they soon were accepted as the norm. The decision to have joint Head Monitors was another important development as it showed

2018



2019



2019



2021



2022



that the authorities were determined to give girls an increasing say in the running of the school. Overall, the College was blessed with the arrival of some very impressive young women.

The success of co-education was largely due to the commitment and drive of some key individuals. The most important were the triumvirate of the Abbot, Timothy Wright, the Headmaster, Fr Leo Chamberlain and the Procurator, Peter Bryan. These three not only steered the initial decision but also managed the infrastructure and finance needed for success: the building of St Aidan's and Fairfax House, the renovation of Aumit House. Moreover, it should be remembered that these projects were not the only investments made in facilities at this time: Hume House had been built to accommodate St Cuthbert's and the joint house of St Edward's and St Wilfrid's. St John's was upgraded. This upgrading of boarding facilities was crucial to the development of the school as a whole. In addition, there were huge improvements in teaching facilities from the building of the Bamford Centre to the renovation of many of the classrooms. Finally the Savill all-weather pitch provided an excellent facility for the games department.

Fr Leo's successor as Headmaster, Fr Gabriel Everitt, was an important figure in the consolidation of co-education. Rachel Fletcher strongly supported him in this regard. Her dedication to the project was steadfast and her cup of common sense overflowed. When she became Director of Admissions she did much to persuade parents and the heads of feeder schools of the benefits of co-education at Ampleforth.

In these early years the girls of the school were fortunate enough to have the support of a number of other inspirational female members of staff. On the boarding side Antonia Beary and Brenda Abbott in St Aidan's, Brenda Green and Gaelle McGovern in St Margaret's and Victoria Anglim in St Bede's were crucial pastoral figures. Particular mention should be made of the late Val Harrison, the first matron of St Aidan's. Kate Fraser pioneered as the first head of girls' games with great success. The College appointed an increasing number of well-qualified and motivating academic women teachers.

To anyone who visits the College now it is clear that it is a fully integrated co-educational school. Even those early pioneers who were subject to a degree of resentment by some of the boys have a lasting affection for Ampleforth as the quick, unscientific survey suggests:

"I think Ampleforth was an amazing learning experience, I feel very lucky to have attended and I don't believe I would have done as well if I hadn't gone there. Overall I am grateful for my time there."

"I appreciated the spiritual side as well."

*"I don't think there's anywhere better than a packed Abbey Church on a Sunday from a spiritual perspective."
"I'm really glad I went and experienced boarding school. I only really have good memories and I'd do it all again if I had to."*

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced life at the school."

"I have only fond memories of my time there. I never felt unsafe, made some of my best friends, (female and male) for life and don't believe I would be where I am in life now without having gone there."

"A reward was the deep friendships that came from being together a lot of the time and having to create our own fun. Although I haven't kept up with a wider circle of friends, the ones I have maintained are very genuine and rich because we know each other so well."

"I think how lucky and privileged I was to go there. It certainly wasn't perfect but ultimately I think it made me a more confident, well-rounded person."

There is just one final consequence of the co-education project – weddings. The appointment of young women to the teaching staff led to at least four happy marriages between colleagues. And, of course, there have been several marriages of couples who met as students at the College, including my own daughter, Hannah (A06), and her husband, Hector Tulloch (EW07).

Other changes at the College in the last thirty years have been important: the substantial improvement in the teaching and boarding facilities, the reduction in the reliance of monks involved in the school, the separation of the Abbey and the College into different trusts but, arguably, the most significant has been the wholehearted embrace of co-education.

“If the boys went, why can't I?”



“This is so unfair and sexist.”

And so began Cicely's relentless and ultimately successful campaign to go to Ampleforth.

I have had nephews, nieces and two sons at the College since 2003 and have seen first-hand the change in the character of the school with the addition of girls. Initially and inevitably some of the pupils were shocked by the arrival of girls. As with any change it took time for everyone to adjust and not be fearful that all the traditions (apparently held so dear but which in fact constantly evolve) would disappear. The first two girls from the family went for Sixth Form and absolutely loved it. At the recent wedding of one there was a large group of OAs who have supported and looked out for each other through the trials and triumphs of their twenties.

I had in mind that Cicely would board more locally to us (she was our last and it would definitely be easier to watch the matches) and then could go for Sixth Form if she still wanted to. By this point another female cousin had started at the school in Year 9 which only gave grist to Cicely's mill to do the same. However, it was the chance encounter at a charity quiz night which swung things in her favour. I sat next to a female OA who asked politely about all the family and what Cicely was up to. I said she was

likely to head north for Sixth Form. The girl didn't comment but at the end of the evening told me that she so wished she had been able to go for five years like her brothers. Two years was great, but not enough.

Scroll forward and we are now at the end of Cicely's and our time at Ampleforth. I think we can say she was right. She has been passionate about the school. She has loved the space of being in a girl's House but within a co-educational community. Being Head Girl has been the icing on the cake (although she did promise me she would join the Pipe Band but I have never seen her in tartan....)

Her late grandmother, Enid Craston, had father, brothers and sons at the school and was steeped in Benedictine life. She ran the Ampleforth parents' association and having consulted her faithful Rotadex would organise meetings and drive the Headmaster all over the country. She would be thrilled to see girls thriving at Ampleforth.

Rose Craston, Former Parent

In order to get to Ampleforth, I started a fight with my mum. Ampleforth had always been a place that I knew: my brothers had been to school there, my wider family too and I had been visiting the College with my parents for years. In my mind, I knew I would go there, and that fact was exciting. That's at least how I saw things. My mum had different ideas. I remember when I was about 10 years old, I voiced my opinions, but she had assumed I would follow my sister to single sex boarding, “Let's just wait till Sixth Form.”

The truth is, she was having doubts about whether co-education at Ampleforth was right for me. She was uncertain about whether girls were truly integrated into boarding since the school became fully co-educational in the early 2000s. My first response to this was confusion – I had already been at a co-educational school. I appreciated her hesitations, but it did not change my mind. I wanted to be given the same opportunity as my brothers.

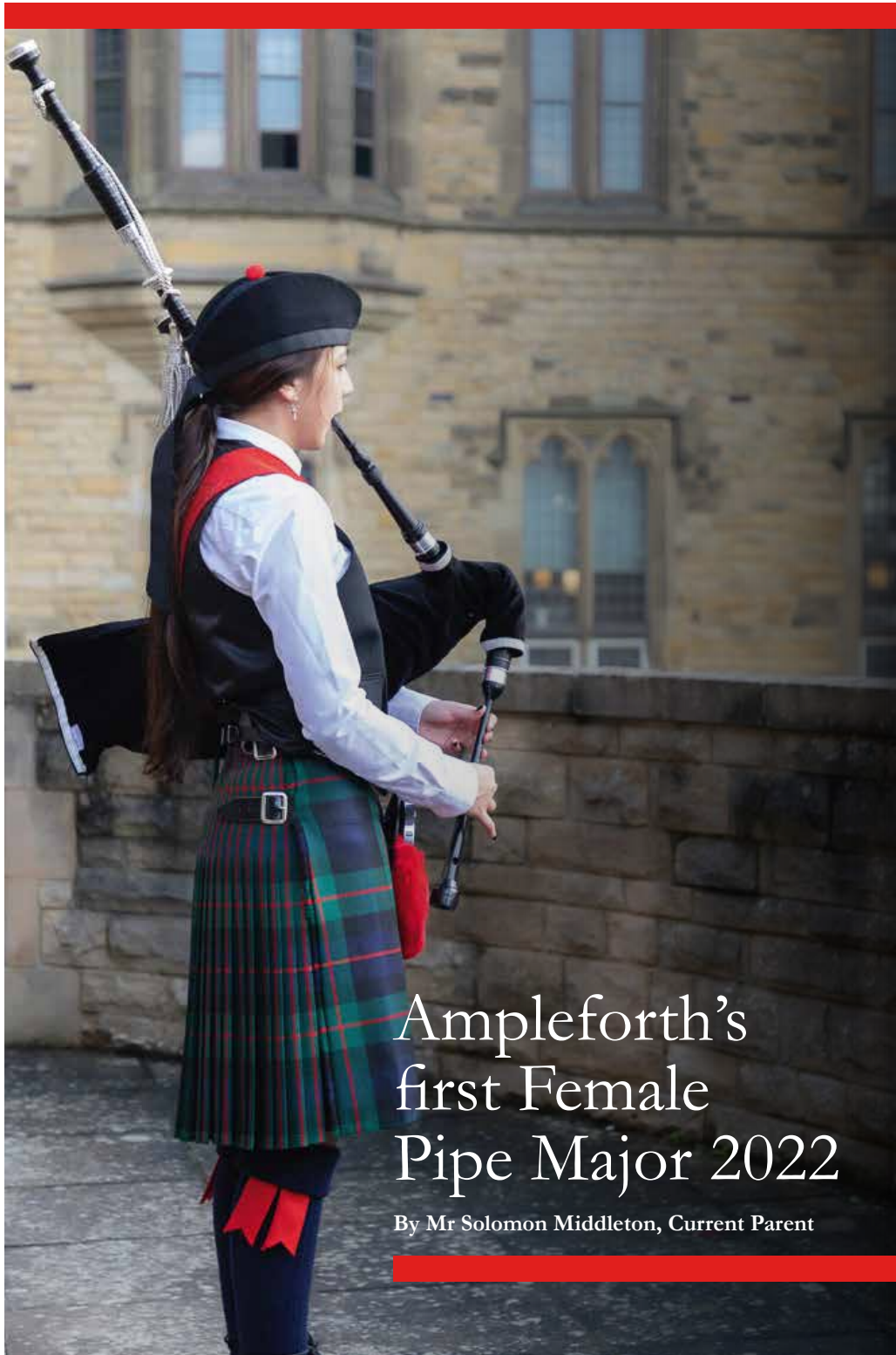
While this was happening, other parents made comments thinly disguised as jokes that tend to come with co-education, notably that it invites distraction. I think this captures some of the misconceptions surrounding co-education and is inaccurate. We live in a mixed-sex world, so I see co-education as sensible preparation for life after school. I can appreciate that there is a place for both types of education and while some people believe single sex schools provide girls with more

