



AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

Appointment of Housemaster

May 2021





Note from the Head

Thank you for your interest in this role. I hope after reading through this information for applicants you will understand why, after 17 years of school leadership and 33 years of teaching, I was persuaded to put my plan to retire to Cornwall and the South of France on hold and become the Head of this wonderful school. On its best day, Ampleforth leads the way in education in this country and I want those best days to be the norm.

Ampleforth's charms are immediate and difficult to resist. The College itself is beautiful beyond compare, with the Abbey at its core and set in the beautiful 'valley.' Once you have absorbed the surroundings, you cannot help but be infused with the ethos, traditions and the history of the College, which are grounded in the Benedictine values that are central to the culture of this place. We can of course interpret the words as we wish, but the values of the school are central to all that we do. For my part, I trust that all staff are attentive to the needs and demands of all students and parents, and furthermore that students are properly attentive to their own needs and those of others.

I trust that staff are hospitable to students and parents as is appropriate, and that students have a social life that is warm and friendly. I trust that staff take responsibility for the learning and welfare of all students, good stewardship is vital in a boarding environment. I trust that staff respect students and parents and in turn be respected for their efforts, and that students respect their environment, their opportunity to learn and grow and, most importantly, each other. Finally, I trust that as a result of this approach the community as a collective, and as individuals, will have integrity and a sense of happy equilibrium. These values are indeed a compass for life, when properly lived minute by minute, and day by day; this has been tried and tested successfully for the benefit of generations of Amplefordians.

My commitment to this community is that we will strive, with clear leadership, energy and resolve, to connect with these values so that we truly live them. It is a very exciting time for the College as we look out upon an educational vista, inspired by the richness, breadth and depth of the Benedictine values. In turn each student is able to fulfil their academic potential, to explore to the full the extraordinary co-curricular opportunities of this boarding environment, and to acquire through excellent pastoral support and spiritual guidance, greater self-awareness, confidence, resilience and empathy for others. This will be an extraordinary journey for each Amplefordian; it is the joy of being a teacher that you can, working closely with parents and other staff, create and witness an almost magical transformation. This is our mission.

Ampleforth College provides a unique educational opportunity that genuinely provides for students a compass that will remain their guide for life. This is an exceptional opportunity for a gifted teacher to have a profound impact within a very special community. I hope, like me, you will find this an irresistible proposition and look forward to receiving your application.

Robin Dyer
Head



Ampleforth College

Founded in 1802 and set in 2,200 acres of beautiful Yorkshire valley, Ampleforth College is the world's foremost Catholic boarding school, welcoming girls and boys of all faiths aged 11-18.

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

Most students are full boarders, joining the School from across the UK and around the world. We offer the breadth of opportunity for each student to discover and develop their interests and strengths with the broadest possible range of co-curricular activities. The College's first-class facilities are backed up by expert staff who ensure that the students get the most out of them.

There is a particular focus on charity work and service with students involved in many local community projects. The Combined Cadet Force, with both Army and Royal Air Force Sections, is also extremely popular.

Robin Dyer, who joined as Head in September 2019, is leading a drive to reinvigorate Ampleforth's tradition of independent thinking and learning in all aspects of school life, critical skills for university and the world of work. Students are constantly encouraged to volunteer their opinions and ideas and are equipped with the skills and mindset needed to flourish.

In 2018, Ampleforth College underwent a full governance review and in October 2018 a framework agreement was signed between the St Laurence Education Trust (SLET), which is the proprietor, and the Ampleforth Abbey Trust which ensures that the Trusts operate as independent charities with clarity of responsibilities and boundaries. The agreement places the highest priority on the safeguarding of students.

"THERE IS A GREAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE. I THINK IT IS VERY SPECIAL. AMPLEFORTH IS MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL. IF YOU SPEND ANY LENGTH OF TIME HERE YOU WILL SEE WHAT I MEAN."

Katie, Old Amplefordian



Being a Housemaster at Ampleforth College

PASTORAL RESPONSIBILITY:

At Ampleforth, Housemasters and Housemistresses hold an important boarding position as part of strong House teams led by the Housemaster or Housemistress of one of the Houses at Ampleforth. They lead on all aspects of the safety, welfare and formation of the students in their care, aiming to help them be the best that they can be in all aspects of their lives. They develop important relationships, which can transform the lives of the students in their care. They work as part of a team which comprises of a Housemaster or Housemistress, Assistant, Tutors, Matron and House chaplain.

A Housemaster or Housemistress is expected to work with their House teams to foster a home away from home for students and to integrate year groups within the House as well as between other Houses. As leader of the House team they ensure that day students and boarders form cohesive networks. In addition, they have direct oversight of the academic culture of work in the House through a team of tutors.

