

# Yorkshire Life

**A+ EDUCATION**

**Autumn 2020**

a return to school for their daughters in June, many were so impressed with the remote learning programme, they wanted to know what the advantages would be for the girls to come into school!

## **AYSGARTH SCHOOL** **Rob Morse, headteacher**

Here at Aysgarth, and in addition to hosting a small Support School for the children of critical workers, we launched what we termed 'Remote Aysgarth'. In developing this, we tried to ensure that we maintain as many aspects as possible from what is offered when the children are physically on-site.

As such, the overwhelming majority of lessons were taught 'live' via Google classroom and associated applications by the children's own teachers. But the essence of Aysgarth goes beyond this. The pastoral care, support for individuals and the ability for the children (and parents) to contact staff is paramount, and this remains unchanged.

But again, Aysgarth stands for more than this alone. It is about the development of character, of camaraderie, of respect and service to others. This, too, is a feature of Remote Aysgarth. We continued with daily morning chapel services and a weekly Sunday service, and assemblies continued to provide the opportunity to disseminate key messages with regard to values, charity and civic duty.

Never before has there been so much pressure on our children. It is therefore all the more important to ensure that we provide our children with the environment to stay healthy, and with the tools and skills to maintain this.

This starts, of course, with a healthy work/life balance, for if we cannot provide this for our children when they are still at school, what hope is there for them as they enter the wider world? Traditional boarding prep schools provide time for a full education and here at Aysgarth we pride ourselves on the fact that the boys spend half of the day in academic pursuits, leaving the other half for creative, physical and enjoyment based activities. Exactly the right work/life balance to enable the children to enjoy



*Above:* The stunning grounds of Aysgarth School

“It is about the development of character, of camaraderie, of respect and service to others”

their schooling, keep healthy whilst building confidence, and develop friendships along the way.



## STEP INTO THE UNKNOWN

Through a variety of means, our schools have stood up to the coronavirus crisis with aplomb – but what comes next?

WORDS: Mark Kebble