assurance in themselves in and outside of the classroom, you run the risk of that confidence evaporating when faced with reality.

Thinking particularly about Ampleforth, while it was founded as a boys' school, the Benedictine principles which underpin everything that happens here are universal and encompass qualities that encourage all to flourish. Here, the aim isn't to mould generic stereotypes, it is about recognising the unique individual, and enabling them to prosper. I think these strong, underlying attitudes soften the culture of difference between genders and place the emphasis instead on community living and understanding that we are all made better people by learning from each other.

Of course, like any school, Ampleforth is not immune to the challenges that teenagers face and I acknowledge that students here experience standard teenage 'angst', but I can't imagine a better or more supportive place to go through it. The friendships made here are during your formative years - they are not always straightforward, but I have overwhelmingly benefitted from them. In this full boarding environment, I've formed deep bonds of friendship. I'm grateful to my parents for the opportunity and I've loved my time here. Now I am ready to leave and I am excited for these friendships to continue in the years ahead.

Cicely Craston (M22)



Ampleforth's first Female Pipe Major 2022

By Mr Solomon Middleton, Current Parent

It was when Kimi was around four years old that we were driving through the grounds of a castle on the Isle of Skye that she suddenly heard the sound of bagpipes playing. There stood a man in kilt playing the pipes and we later learned it was the owner of the castle and he did the piping daily. Kimi was in awe of the piping and immediately and loudly said from the back of our car: "Mummy, Daddy, can I have a set of Bagpipes." At the time we smiled and said "No, they are hard to play" and just thought it was a funny thing to hear from a tiny daughter.

The years went by and when Kimi was 10 years old, Bagpipes came back into conversation. By the age of 11 Kimi had her first chanter and was kicking out many tunes prior to her first lesson at the College with Bryan Robinson on 9 September 2016. Her ability to learn was impressive.

Kimi took part in her first competition 5 March 2017 coming in third place at Ampleforth. Even when she was at Ryedale School prior to joining the College, Kimi was involved with the Ampleforth Pipe Band, playing for open days and for the Scottish Pipe Band Championships and taking part in many other piping events.

Kimi has enjoyed being part of the Ampleforth Pipe Band and gets along very well with its members. The atmosphere is good. She's proud to have represented Ampleforth College.

Kimi is in St Bede's House and now in Year 13 having joined Ampleforth College in

Year 9 from Ryedale School. Ampleforth has really helped Kimi's education and also her bagpiping. She is in her last year at Ampleforth and is doing five A levels. Whilst at Ampleforth Kimi has been busy – she has played for the school in various sports and even made team captain in girls' squash for a short while. She has taken part in chemistry competitions and the Maths Olympiad, was awarded Physicist student of the year in 2020 by York University and in 2020 she achieved over 100 Ampleforth Points for going above and beyond expectations.

Kimi never stops stating how fortunate she is to be at Ampleforth College and has achieved so much academically while at the school. To have had the most beautiful countryside to see daily, along with the squirrels and rabbits running around in the grounds - nothing can compare to the beautiful mists and glorious sunsets in the Valley, which she often talks about. She knows it will, one day, be greatly missed when she has to move on, but Ampleforth has engraved precious memories on her mind for years to come. At this school Kimi has made some very special friends - it has definitely enhanced her life.

Here is a list of some of Kimi's piping events:

- Open Days and Parent' Days at Ampleforth College and St Martin's Ampleforth over the years
- Houghton-le-Spring street feast Tattoo 2017 /2018
- Terrington Hall remembrance service 2018
- Aysgarth school display 2019
- St Martin's Ampleforth Sports Day 2019
- Compass for life in Edinburgh 2019
- Canonizations of John Henry Newman 2019
- She was the Lone piper at Ampleforth Armistice day 2019
- Harrogate compass for life 2019
- St Cecilia's Concert Solos 2019
- Farleigh school Xmas concert 2019
- Terrington Hall "Burns night" 2020
- Lister care home for retired soldiers 2020
- Piped for her Uncle's Funeral procession who passed from Covid 2020
- Residential home in Boston Spa 2020
- *Made pipe sergeant 2021*
- Ampleforth CCF dinner 2021 – 2022
- *Made Pipe Major 2022*
- New starters concert 2022
- HM the Queen's death ceremony Ampleforth 2022



THREE GENERATIONS OF THE ANGLIM FAMILY TAKE ON THE WORLD TRIATHLON MULTISPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our Head of Design & Technology, Brendan Anglim, joined his father, Mick, and daughter, Erin (B21) for this year's World Triathlon Multisport Championships in Romania.

Brendan's father is one of the most experienced and successful members of the GB Age-Group Team, first representing GB in 1999. Since then, he has represented his country in more than 50 international championships, winning 28 medals including a combined total of 14 World and European titles.

Brendan says seeing his dad compete and continue to win gold medals keeps him feeling motivated to achieve his own swim, bike, run goals:

"I find it incredibly inspiring, it's a real motivator," Brendan explained. *"It can also be a little bit challenging because I'm never going to live up to what he's achieved, but it's more about his enjoyment of the sport. I know I can share that with him. I am sure my colleagues at work get a little bit bored of my comments about how amazing he is."*

"The race in Targu Mures was great fun, the bike course was really exciting and the event itself was interesting. The key memory was the fact that we are all there together and that is what made it so special. It has been a target for us to be able to do it altogether, so it's great that it's come off."

Whilst Mick and Brendan have represented the GB Age-Group Team before, the World Sprint Distance Duathlon Championships was Erin's first experience competing at an international event, and wearing the GB trisuit for the first time was a proud moment for the 19-year-old.

"I went to Ibiza four years ago [2018 European Multisport Championships] to watch them compete and

that was really cool," Erin reflected. *"That was a real motivator for me because that made me want to be there competing instead of just watching."*

"I grew up running, and I have done triathlon for a while, but then I had an ear infection and surgery, and I haven't got back into swimming since then. I did my first duathlon in 2019 to just see if I enjoyed it and my first race was actually where I qualified to go to the World Championships."

"I felt so proud to be able to wear the GB trisuit, I didn't want to take it off for ages. There was a lot of relief when I crossed the finish line, I was really happy to have finished it because that was my main aim, and I was very proud to have been able to do that. I was obviously even prouder when we could have a photo together by the finish line in our trisuits."

All three had limited training before heading to Romania with Erin fitting in runs and exercise classes around studying medicine at the University of Sheffield, while Brendan trained around his teaching role at the College.

Asked what's next and when all three could be on the start line together again, Mick, who has competed in over 30 countries around the world, replied: *"We were really looking forward to the opportunity to go to Townsville [awarded host venue of 2020 World Triathlon Multisport Championships before the event was cancelled due to Covid-19]."*

"Brendan's wife, Victoria [Director of Co-curricular at the College], lived in Australia when she was younger so the idea of taking the whole family back to Australia was something we had discussed. I would like to think that we could race together again both in Ibiza and in Townsville in 2024."