Housemasters and Housemistresses have a reduced teaching timetable of about half that normally allocated. Any subject offered by Ampleforth College will be acceptable. Many Housemasters and Housemistresses also contribute to games or a co-curricular activity. Teaching occurs on Monday to Saturday. A 24 hour day off is timetabled on one day Monday – Friday each week.

Housemaster

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Housemasters/Housemistresses are the key leaders for the personal flourishing and formation of the young people in their care. The range of responsibilities is set out in the school policies available on the website of which the Safeguarding of Children is paramount.

Carrying out duties in the most cost-effective and efficient way, demonstrating all due care to safer practice for children and for all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

Housemasters/Housemistresses are expected to contribute to the fulfilment of the College's Mission Statement in the following ways:

- To encourage the spiritual and moral development of the students both by supporting the prayer and sacramental life of their House and of the College and also by providing both formal and informal instruction and example
- To ensure that prioritising the safeguarding of children is part of the House team's culture.
- To provide a context in the House where students are safe, healthy and respected
- To promote a culture of work amongst all the students that both challenges and rewards their efforts
- To help build up a House team including Chaplain, Matron, Tutors, Pastoral Graduate and Student Monitors that will work together in running the House
- To nurture the House community, so that students are supported by the care of the staff and the friendships of their peers
- To include parents in the education of their children through regular contact, both pro-active communication of news and also rapid response to enquiries
- To enable the students to engage in the extra-curricular activities of the College and so fulfil their particular talents and gifts
- To foster a sense of service amongst the students, both to themselves and to the wider world

"THE HOUSE IS THE ESSENCE OF AMPLEFORTH FOR A BOARDER AND A DAY STUDENT HERE. EACH HOUSE HAS THEIR OWN IDENTITY; ALL OF THE STUDENTS THINK THAT THEIRS IS THE BEST, PROBABLY WITHIN TWO HOURS OF LIVING IN IT. INDIVIDUALS ARE ACCEPTED AT AMPLEFORTH; YOU CAN BE WHOEVER YOU WANT TO BE."

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Housemaster/Housemistress works in line with the College's Mission Statement and College's policies, under the overall direction of the Headmaster. Working with the House team of the Assistant Housemaster/Housemistress, Chaplain, Matron and the Tutors and in close communication with the students' parents, is responsible for the students in this House, in the following areas:

- their spiritual faith, in liaison with the central Chaplaincy
- their safety, in liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- their physical and emotional welfare, in liaison with the Infirmary
- their good behaviour, in liaison with the Deputy Head
- their studies, in liaison with the Deputy Head Academic
- their extra-curricular games and activities, in liaison with the relevant departments and the Director of Co-curricular and the Head of Games
- their health and safety, in liaison with the Director of Health and Safety and the Fire Officer
- their facilities, in liaison with the Estate's department.

The Housemasters/Housemistresses report to

- the Deputy Head Pastoral and Wellbeing through the weekly Housemasters/Housemistresses meeting, regular line-manager meetings, House inspections and an annual Professional Development Review (Appraisal)

The Housemaster/Housemistress manages

- the Matron through regular meetings and an annual Professional Review
- the Assistant Housemaster/Housemistress and the Tutors through weekly meetings and as contributors for Professional Reviews (Appraisals)

The Housemaster/Housemistress communicates with

- Parents through regular contact, termly reports and rapid response to any enquiries
- Academic staff in response to their concerns over students
- The Admissions Office over Prospective Parents' visits and house lists
- The Estates Department over house maintenance and development.

"LIVING WITH SUCH A WIDE VARIETY OF PEOPLE AND CHARACTERS REALLY SETS YOU UP FOR WORKING LIFE - YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS ARE VERY WELL TUNED, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE MODERN WORKPLACE."

Andrew, Old Amplefordian

The Housemaster/Housemistress appoints:

- The Head of House, the Deputy Head of House and any other House monitors

The Housemaster/Housemistress should make available to the House the following:

- Safeguarding Contact Details
- Complaints Procedure
- House Timetable
- House Rules and Routines
- List of House Officials

The Housemaster/Housemistress should have to hand:

- Emergency contact numbers
- Ampleforth College Boarding Policies and Procedures

The Housemaster/Housemistress should be familiar with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2020)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)
- The National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (March 2015)
- What to do if you're worried a Child is being abused – Advice for Practitioners (March 2015)
- Policies (available on the School's Sharepoint page)
- The School Medical Protocols



PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Essential:

