



DOWNSIDE SCHOOL
PRESS RELEASE

Friday 11th May 2018
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW HEAD MASTER OF DOWNSIDE SCHOOL
ANNOUNCED

We are delighted to announce that the Governors and Trustees have appointed Andrew Hobbs as the new Head Master for Downside School with effect from 1st September 2018.

Mr Hobbs said of the news, ***“I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Head Master and am excited about the journey ahead. Downside is a very special place and I look forward to building on the strong foundation of excellence that ensures our pupils continue to enter into the world as powerful ambassadors for good.”***

The Chair of Governors, Adrian Aylward, said, ***“We’re delighted to appoint Andrew as Head Master. He is completely committed to further raising standards across all areas of school life and to the Benedictine values that define the character of Downside and its pupils.”***

Andrew was educated at Worth School and read classics at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he also gained a rugby blue. He taught at Canford School where he was Head of Classics and then a House Master before joining Downside as Deputy Head in 2008 and becoming Acting Head in January of this year.

The appointment process was competitive and attracted a strong field of candidates from around the world, including serving Heads. The Governors are convinced of Andrew’s commitment to further raising standards across school life, the pursuit of excellence, and the espousal of the Benedictine values that make Downside such a special place.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Press contact Claire Rawles: crawles@downside.co.uk / 01761 235151

High-resolution photographs link: <https://we.tl/9O63z1vcWQ>

Downside School: A Life Fully Lived

Downside is primarily a boarding school for girls and boys, with all that means in terms of friendships, independence and life skills. Downside is also a Catholic School. That means that here we are encouraged to

have a genuine concern for the good of others. It means respecting their needs, even when they are not our friends. It means that at Downside wisdom is where strength and compassion both live, so that in all facets of our lives, academic, sports, music, arts, we strive to be as good as we can be, and we strive to be as kind as we can be.

Whilst all schools are expected to give learning, Downside gives meaning to our lives that goes well beyond the classroom and sports field. And in this way we are better able to grasp our vocation in life, and to fulfil our purpose. Academically if you are capable of achieving an A* in a subject, you will do it here. And if you are not, our value-added rating will ensure you perform above your predicted potential. We are used to high achievement, in academics, sport and all the other hundred activities available here, but the difference is this – achievement is always allied to kindness and compassion.

We believe that this is what is needed now. By our employers, by our neighbours, by our friends, our spouses, our apparent adversaries. In short, by the world in which we live. And therefore we go out into the world as, we hope, powerful ambassadors for good. And that means with a sense of purpose and a set of values which in the end will lead to a life fully lived. <https://www.downside.co.uk/downside-school/>