AN EMOTIONAL PRIZE

I didn't expect to need a pack of tissues for our first Speech Day at Ampleforth. There I was, leafing through the programme and I soon spotted my son Freddie's name. Then almost simultaneously, I caught sight of my slightly unusual maiden name in the list of trophies – The Saggers Design Cup. I had a strange moment of confusion when I saw that this was in fact the prize that Freddie was set to receive.

My three brothers had all gone to Sedbergh and we'd had no relations pass through Ampleforth so the whole scenario was rather perplexing. I fired off a quick message to my mum, asking if they'd ever randomly donated a prize to Ampleforth. The answer popped back as a no. Then a few minutes later (about the length of time it took my mum to chat to my dad!) another reply pinged in, telling me that after my oldest brother, James, died aged 18, they had donated a trophy for design - his favourite subject - to his old prep school, St Martin's in Nawton. That was back in 1989.

It took a few minutes of pondering to work out that the trophy must have travelled from St Martin's to Gilling Castle when the two schools merged in 2001. Then, when St Martin's Ampleforth closed in 2018, the trophy made its way over to St Edward's and St Wilfrid's, the now Junior House of Ampleforth College. I marvelled at how that plucky little trophy had had so many opportunities to get lost or

misplaced and the sheer happy chance that it should find its way back to my family some thirty-three years later. And how special that my brother's favourite subject should then turn out to be his nephew's too.

All these thoughts made me a little emotional but actually just overwhelmingly grateful for this serendipitous reminder of my brother James. What a treasure the picture of my son clutching his trophy engraved in the memory of his uncle is... especially for my parents to have that precious link between their son and their grandson.

**Victoria Goor,
Current Parent**

I didn't realise until after I received my DT prize that it was something so special. As I sat with the trophy and saw the name engraved on it as the James Saggers Memorial Cup, I thought to myself that Saggers was a very unusual surname and I knew my uncle was called James. When Speech Day was over and my mum confirmed what had happened, there were some tears shed but overall lots of hugs at this amazing twist of fate. It feels pretty cool to know that now my name will be engraved on the same trophy as his!

Freddie Goor (EW)



Ampleforth . Connections

By Stephan Sweets-Sporck, Current Parent



When preparing for his Art GCSE last summer, Hieronymus (Ron) Sweets-Sporck (C), found a small book in the Ampleforth library on the iconic Italian photographer Francesco Pignatelli, whose “Reversed Cities” work inspired Ron for his Art project (for which he won the Gaynor Photography Cup 2022). Later that summer, visiting his friend from Ampleforth, Antoni Dzida, in Staniszow, Poland (a lovely place coincidentally just on the other side of the Giant Mountains from Ron’s family summer home in Eastern Bohemia), it turned out that the Pignatelli family from Milan had just left. Antoni’s father, Waclaw, and Francesco Pignatelli have been friends for more than thirty years since they first met as students in England. The happy conclusion to this story came in October when Ron met his photographer hero at his Milan studio where they discussed their artwork and Francesco praised Ron’s prizewinning Project.

◀ Ron with Francesco Pignatelli in his workshop in Milano recently



ISRAEL TRIP

By Richard Hudson, Teacher of Christian Theology & Head of Year 12

Twenty four students had a once-in-a-lifetime week in Israel, led by three staff and guided by Fr Henry. In the words of one student, "it was an unforgettable time, strange and overwhelming to think that we stood where Jesus had stood." Fr Henry - editor of the New Jerusalem Bible - has been leading trips to Israel since 1973(!). He brings an unparalleled knowledge of biblical history and archaeology, added to a gently insistent style and a busy schedule, each day kicking off with 7am breakfast.

Perhaps the highlights of the trip were celebrating Mass on the shore of Lake Galilee, and two days later at dawn in a tiny chapel in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, three yards from the site of Jesus' crucifixion on Golgotha. Equally moving was our evening visit to the Western

Wall, the only remains of the great Temple of Jerusalem which was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, and where Jews now pray with a devotion which struck the students powerfully. Another highlight in Jerusalem was the descent down the tunnel of Hezekiah, cut through bedrock in 701BC: barely 5ft high in places, descending 1,700ft from the Old City to the Pool of Siloam - where 700 years later, Jesus healed a blind man. Then there was our hostel, the Maison

d'Abraham, large and friendly, run by French Dominican nuns, commanding a stunning view over the Old City and echoing five times a day to the call to prayer of no less than four different mosques.

Most of our days were spent away from Jerusalem however. A day in the Jordan valley, visiting the ruins of Beth She'an, then taking a dip in the river Jordan at the claimed site of Jesus' baptism, alongside a



happy group of Armenian Christians re-enacting their own baptism. And then visiting the 5th century Monastery of Saint Gerasimos, in whose church is a venerated pile of the skulls and bones of the 7th century monks martyred by the invading Persians. Another day included an ascent by cable-car to the astonishing palace of Masada, towering 1,200 ft above the desert and besieged for three years by 15,000 Roman

soldiers in 74AD. That same day included perhaps the most touristy visit, a 'swim' in the Dead Sea - more like a bounce, and an opportunity to cover oneself with mineral-rich muds.

Mention must also be made of 'the desert walk': a five hour descent from Jerusalem to Jericho through the Wadi Qilt, past goats and Bedouin shepherds and relieved half-way with the sight of the

extraordinary Monastery of Saint George, clinging to the rocksides, and accompanied by dozens of small hermitage caves, some dating back to the 5th century.

Finally, there is the reality of modern Israel. The students spent an evening on the lakeside promenade in Tiberias, eating candyfloss with hundreds of Jewish holidaymakers; and an afternoon in Palestinian-controlled Jericho, or walking through Silwan, a Palestinian township below our hostel in East Jerusalem. They were acutely aware of the differences between the various inhabitants of modern Israel and Palestine and the complexities of their history, and were deeply struck by the barbed wire and armed guards at the separation wall through which we crossed into Bethlehem.



RIP HM The Queen

By Will Shipsey (H), Year 12 and Elijah Hennigan (H), Year 12



to practise before the whole school came to watch. But I also felt a huge sense of pride. Pride for the CCF I represent and pride for the country. Even though my arm was aching and felt like it was about to give way, Felix, James and I were able to execute the drill and give the respect Her Majesty deserved. I was so glad that the drill movements went so well and would like to thank all those who were involved in the event."

As the flag was lowered, the brass band played a beautiful and moving rendition of the national anthem followed by a minute's silence. Shortly after, a wooden cross was placed in front of the flag, blessed with incense and the schola performed *Thou Knowest*, Lord by Purcell. The ceremony finished with the *Piper's Lament*. The ceremony was a mark for the school to wear suits with black ties until the funeral, which really amplified the period of mourning. During the lead up to the funeral, the flag was lowered for the accession of the King and then re-raised in time with the rest of the country.

Across all the news sites and social media platforms, it was announced that our late Queen of England had inconsovably passed. It was of great sadness to many. But from this great sadness rose a huge response from the school, students and teachers alike. Prayers for the next 24 hours were tailored around Her passing and in-House discussions were exchanged. The next morning, signs of the Queen could be seen around the school; a portrait of Her Majesty in the Main Hall, prayer cards for reflections were given out and the book of condolence was passed around the school. Later, the CCF, the Schola Cantorum and the brass band led a moving ceremony. The flag was flanked by the CCF, with the main party around the flag on display for all to see. This is what Elijah in St Hugh's house, had to say:

"I was stood to attention, rifle in arm, before anyone had arrived. I was very nervous to be able to play a significant part for Her Majesty, as we only had that morning

On the following Sunday, the school held a special requiem mass, which was very moving because of the performances from the Schola with such short notice. They sung *In Paradisium* from Fauré's *Requiem* which struck many nerves. On the day of the funeral each House gathered to watch the processions of the Queen's funeral. Huge thanks to the many OAs who had a role in the planning and executing of Her final journey, with Major General Chris Ghika (E88) and the Duke of Norfolk (T74) playing a huge part.

Whilst the death of the Queen was a huge shock to the school and to the whole world, the events and actions that followed were truly unforgettable and a huge thank you to all the staff and students who went to great lengths to produce a series of events that were so meaningful and so professional.



Service at Ampleforth

At a recent Whole School Assembly, Dan Davison, Assistant Head of English, spoke about the idea of Service.