- Practising Roman Catholic
- PGCE or equivalent
- Experience of responsibility for boarding across the 12-19 age range
- Experience of managing parental expectations
- Experience of teaching across the 12-19 age range
- Experience of monitoring and challenging academic performance of students
- Evidence of being a team player
- Experience of building a team
- Experience of line-managing others
- Evidence of good negotiation and problem resolution skills
- Excellent communications skills with adults and teenagers
- Proficient in electronic communication
- Demonstrates initiative and commitment
- Evidence of stamina
- A sense of humour
- The ability to work under pressure
- Show the ability to evaluate and improve performance of self and others
- An empathy for the works of the Monastic Community
- Satisfy all criteria and checks relating to suitability to work in a school environment

Desirable:

- Good degree (2.1 or above) in a relevant Ampleforth teaching subject
- Boarding Schools' Association qualification or training (desirable on appointment, essential on take-up of post)
- Further post-graduate study or further qualifications or training
- Experience of implementing and evaluating whole school pastoral initiatives
- Experience of planning and managing school/social events
- Ability to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school in sport and activities





“AMPLEFORTH IS TRULY A SPECIAL PLACE. NOT ONLY IS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM EXCELLENT, BUT WITH A COMBINATION OF ENDLESS ACTIVITIES AND THE BENEDICTINE ETHOS, IT’S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN THRIVE.”

Anna, Old Amplefordian



“SINCE JOINING AMPLEFORTH MY CONFIDENCE HAS GROWN ENORMOUSLY, LARGELY BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE PUT MORE FAITH IN ME, WHICH HAS ALLOWED ME TO FLOURISH.”

Luis-Paul, Year 13

Why Ampleforth?

Ampleforth relies on a set of Benedictine core values, which form the foundation of our approach to all our works and how we work with one another:

Attentiveness

We strive to listen carefully to one another and show awareness of individual needs. Attentiveness means taking colleagues seriously and creating a better working environment for all.

Hospitality

We pride ourselves on being noted for our warmth, acceptance and joy in welcoming others.

Respect

We strongly believe that if we really listen to other people, then we are treating them with respect. We should always be patient and seek to understand others.

Integrity

We encourage and expect our staff to speak the truth and act accordingly.

Stewardship

As well as valuing the beauty of our environment, we appreciate and care properly for all the things that we need and use to do our jobs.

Equilibrium

The Benedictine notion of balance involves using our resources wisely and avoiding over-indulgence in all areas of life; we seek to establish a proper work-life balance.



"MY TIME AT AMPLEFORTH WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAKE ME BECOME THE PERSON I AM TODAY. I THINK IT TAUGHT ME TO BE INDEPENDENT, CURIOUS ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT TAUGHT ME TO BE A BETTER PERSON OVERALL. I TRULY BELIEVE AMPLEFORTH GIVES YOU A COMPASS FOR LIFE."

Pierre, Old Amplefordian

Apply now

For more information or to discuss the role further, please contact the Deputy Head Pastoral and Wellbeing, Jon Mutton:
Jon.Mutton@ampleforth.org.uk

The Trust is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and will take every possible step to ensure fair and equal treatment of all. All Trust policies and practices will support the commitment to equality of opportunity in respect of any recruitment, and selection process. No member of staff or applicant will be unfairly disadvantaged by the Trust policies or practices.

Safeguarding and Child protection at Ampleforth Abbey Trust

Ampleforth College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All applicants must be willing to undergo recruitment screening processes including interview, references from past employers and a Disclosure and Barring check will be carried out on all successful applicants. All posts at Ampleforth are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. We therefore require applicants to declare all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as 'spent'. All information provided will be treated as confidential.

Our Safeguarding Policy can be accessed via our website. Any offer of employment is made subject to a full range of checks and satisfactory references.

The Application Process

If you have enjoyed reading about life here in the Ampleforth valley, and would like to join the team, we encourage you to apply. Applications should be made via our on-line system. Please visit www.ampleforthcollege.org.uk/careers/ to start your application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the HR Department on 01439 766069 or email humanresources@ampleforth.org.uk

The interview process will in school and will include students and staff. Further details will be provided once the short-list has been agreed.

Deadline for applications: Midday on Monday 17th May 2021

Interviews are likely to take place on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st May 2021

"THIS SCHOOL CARES ABOUT ITS STUDENTS, SO WHEN THEY GO OUT INTO THE WIDER WORLD THEY WILL SUCCEED IN A MORAL CONTEXT, IN A FAMILY CONTEXT. IT'S TRYING TO DO SOMETHING BEYOND ACADEMICS, AND I THINK THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. "

Helen Pepper, Head of Christian Theology



*An Ampleforth education is
a compass for life*

Co-educational boarding and day school for Years 9 to 13



Ampleforth College, York, YO62 4ER

01439 766863 admissions@ampleforth.org.uk

www.ampleforth.org.uk/college