

St Martin's **Ampleforth**
PREPARATORY SCHOOL







From the Headmaster

I moved to St. Martin's Ampleforth with my family because we wanted to provide the best possible education for our children. The combination of Benedictine spirituality, high ideals and achievement housed in a castle and surrounded by 3000 acres of parkland, woods and lakes proved irresistible.

I hope this same sense of wonderment leaps out at you from these pages and, at the very least, encourages you to visit this special place.

Nick Higham

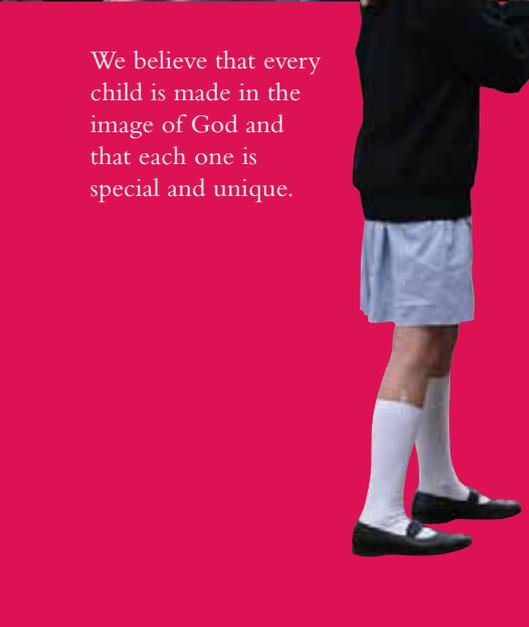
'Charming, brisk, businesslike, loves his job (and children), has clearly got a grip on the place.'

The Good Schools Guide

'Ampleforth is... the country's foremost Catholic school.'

The Good Schools Guide





We believe that every child is made in the image of God and that each one is special and unique.

What kind of school are we? We are a Community...

'We will help the boys and girls of St. Martin's Ampleforth to grow up inspired by high ideals and capable of leadership, so that they may serve others generously, be strong in friendship and loving and loyal toward their families.'

We are predominantly a Catholic boarding school, and, rooted in that tradition, we concentrate on creating a caring community in which the strong have something to strive for and the weak have nothing to hide from. Children are quickly integrated into the school community with no distinctions between boys and girls, boarders and day-pupils, prep and pre-prep or Catholic and non-Catholic.

A community flourishes when we realize that none of us is as important as all of us. We care for and support the children, and give them the opportunity to care for and support each other as they grow together. Through their exercise of responsibility in the school and through the efforts they make to reach out to those less fortunate than themselves beyond the school community they both learn how to build a community and how to lay the foundation for friendships that have depth and will endure.

Pre-prep

The Pre-prep children are very much part of the school community, while the individual needs of this age group are fully recognised. The children enjoy the comprehensive facilities of the main school and the skills of specialist staff, but the pre-prep also has its own separate classroom block, teachers, play area, and changing rooms.

We offer every child the opportunity to learn in a beautiful environment – the majestic Gilling Castle. The pupils can experience a childhood not possible in other parts of the country, having the use of 3000 acres of grounds, gardens, woods, farmland and lakes and even a 9 hole golf course.

Together with you we work to set your child on the road to adulthood as someone who is courteous, independent-minded and confident.

Education is a partnership so parents are made to feel part of the wider community with easy access to staff, and parents of boarders are always welcome to come and see their children.





...of Prayer...

'We will educate boys and girls in the life of the Christian faith and encourage them towards a free and mature responsibility in adult life.'

The Benedictine tradition has 1500 years of nurturing the whole person through a holistic but rigorous education. The children are taught to find God in each other, and in so doing they learn the power of community.

We aim to support families in the religious upbringing of their children so they grow up confident in the knowledge that God loves them and cares for every detail of their existence.

We believe that our community offers the freedom for children to grow spiritually, creatively and with a love for learning whatever church or faith background they come from.

The common celebration of the Eucharist provides the ideal start for rest of the day, whether that day be a special one or an ordinary school day; the great feasts of the Church's year form the heart of our school year, and a focus of special joy in the school's life with our own saint's day, St. Martin's Day, being a day of special celebration.

At St Martin's Ampleforth we try to be a community where Christ informs every part of our lives.







...of Achievement...

We will work for excellence in all our academic, sporting and cultural endeavours'





Our society, more so than in the past, puts unconstructive pressure on children. The Catholic community promotes a reduction in peer pressure, with which comes an acceleration of performance. At St. Martin's Ampleforth achievement is placed firmly in the context of Christian unity, so that everyone may benefit from all that is achieved individually.

Music underpins the life of the school. We are a singing community, and both boys and girls have the opportunity to sing in choirs which perform regularly and tour both around Britain and abroad. Three-quarters of the children learn a musical instrument and we regularly win music scholarships.

Sport plays an important part in the life of the school. Our best teams play to a high standard and play and win against teams all over the North of England and even in Scotland. All the teams know that we encourage them to play to the best of their ability and that the efforts they make are valued and appreciated.





...and of Character

'We ask all to give of their best. We encourage all to value learning and the pursuit of truth. We ask much from the children's strengths and support them in their weaknesses.'

Growing up is about more than what goes on in the classroom. We encourage our children to take up the many opportunities that we offer to broaden their horizons. Some of these happen during the school week and give the chance to deepen an enthusiasm first kindled in the classroom – such as our Junior Science Club. Others form part of our weekend programme, which offers the boarding community a range of activities from adventurous abseiling to cultural visits to the theatre or opera.

Regular visitors also offer new perspectives. A visiting author can bring reading to life, and musicians can extend the boundaries of our musical appreciation.



We aim to keep the children busy and happy, stimulated and challenged by a wide variety of activities to develop sides of themselves that they may not have suspected were there.



Invitation to School

Whilst we would like to think that we have answered some of your questions in this booklet, we realise that you may have many more. You may be wondering if your child will have the opportunity to learn Greek (in fact they will) or to learn to swim (swimming takes place once a week for every class from Reception to Year 5), but the best way to have your questions answered is to put them directly to the Headmaster.

Please do come and see us and find out for yourself how happy your child will be here.

Please contact:

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St. Laurence Education Trust registered Charity No 1063808



A monastery and a school that overlap provide depth, perspective and fixed reference points, not just during the child's life at school but for their whole life.

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