I have been asked to talk to you briefly about the idea of **service**, and why at Ampleforth, we believe it is one of the most valuable opportunities we offer.

You can get an academic education at any school. There are plenty of other schools that will offer sport and co-curricular opportunities. There are not many that have, at the heart of the community, an Abbey Church.

This can be something that we can choose to gloss over, or even unintentionally forget through custom. But I would suggest to you, that the presence of monks in our community ought to be an invitation to pause and consider some important questions: what do they do and why do they do it? It's a curious thing, isn't it, to devote your entire life to a way of living that is so starkly different from the norm, a life devoted prayer, committed to vows.

And at the heart of the Church is the altar. And the altar is a place of sacrifice, the ultimate expression of giving to others. To serve is to give of oneself, sometimes at great cost, for the benefit of others. Therefore, the opportunities for service here, are **not only** an invitation to personal growth, an invitation to put the common good before our own private interests, and to experience the personal value of this in your formation as young adults but **service is also** one of the purest expressions of what a Benedictine education is.

Recently, our lives were interrupted by news of the Queen's death after 70 years of service to her peoples. I found myself moved by this loss, far more than I had expected to be. Death has a habit of intruding into our lives in this blunt fashion. Yet, yesterday, for those who watched her funeral and committal, you would have heard many people speak of her life of **service** and her sense of **duty**, and you would

have seen her coffin returned to the Abbey in which she was married, and the Abbey of her coronation, returned to the altar, the visible sign of the fulfilment of her life's great vows: her vows of marriage, the oath of her coronation.

Living here, you may have noticed from time-to-time, the great bell tolling at unexpected times. It is a jolt that may be familiar to some of you, that moment when we are stopped in our work, drawn out from the business before us and invited to pause a moment in contemplation or silence or prayer. Schools are by their very nature vibrant, noisy, living spaces, filled with the glow and lightness of youth, so you don't always hear it at first. The sound seems to sneak into the conscious mind until suddenly there is a moment of realisation: regularly, but slowly, the great bell at Ampleforth has been tolling. It has been marking out the years of a monk's monastic life in solemn beats. And it announces to the

Compassion
Service Integrity
Devotion Duty

community living here, that a monk has died. It is a curious moment, an uncertain moment. The processions witnessed yesterday were also marked by the regular tolling of the bell.

Perhaps some of you will have your own experience of this forced contemplation of our mortality – the shock of an ambulance, the death of a loved one, the glimpse of a funeral procession – where for a moment or for an extended period of grieving, we are confronted by the face of suffering or the momentary glimpse of our own end. For the Queen, her faith appeared to be the cornerstone to her life of service. And at Ampleforth, the call of the bell is also the call to prayer, for the Divine Office and for the Mass, so that this same bell reminds us that the Church is at the heart of everything we do, it calls us back to God in both our prayer and our death.

But death need not be a depressing thing. In

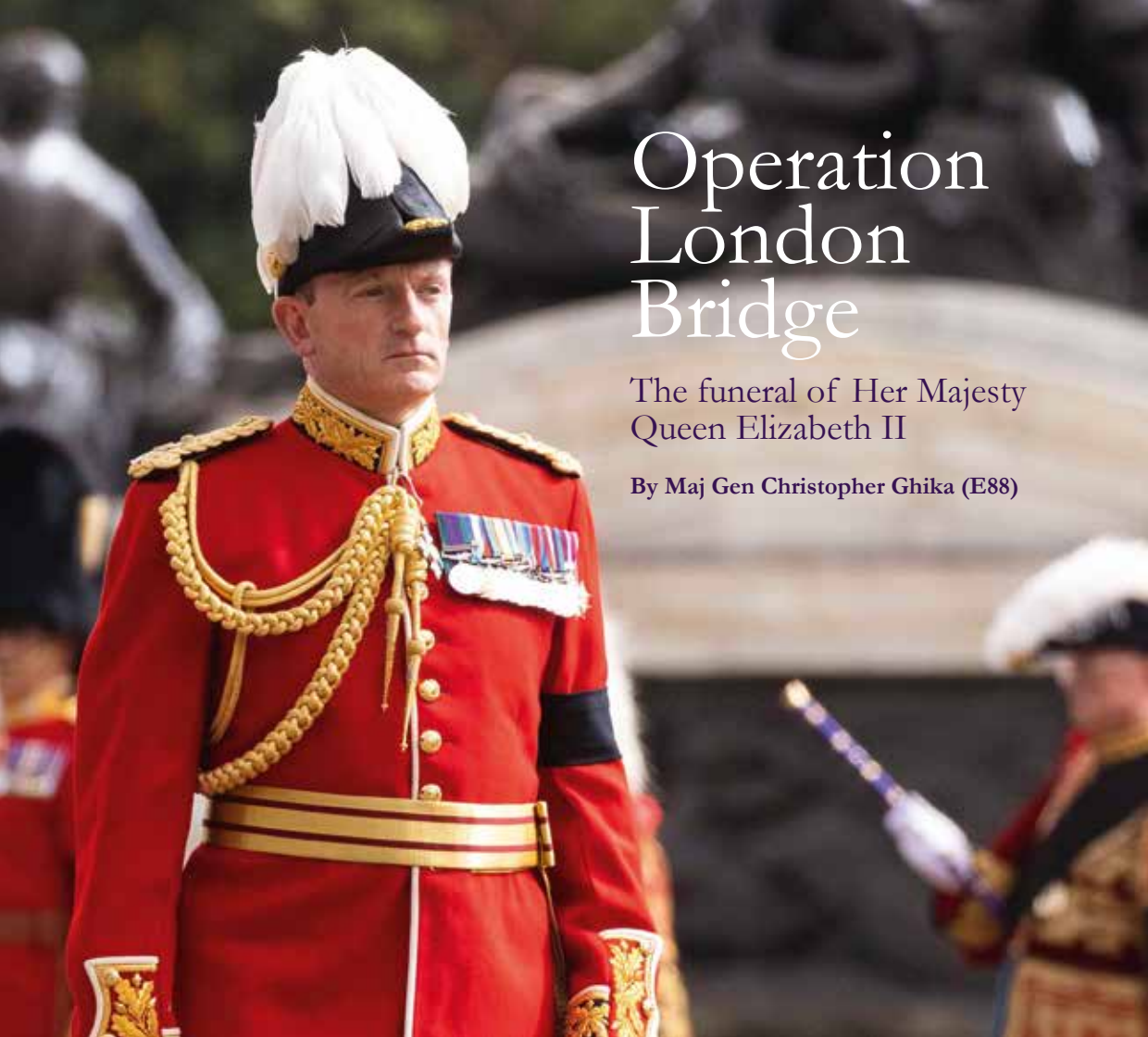
a Benedictine sense, by remembering that life is temporal, that we have limited time here on earth, it should invite us to think about the value of our life and more about what we want to do with it.

A former Headmaster here, Fr Gabriel, reminded us one St Benedict's day that "Life is a holy and beautiful thing, a treasured thing, a gift, a gift given by God and given back to God, laid as a holy offering upon the altar." This is what makes Ampleforth so unique – the invitation to live in a way that allows you to die having lived a life of great worth so that you are prepared for death: or as Shakespeare puts it in Hamlet: "the readiness is all".

Throughout the country, the traditions of Ampleforth have been echoed elsewhere: at Westminster, the bell tolled out for every year of the Queen's service. On TVs and radios, we have heard the public debate about the value of what the

Queen stood for, what her **service** meant. The whole country is momentarily in tune with our way of life. And if you watched the committal, you would have seen the great signs of her service – her sceptre, orb and crown – returned to the altar, the sign of a promise kept and fulfilled, "laid as a holy offering upon the altar".

So **service** at Ampleforth is a call to participate courageously in life; it is a call to live a life of integrity, keeping true to the vocation of your heart. And trust me from one who knows, the opportunities that service provides will be lively, busy, and filled with the promise and the expectation and the joy that comes from participating fully in life. So as well as receiving an excellent academic education, we are encouraging you, in every endeavour, to live life well, to be true to yourselves, to your talents and to your unique vocation, to live with integrity and friendship and compassion.



Operation London Bridge

The funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By Maj Gen Christopher Ghika (E88)

“Good morning, this is the morning Teams call on D+3; I would like to go over to the Major General for a military ceremonial update.....”

