



STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

A letter to the Third Form retreatants from the Heads of School,
Katharina Lützenkirchen and Nicholas Hobbs

16th September 2020

Katharina and I would like to welcome you all to Downside – whether you are a new or returning student.

We would like to explain to you very briefly the importance of community at Downside. As returning students, know ‘community’ is a very large part of Downside life, if not the most important part. I’m sure by now lots of you will have made many new friends on your arrival to Powell, Isabella or Caverel. Without knowing it, all of you have started to form very strong relationships with each other (we certainly did on first arriving at Downside), and have managed to form a community with your peers in your year group ‘bubbles and within your Houses.

Some of you may still be wondering what a community is. Our interpretation of a community and the community at Downside is very different. According to Google a community is ‘a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common’. Now this statement is not wrong about Downside, but neither is it right. We need to add something to it to understand the community you are now a part of. We are a group of people living in the same place, but we come from all four corners of the globe to live and learn together in one small area of Somerset which is so special. We all have different interests, but at Downside it’s the loving, caring and spiritual relationships we have with each other within this one-of-a-kind community that make Downside so unique. If you yourself have any ideas to define the Downside community, we would love to hear them.

We hope you have a very fun and moving retreat, and if you would ever like to speak to us we will be very open to help in any way we can.

Thank you.

Katharina (Head Girl) & Nicholas (Head Boy)