

from THE HEADMASTER

TO ALL PARENTS OF BOYS IN ST DUNSTAN'S HOUSE

AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE
YORK YO62 4ER
Tel: +44 (0)1439 766800
Fax: +44 (0)1439 788330
E-mail:
headmaster@ampleforth.org.uk
www.college.ampleforth.org.uk

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Dear Parents

This letter accompanies that of Fr Abbot about the retirement in a year's time of Fr Oswald from his housemastership of St Dunstan's.

I want first, like the Abbot, to acknowledge that such news often brings sadness and disappointment. Many of you I know will have chosen St Dunstan's because of Fr Oswald and I am sure that he will be missed. Still my experience as Headmaster over the past six years is that such changes, which as we all know happen in life, can be managed well and happily particularly in a well run boarding house with a strong identity.

As a matter of priority, I will be looking to recruit an excellent candidate as Housemaster of St Dunstan's for September 2011, when Fr Oswald steps down and I will be in touch with you as soon as I have made this appointment.

Over the past six years we have spent over £500,000 on the improvement of facilities and refurbishment in St Oswald's and St Dunstan's (the Nevill House building). In the light of this present decision, we are making further plans. We now intend to build four-bedroomed housemaster accommodation for both houses, to be ready in time for September 2011. These houses will be connected to the existing building at ground and first floor level. We are at the same time making a longer term plan to ensure that the two boarding houses are brought further into line with all the houses in terms of facilities and accommodation.

These building plans are needful, but both the Abbot and I are very mindful that we must make a good appointment of a Chaplain for St Dunstan's, once a lay housemaster is in place. Appointment to this important post, which reflects a key aspect of the continuing monastic influence in the school, will be made and communicated to you in due course.

With prayers and best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Fr Gabriel Everitt OSB, MA, DPhil