It is 08.30 on 11th September and three days since the death of The Queen. The Duke of Norfolk (T74), who in his capacity as the Earl Marshal is responsible for the funeral of the Sovereign, is chairing one of many updates among the Royal Household, the military and other stakeholders who will deliver the funeral

and its associated ceremonial. His approach is professional, positive and enduringly encouraging to those charged with a responsibility around Operation London Bridge. Fortunately, having had a detailed discussion about the military plan with my team at 07.00 that morning, I know the latest developments of our involvement in the ceremonial schedule and I brief as asked. The plan, known as Operation London Bridge, is one of a number of contingent plans held by the military for a variety

of scenarios; it is subject to constant review and the annual cycle of assurance was getting underway for this year when the news broke that The Queen had died on the afternoon of 8 September.

I was in the car travelling to an event in Windsor when I heard that the Queen had died just after 17.00 on 8 September. As part of my role in the Army, I became responsible at once for the delivery of the ceremonial aspects of Operation London Bridge. I confess that my

mind raced for the first few minutes after hearing the news as my driver threw the car violently around the Hogarth Roundabout to return to London as quickly as possible. The plan saw eight separate events being orchestrated over an eleven day period; some involved dozens of people while others, such as the funeral processions, comprised thousands of service personnel from across the globe. Each event comprised a pre-written instruction to which final details had to be added, it was then briefed to the participants, rehearsed and delivered. Given the numbers involved, and for the key participants their individual programmes, this feat of co-ordination became a major effort and meant that activity of some sort ran 24 hours a day for almost the duration of the operation.

From the start of the operation to its conclusion, some themes ran through all we did. As in any activity, a highly focused group of people and a clear plan were key. The excellent team in Headquarters London District were all well acquainted

with the plan and, from start to finish, we all worked day and night to make the operation a success. Familiarity with the plan became a pre-requisite for us all, and the time we had committed to becoming experts paid off. The media appetite for a story and updates was insatiable, to the extent that we organised set times for engaging with the press so they did not detract from our main effort of delivering the ceremonial events. There was an all OA appearance on the evening The Queen’s coffin returned to London in which I was lucky enough to share a BBC interview with Maj Gen Sir Sebastian Roberts (J72).

Not surprisingly, there was a dearth of knowledge of what had happened in 1952. If you lived in the first 36 years of the twentieth century, you would have known five monarchs and so the ceremony which went with the change of reign would have been, if not familiar, then not wholly foreign. We were fortunate enough to have the same monarch for 70 years and so there were few who could recall personally what had taken

place on previous occasions. I resorted to watching the old Pathe news clips on my phone while travelling from rehearsal to briefings in London and Windsor to determine issues of precedent. For those consumed by the organisation, it was hard to find a moment to step back and reflect on the moment. I was particularly struck by conducting a vigil over the coffin in Westminster Hall and watching the stream of people of all ages and backgrounds file past The Queen in the most historic of settings. A remarkable moment and one to reflect on the example of duty and service which generated so much respect and admiration.

The conclusion of the committal service in St George’s Chapel in Windsor saw the end of Operation London Bridge. Returning to the office on the morning after the funeral was rather peculiar and it was hard to deal in more mundane issues. It was a great privilege to play some part in the nation’s farewell to a much loved and respected Queen; it was the end of an era, but also the start of a new one. God save the King.

Among those taking part in The Queen’s funeral arrangements were the following Old Amplefordians:

- The Duke of Norfolk (T74)
- Maj Gen Christopher Ghika (E88)
- Colonel Mark Berry (T94)
- Lt Col Martin Hickie (J95)
- Lt Col Rupert King-Evans (T94)
- Maj Will Tulloch (E03)
- Maj Adrian Havelock (T99)
- Maj Chris Connolly (H07)
- Maj Dan Cuccio (E04)
- Major Will Moore (O06)

- Major Simon Lukas (E01)
- Captain Harry Nunn (O09)
- Captain Brookie Trant (EW14)
- Capt Tim Woodbridge (T10)
- Captain Edmund Harmer (O10)
- Capt Rory Crichton-Stuart (EW13)
- Capt Will Dalton-Hall (EW09)
- Lt Roly Walker (T13)
- 2Lt Tom Braithwaite (T13)



TUG OF WAR & RAFT RACE

TUG OF WAR 2022

With an Abbey at the heart of the school, you might imagine that weekends at Ampleforth are fairly quiet. But wait till you hear this... Our first weekend in the Valley came with our first whole school event. Taking the short walk from our House, St John's, to the bounds, just in front of the Abbey Church – a place, surely, for peace and contemplation of the beautiful idyllic surroundings in the Valley, but no – horns and speakers were blazing out all across the bounds and bouncing back off the wall.

We arrived together as a House to find all kinds of colours, and sounds and emotions. All guns blazing by this point and the atmosphere was on fire with every House determined to pull all the others over. Face paint, flags and costumes; cheers, chants and laughter; the whole experience was a blur of fun. The boys and girls

from St Edward's & St Wilfrid's Junior House also took part, playing against each other in different teams.

The final was something special, the crowds of students were buzzing. St Hugh's dashing through the tunnel, with the speakers and intensity turned to full, entered the arena at pace. St Doswald's snuck in with a calmer authority and, in the end, after a tough physical tussle, secured their place on the rope and won 2-1 taking the trophy. Meanwhile, in the girls' competition, it was St Aidan's who took the prize. While some Houses left discussing and disputing the twists and turns of the competition, the one outcome that everyone could agree on was that this was a whole load of fun.

Josh Gibson (J), Year 9 >>



RAFT RACE 2022

On our second weekend of term, we had the chance to explore a bit further afield, walking down the Valley to the scene of the beautiful lakes. It was here, that rowing on some planks and barrels, attached to some rope, we would be participating in the annual raft race.

From the moment we woke up, there was a big sense of excitement in the House. Mr Starkey, who I am beginning to learn may have a competitive streak, briefed us that anything less than first place was not an option.

The scene that greeted us at the lake was similar to the Tug of War. It was as though we had stumbled upon a hidden, Viking horde. Again, the atmosphere was incredible: as we got on the raft to

the cheering of the crowd, the horns and speakers began booming.

As there is an extra prize for this event awarded to the best decorated house, all the students were huddled up on the shore with flags, face paint, fancy dress mingled with House colours, all cheering their Houses on.

We set off at full throttle with shouts of "HEAVE 1, 2 HEAVE 1, 2" but St Aidan's were just ahead of us after the first lap. We swapped quickly and got back on the water as quickly as we could, but we were unable to catch the girls and eventual winners. This really was a fun and memorable Sunday at the lakes.

Billy Morgan (J), Year 9



SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

By Albrecht Henckel von Donnersmarck (T), Year 12

When I first heard about the war in Ukraine, I was shocked, and so was the Ampleforth school community. As a catholic school, we wanted to take action and try to help the refugees and suffering people receive the aid they needed to survive and cross the borders to a safe Europe. We were all looking for an outlet to give focus to our need to respond to the crisis. Luckily, we have the opportunity here at Ampleforth to respond to such a situation through our school charity named FACE-FAW.

FACE-FAW stands for Friendship and Aid Central and Eastern Europe, Friendship and Aid the World. This name neatly captures the situation we felt: friendship is the motivation to help and aid our response, the desire to take action and fundraise. It was in this spirit, as we saw refugees travelling miles to cross borders that we decided to undertake a whole school walk to show solidarity.

It was very moving, because we all walked for one reason, which was in support of those refugees walking day and night to get to safety. A parade of all the different houses and their colours made their way up onto Gilling hill, where we crossed the muddy and wet forest. This helped us to imagine, in a small way, some of the hardships that refugees might be exposed to.

When we made our way back up through the Valley, with the astonishing site of Ampleforth College and the Abbey Church at its heart, it reminded me of a pilgrimage. In a pilgrimage the main thing is not the finishing point, but it is the walk itself. In this walk we walked as friends and as supporters for those who were at the same time crossing the borders in Ukraine. Through the generosity of our supporters, we were able to raise over £10,000, which we sent, through Cafod, to Caritas Ukraine.

Music at Ampleforth

By Lucy Barrett (B) Year 12



In the College I am involved in many of the fabulous groups on offer by the music department and I play the flute, violin, and piano. I play violin in the String Ensemble (Pro Musica), and in the school orchestra and am just about to start playing flute in a baroque ensemble with the Chamber Choir. Also, weekly,

“Not only is my life filled with music whilst at the College, but I also do much outside school.”

I have a rehearsal with Mr Dore to improve my skills playing with an accompanist. I'm also involved in the academic side of the music department as I am in my first term of doing music A-level and am thoroughly enjoying looking more deeply into a diverse range of music and building on my composition skills. The most enjoyable part of Ampleforth Music is Pro Musica as I really enjoy the pieces we play and playing in a small ensemble is

always exciting. For me, the most exciting music event I've taken part in at the College is when I played in the band for the school musical that went on last year. It was a really fulfilling experience and I learnt so much. Not only is my life filled with music whilst at the College, but I also do much outside school. During the holidays, I will be on week-long residential as part of the National Youth Orchestra playing flute and I'm constantly putting myself forward for competitions where I live. Even though I do these things outside of school, the music department is always so supportive and helpful in this part of my musical life as well. In the future, I am aspiring to go to either the Royal Academy or Royal College of Music to study the flute, but before then I want to see how far I can get in BBC Young Musician of the year next time around.



THE BIG WALK 2022

By Elspeth Blake-James (A), Year 13



Have you ever had a sleepless night? It might have consisted of a movie marathon, or maybe some last-minute cramming before an exam. Last summer, alongside a group of my friends, I had an extremely sleepless night when we walked 40km over 24hrs to raise money for Oak Field School, in Nottingham, which provides education and support for students with various mental and physical disabilities.



We started the Big Walk at Whitby with a prayer, and everyone was in good spirits for a while. We kept walking. The sun started to set as we crossed the moors, slowly working our way across the barren landscape. Then we came to the support minibus for the last time before the dreaded night shift. More feet were strapped up against blisters, more food consumed, and we put yet another layer of clothing on.

About four and a half hours went by in a blur – I'll spare you the more graphic details about crying, throwing up and blisters – but needless to say, The Big Walk was much harder than any of us could have ever imagined. Mrs Stannard pointed out that however difficult this night was, it would end when we got back to school, but the students at Oakfield had this kind of struggle on a daily basis. We scaled a ridiculously steep hill just in time to watch the sun rise, and I got my first taste of summit fever as I realised we had walked for over 12 hours already.

We stopped for bacon butties passing through Helmsley at around 7am, and finally we arrived back at Ampleforth in mostly one piece. The whole school was up bright and early to welcome us home with cheering and bagpipes. I have never felt so extremely happy and proud of myself whilst being so physically and mentally exhausted.

The money that we raised funded a wonderful day out to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park with a group of Oakfield students, and the rest was donated to the school.





SCHOOL SHOOT

By Arthur Kavanagh (T), Year 13



Many students, rather than taking part in a normal sport activity three times a week, organise and run a small game shoot here in the Valley. This includes feeding and caring for the birds and on Saturdays in the shoot season (October through January), we run a shoot where junior years form the beating line in selected drives, and the sixth form stand the Gun line.

The shoot purchase the pheasant poults locally and raise them from seven weeks old, releasing them into the Valley in early September. We then take up the feeding regime during our games periods and on our Friday afternoon activities slot. We are responsible for their management and the management and preparation of the shoot drives, from mending fences, styles, bridges, feeders and cutting hedges in readiness for the shoot season commencing.

After a day's shooting, we then take part in dressing the birds ready for the freezer. This year we are also taking part in Game Food cookery lessons, in our own Cookery School kitchen. We are also given the opportunity to take part in Simulated Clay Shoot days in the Valley, which are fantastic.

A lot of us find the school shoot to be a great alternative to Rugby or Hockey and really enjoy those afternoons in the Valley. If I were to choose one part of it as the best, I'd have to say that it is the friendships we have formed doing it; many of us have been doing it since Year 9 or 10. Like other activities, the shoot really helps with making friends outside your year and House. We also get lots of useful information which isn't commonplace in the classroom, like actively looking after our environment, something that is very important to everyone in the Valley.

There are lots of activities on offer at Ampleforth, such as the shoot, but also things like the CCF and rifle shooting. I also take part in the school debating club, which is open to all sixth formers to either take part in or be spectators and the turnout is impressive. I'm also a member of the Aquinas Society, in which we discuss different matters of ethics one evening a week. With all that is on offer, it can seem as though there isn't enough time for school work, but the options can be easily spread out to make sure that the important work isn't set aside. I think the extracurricular activities on offer at Ampleforth really set it apart and are part of what makes it such a special place.



1ST XV RUGBY TOUR TO PORTUGAL

By Jack Fletcher (C), Year 13



In the October half term the 1st XV rugby team enjoyed a fantastic tour to Lisbon. On Thursday 20 at 1am, 22 players departed for Manchester airport and we finally flew at 7am that morning. Upon arrival we were greeted by our tour guide, Jao, and taken to our hotel. Right by the beach, we certainly got lucky with the location, although after seeing the waves, swimming was definitely off the cards!

Soon afterwards, we had our first training session in preparation for the first match that evening at a local 4G pitch, just a 5-minute walk from Hotel Tryp. Tired and hungry, we had lunch by the beach and later crashed in the hotel, shattered from the travelling. Now it was time for the first fixture against Agronomia rugby club, just outside Lisbon. Kicking off at 7pm it was a greatly enjoyable match. We fought well but, in the end, lost 27-12. Ready for bed, we departed back to the hotel for the night, but despite the loss no one was despondent.



The next day we headed to the same rugby club for another training session. We played on a beautiful pitch, overlooking the whole city, then showered up and headed for the town. Here we grabbed lunch and then went off to the beach. Team building was a highlight of our tour and was displayed through the beach exercises, where we worked in groups to complete various activities. That was all in day two.

On Saturday we had a late wake up before going to watch a local club match, in which our tour guide Jao was playing. It was great to see how popular rugby has become in Portugal. Then we headed for lunch, later walking to Benfica stadium for our tour. Home of the 2014 Champions League final, this venue was seriously impressive. When our tour was over, we browsed the gift shop and watched Benfica Academy

play outside until it was time for our surf lesson. Few of us had actually surfed before so it was certainly a learning curve, but our instructors were very helpful and eventually the boys got the hang of it. Absolutely shattered, we returned for downtime, dinner and bed.

On day four we woke up early to arrive at the rugby club for warm-ups. We comfortably beat local team Qashqui 71-0 – definitely good to get a win. After showers and changing we headed back to pack for the trip home. As it was one of our coach's birthdays, we headed out for dinner that night and had a gift ceremony to finalise the tour. Departing early on Monday morning to various different places, the boys were happy to return home, but certainly thankful for the memories and camaraderie created in Portugal.





Nepal TREK

By Johnny Norton (J), Year 12



The 2022 Ampleforth Nepal trip has been without doubt, one of, if not the most inspirational travel experiences I have ever been on. Expectations were exceeded tenfold; barriers were broken down and positive memories permanently engraved in the minds of all that came on the trip. Students and staff alike.

The trip really began for myself two years ago, where I was offered the opportunity to join the Nepal expedition. Originally to be conducted last academic year, I was only to wait until the next October half term until the trip commenced, but due to issues with Covid, it was delayed to 2022.

Fast forward to 2021 where we had our first meeting with Major Ram. Ram Saheb (as referred to in Nepal) was to be our guide for the trip, having previously taught our own Col Blackford Nepalese in the 1990s - truly baffling! Interest across the group peaked at the sound of Nepalese music, and the stories of what was to come, as being told by Major Ram himself.

The next checkpoint in our rigorous bootcamp was the on-site training weekend, where we put our imaginations to the test as Gilling woods was magically transformed into Nepali hillside as we 'trekked' our way past countless joggers and dogwalkers, all of whom were completely unaware of this vital exercise at hand. (Note: Gilling woods did not in fact, compare to Nepali countryside).

Before we knew it, the many hours of flights had been and gone, and finally we had landed in Kathmandu! Outside the airport was a traditional Nepalese greeting with malas, a long floral necklace made with local flowers - they attract a variety of local insects every time you wear one! After a short stay in the capital, a very long, hot and bumpy bus ride took us to our second hotel in Pokhara. From there, we finally arrived in the first of the four villages, Gilung, for a homestay experience.

The homestay experience is something that really made an impact on us, and when reflecting at the end of the trip, it bewilders myself and others how people with so little can open up their hearts and homes so wide. A great example of this was the school in Gilung, where every student lined up outside creating a human tunnel. One by one, we were given mala after mala, eventually sitting on a stage in-front of the whole school. Dances that had surely been rehearsed for weeks were eloquently performed for our enjoyment. However heartwarming, the real excitement stemmed from being invited down to dance with the whole school, and later play football with the boys in a fierce and competitive match. Many of us gave out small presents to the children along the way; it was a treat in itself to see the children's faces light up at a small stuffed animal or a plastic dinosaur.

In each village, not only did we receive great hospitality from

the families that invited us into their homes and communities, but also from the tour guides that accompanied us for the whole of the trek. To have such experienced leaders in our midst really opened up the opportunity to take in the breathtaking views of snow tipped mountains and steep, never-ending waterfalls. Amongst the sometimes seven hours of roughly continuous trekking, it was all made a bit easier by the knowledge that we were in such great hands.

After staying in four distinctly unique villages, enjoying local food and dance on a daily basis, we were back in Kathmandu. Exploring the endless maze of shops and street-vendors felt so unlike anything you could ever think to experience back home. We had the experience of a lifetime when we met one of the living Goddesses, who kindly blessed everyone in the group. Visiting a Buddhist temple rife with eager monkeys also made for an amazing few days in the city.

We shared one last Dhal Bat together (a meal consisting of lentils and rice that was a main feature almost daily in our diet) before setting off to Kathmandu airport and returning back to the Valley. We reflected together about the people that had taken care of us along the way, their primary faith of Buddhism, and how all these values tie into our own Benedictine core values in Ampleforth.

The trip of a lifetime, one I would gladly do all over again.

Remembrance Assembly

By Lt Col Miles Blackford

It is a frightening thing to be shot at. To look your enemy in the eye knowing that they are intent on killing you and your mates.

No one knows how they will react the first time you deploy into enemy territory on patrol, waiting to be ambushed or how you will react to the uncertainty of where the next bomb will land when you are in the middle of a mortar attack.

My friend Sean certainly knew nothing about the direct mortar round hit he suffered at the hands of the Taliban in 2007.

During that nine-month deployment in Afghanistan, my boss was an Old Amplefordian – Maj Gen Jacko Page (B77). General Jacko had a son at Ampleforth at that time and he used to mention his son's school's values at team meetings when we were in Kandahar, probably the most dangerous city in the world at that time. Among them, he would talk about the need for courage, attentiveness and respect in the course of our duties.

The Armed Forces have always been an organisation which prides itself on its values-based leadership philosophy and I for one am proud to have moved from one organisation to another which reflects the importance of values in our daily lives.

When presenting to the Probationary Monitors, I often reflect on courage, and we analyse what it means. We look at physical courage and discuss how everyone can be frightened but that physical courage is about how we overcome and

deal with that fear. Perhaps more importantly for you is the issue of moral courage – this is doing what you know to be right not what is necessarily popular.

Naturally in the Armed Forces, courage is expected, and some service personnel sadly pay the ultimate price for their bravery.

At the end of this week, we shall commemorate Remembrance. An act that is important to me and many veterans like me. People sometimes ask me why I think it is important to commemorate in this way and I simply say, it is so we can remember those who sacrificed everything for us. Everyday, as I enter the Indoor Range, I am reminded of an officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving with the same Regiment I was to go on and join. I want to share his final journey with you so you too can remember.

Captain Michael Allmand (E41) was commanding the leading platoon of a Company of the 6th Gurkha Rifles in Burma on 11th June 1944, when the Battalion was ordered to attack the Pin Him Road Bridge.

The enemy had already succeeded in holding up their advance for 24 hours. The approach to the bridge was very narrow and the low-lying land on either side was swampy and densely covered in jungle. The enemy, who were dug in along the banks of the road and in the jungle, were putting up the most desperate resistance.

As the platoon came within 20 yards of the Bridge, the enemy opened heavy and accurate fire,



inflicting severe casualties and forcing the men to seek cover. Captain Allmand, however, with the utmost gallantry charged on by himself, hurling grenades into the enemy gun positions and killing three enemy soldiers himself with his kukri. Inspired by the splendid example of their platoon commander the surviving men followed him and captured their objective.

Two days later Captain Allmand, owing to casualties among the officers, took over command of the same Company and dashing 30 yards ahead of it through long grass and marshy ground, swept by machine gun fire, he personally killed a number of enemy machine gunners and successfully led his men onto the ridge of high ground that they had been ordered to seize.

Then, on 23 June in the final attack on the railway bridge at Mogaung, Captain Allmand, although suffering from trench-foot, which made it difficult for him to walk, moved forward alone through deep mud and shell-holes and charged a machine gun nest single-handed, but he was mortally wounded and died shortly afterwards.

They are just two of the 191 Old Amplefordians killed in conflicts over the last 110 years. Other names are captured forever in the memorial chapel book of remembrance or engraved in the capstones in the library or etched into the doors of Big Study.

The superb gallantry, outstanding leadership and protracted heroism of this very brave officer was a wonderful example to the whole Battalion and in the highest traditions of his regiment. For his gallantry, Captain Allmand was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for valour.



Captain Michael Allmand

Many of you will not realise that every time you walk into the library and turn right, Michael Allmand's painting is there looking over you together with that of Captain Robert Nairac, another OA killed in the line of duty.

They are just two of the 191 Old Amplefordians killed in conflicts over the last 110 years. Other names are captured forever in the memorial chapel book

of remembrance or engraved in the capstones in the library or etched into the doors of Big Study.

Next time you are in one of these places, take time to reflect on what happened to them and please...remember them.

Thank you.

Remembrance Assembly



It is not an accident that so many OAs are prepared to put themselves forward to serve and to lead. The idea of service to something bigger than ourselves is the Ampleforth Way.

By Robin Dyer, Head of Ampleforth College

Thank you to Lt Colonel Blackford for giving us a superb reminder of the importance of remembrance. It was compelling because it was so personal to his own experiences in Afghanistan and also because of our own history – he spoke of the heroism of many OAs, including Michael Allmand (E41) – whose portrait you can see in the library.

The College's history of service in the military sphere is exceptional. Robert Nairac (E66), whose portrait is also in the library, was operating undercover in Northern Ireland – an incredibly brave thing to do. He was captured, tortured and killed in the most brutal way.

David Stirling (C34) helped to develop the SAS and did many brave things. His cousin and fellow commando, Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat (OA29), showed exceptional, unconventional leadership and bravery at Pegasus Bridge and in many other actions in WW2.

In 2000, Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts (J72) was asked to develop the British Army's core values. The values he came up with will be familiar to you – Courage, Discipline, Respect for others, Integrity, Loyalty and Selfless Commitment. Major General Roberts took as his inspiration for this work the Declaration of Independence and his own copy of the Rule of St Benedict.

More recently, Major General Christopher Ghika (E88), who is currently commanding London District, organised and commanded the military parade at the Queen's funeral.

Ampleforth is in the top ten schools supplying officer cadets to Sandhurst, sending between eight to ten a year on average. At Sandhurst the motto is Serve to Lead. It is not an accident that so many OAs are prepared to put themselves forward to serve and to lead. The idea of service as something bigger than ourselves is the Ampleforth Way. The DNA of the College derives from the Benedictine values that were the inspiration for General Roberts rewriting of the Army's core values. It comes from the example of the monastic community, who devote their lives to serving and helping others. Service to others is central to the ethos of this school.

This is why the work of the College's charity Face-Faw, our support for the Friendship Holiday, local primary schools, in Lourdes, and many other service activities, is celebrated and encouraged in this community.

It is worth reminding ourselves in this Remembrance week of our duty to preserve and enhance what makes this College so special – its spirit, ethos and values, without which we would not be Ampleforth.



HEADMASTER'S LECTURE WITH AREK HERSH

By Amelia Echenique (A), Year 13

Arek Hersh, Holocaust survivor, kindly shared his story with Year 13, telling us about the brutality inflicted upon him and millions of others for their race and beliefs. Arek, accompanied by his wife Jean, moved many to tears as they retold the horrors of death camps such as Auschwitz, where he spent seven months at the age of 14. Arek came close to death several times throughout this period, knowing that in order to live he would have to lie about his age and use his ingenuity, exhibiting his true courage and instinct for survival. At 94 years of age, he remembers and speaks about the inhumane conditions to which he was subjected and the atrocities that happened all around him. Arek, unable to even tell his family about the massacres that occurred under Hitler for years, began to write his book 'A Detail in History', line by line.

Having studied the Nazis throughout my time at school, I have never been able to comprehend the brutality the Jews experienced and realise I probably won't even come close. Sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, grandparents, brothers, sisters and cousins were lost due to hate. We have had the privilege of meeting a living piece of history and as a generation must never let the horrors of the Holocaust be forgotten. It is our duty, as some of the final people who will be able to hear such a first-hand account, to keep the stories of those who can no longer tell them alive. We must remember that, as humans, we are valued and should love and respect each other accordingly.



Ampleforth Society Events Roundup 2021-22

As we gradually moved out of the pandemic, we were delighted to start planning for an exciting year of events – and what a year it's been! The first in-person event since Covid hit was the sold-out Northern Counties Dinner in Newcastle, kindly supported by Ben Gibson (C86) and Jonathan Brown (J80). Fr Richard, the Society Chaplain, led Mass before guests enjoyed supper with Head, Robin Dyer and his wife Penny. One week later we were down in the City for the ever-popular Brompton Oratory Mass and Pizza with a record 152 guests joining Fr Edward for Mass in the Little Oratory followed by drinks and pizza in St Wilfrid's Hall upstairs.

Heading north, 55 members of the Society joined Robin and Fr Ambrose, the Dean of the College, for drinks and canapés in Edinburgh while Fr Chad hosted the inaugural Young OAs Sunday Lunch back in London. The following week, the College hosted the annual London Carol Concert in Covent Garden with the Schola treating a packed church to a moving repertoire.

Branching out into more regional events, former SLET Trustee, Richard Tams (J86) and Fr Richard hosted a very successful Sussex and Kent dinner in Tunbridge Wells before the Lent term was rounded off with a Christmas Hog Roast and Quiz in The Windmill back in the Ampleforth Valley.

The much-delayed Old Amplefordian Military Dinner launched the spring season of events for 2022, with over 78 in attendance. This spectacular evening at the Cavalry & Guards Club saw speeches from Robin Dyer, Major

General Chris Ghika (E88), Fr Richard, and Fr Edward as we were joined by many other high-ranking officers from all three services. It was a very special evening indeed with many calls for it to happen more regularly. The London Committee held their first pub night in Battersea with over 40 attending. The 2020 Leavers returned to Ampleforth for their goodbye graduation weekend and had a black-tie ball. In May 2022, we were back at the Brompton Oratory for Mass and Drinks again with Fr Edward leading Mass and Society Trustee, Patrick Tolhurst (C99) and Director of Admissions, Marketing & Communications, Harriet Langdale, making welcome speeches. Another good evening was had by all.

The St Thomas' 75 Year House celebration had a fantastic turn out with 104 OAs of all ages from 1959 to 2021. The Walker and Dunn families had entire families in attendance! The Thomas' old boys flew in from every corner of the world to attend and there was much rejoicing at being with each other again. Former Housemasters Paul Brennan and Jon Mutton were there as well as Fr Henry, Fr Alexander, and Fr Richard who concelebrated Mass before an excellent dinner and speeches. The sharing of memories went on until the early hours. In June, the 1997 leavers got together at the Cavalry & Guards Club with over 55 of them flying in from Moldova, Dubai, Spain, Poland and Austria in order to attend. The next and final Ampleforth Society event of the year was another pub social in Mayfair which saw numbers rise again to over 61 in attendance followed by a thank you Chinese meal for the London committee and ambassadors – phew! Now onto 2022/23...



100 days & 1,800 miles in the saddle:

The Big Hoof ride across Europe

By Louis Hall (EW14)



'The Big Hoof' ride across Europe was undertaken to raise money and awareness for Amna, a charity supporting refugees with their trauma. I had no idea what was going to happen. When the world pushes you, you push back. Or you don't. I bought Sasha, an 8-year-old Arab gelding on 12 March 2022 and we left Siena, Italy, twelve days later. From here we made our way through Tuscany, following the ancient 'Via Francigena,' to Ceparana, a little town nestled into the dark shadows of the Ligurian mountains. On 2 April the first snows of the year began to fall. It quickly became apparent that riding Sasha over these mountains was going to be too dangerous and a waste of his energy (energy that I needed to call upon when things got too much for me). Ditching the saddle and putting my kit in a rucksack we walked as a pair, 20 days in the snow, across the Ligurian mountain range and were the first to do so in recorded history. We both came out of that mountain range older, colder, and stronger. Never again. There is a reason why Hannibal and Napoleon rode over the Alps in May. After sourcing a second-hand saddle, we crossed into France by travelling along the partisan pass that runs through Monte Collardente, from Colle di Nave to La Brigue. As we entered France, we were joined by a Dutch girl called Kiki Ho who had also brought a horse with her, another Arab called Istia. Kiki was a stranger to me before this ride and reached out to my charity, The Big Hoof,

as she wanted an experience to help her come to terms with the tragic loss of her late sister.

From La Brigue we crossed as a four into the Maritime Alps of Provence. The land was green again - 'Les Haute Plaines' - soft and lush to ride upon and, finally, we could really stretch our legs. From Provence we descended into the grasslands of the Camargue. Wild horses, bulls and long beaked birds stalked the translucent route; along the canals to Arles, up the steps of Emperor Tiberius' Amphithéâtre d'Arles' and then along the 'Arles way' until riding into Lourdes, the Basque Country and then, of course, over the Pyrenees. Kiki, the two horses and I crossed the Pyrenees from Sare, a little village near the Bay of Biscay. We decided to follow the 'Camino de Santiago de Compostela' (the northern route) until we reached Oviedo. From here we travelled down upon the 'Camino Primitivo' which took us to the captivating city of Santiago de Compostela, the medieval Arcadia for all Christian pilgrims. Just before entering the city, I had managed to rent two extra horses for friends who wanted to join. We passed underneath the shadows of the Cathedral, built upon the bones of St James, and then rode on to Cape Finisterre, 'the end of the world.' The Big Hoof has since become a charity with the next ride to be held in October 2023, raising money for Cancer Research UK.



75

Years of Bursary Fundraising at Ampleforth



75 years ago, Fr Benet Perceval and a group of Old Amplefordians set out on a fundraising mission in the wake of the Second World War. Their ambition was to engage as many parents, alumni and former parents as possible to support the construction of a War Memorial at Ampleforth College and to provide fee assistance to children who could not otherwise afford to attend Ampleforth.

I don't think they could have anticipated what they managed to achieve. Through thousands of small, and the occasional large, regular "subscriptions" to the War Memorial Fund over the course of a few years they raised enough money not only to build the War Memorial Chapel but they laid the foundation for our longest standing bursary programme at Ampleforth College.

Providing means tested bursaries has always been a cornerstone of Ampleforth, with one in five children over the last twenty-five years having received support to attend the College. Many of these were recipients of Fr Benet's War Memorial Fund, and we have received some significant donations and pledges of support for bursaries over the years, often in the wills of Old Amplefordians. We also have a number of Old Amplefordians and former parents who offer a regular small donation towards the bursary fund every month.

Our mission in the long term is to grow the resources we have available to support this bursary programme, through small and large donations and the long-term impact of legacies. A bursary offered has a long-term impact, no matter its size, and its ripples can be felt far and wide as Amplefordians go on to create real value in the world, in small and large ways.

Rory Smith (H09)

"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 a child. After leaving in 2009, 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."

To find out more about supporting our bursary programme at Ampleforth College, please contact Emma Craig, Head of Development – evc@ampleforth.org.uk

First ever Giving Weekend and Annual Fund

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our students and the support of our parents we are in the process of seeing four fantastic projects take shape in the College for next year – Improved Social Spaces, Refurbishing the Lower Chaplaincy, two new Cricket Pitches and our first ITLC Classroom.

Fundraising for projects in the College has been off the agenda for a while, so this year we dipped our toes in the water with our first ever Annual Fund and a student organised Giving Weekend in March to raise awareness. Thanks to the generosity of parents we raised over £55,000, exceeding our initial target, all in support of these fantastic projects.

Our Giving Weekend was focused on bringing our school together to have fun and celebrate their community. The undoubted highlight was the Inter-House Fancy Dress Competition for years 7 -10 on Saturday night, which saw St John's victorious in two categories. Year 11 had their first taste of the Windmill and all looked

incredible as they learned to ballroom dance and enjoyed spectacular mocktails. The VI Form Debate, with guest speaker Martin Vander Weyer, was a lively discussion and the students ended their evening in Main Hall, surrounding Louis Moss (St John's) as he accompanied them in a singalong around the piano.

As we look ahead, we have a lot to learn from this year. I am delighted that we will be starting our first Parents' Social and Fundraising Committee. This will represent parent views on future fundraising, organise social activities at Ampleforth and further afield, and work with us in building support. The Giving Weekend 2023 is going to be bigger and better, with whole school, staff and parent challenges to bring us together. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the next year.

Thank you for all your support so far.

Emma Craig
Development Office

£55,000 raised

An Ampleforth education is a Compass for Life



www.ampleforthcollege.org.uk