

26. He described being beaten by Soper, who he knew as Father Laurence and said that he had checked for padding around his bottom in a very intrusive way. He described Soper as very intense and frightening when angry. He explained how he was picked on and regularly beaten. He was accused of stealing **DPA** which he had not but he was marked out as a thief and was subjected to public ridicule and acts of cruelty.
27. Over time and due to his experiences **RC-A8** becomes violent. Violence became his defence mechanism.
28. He described how the defendant sexually abused him on at least 2 occasions.
29. **RC-A8** said the first occasion was in the first term (winter) of the lower 5<sup>th</sup> in 1975 when he was about 14. He described how some (5) boys had been 'horsing' around and as a result got into trouble and they were due to be caned. Their Divisions Master was Gilbert Harrison but as he was away Soper took over the administering of discipline. He described how there were a number of boys to be punished. It came to his turn. He describes Soper as appearing nervous and saying "always in trouble aren't you". He asked when **RC-A8** bent over whether he had an exercise book down there. **RC-A8** described how Soper put his hand on his buttocks and was rubbing his hand up and down and was pulling at the material of his trousers. He said that Soper's fingers were putting undue pressure on him and seemingly wanting to probe his anus. He explained that if his underpants had been any looser the fingers would have made contact through the material with his anus. He said he felt right down, just to the beginning of his crutch. **RC-A8** was then caned. **RC-A8** explained this wasn't a teacher checking for padding this was a fondling of his buttocks and lasted so much longer then could ever be justified as checking for padding. When the caning finished the defendant told him to "get out". Whilst **RC-A8** accepted he was an insolent boy the defendant seemed on the verge of an angry explosion.
30. Generally he said he didn't have much to do with the defendant although he recalled him teaching him maths and possibly taking a few English classes.
31. **RC-A8** told the police that his prior experience of sexual abuse led him to recognise Soper's behaviour.
32. He described another occasion when Soper abused him in his final year at school, probably summer term. He described the same behaviour as before but this time it was even more intrusive in that more force was used, he describes it as a violent goosing such that it caused him to stumble forwards. [Touching buttocks and pushing

fingers between the crack of his buttocks towards his anus]. After the 'full on goosing, a sexual assault' he was beaten violently.

33. The 2 sexual assaults were just over a year apart.
34. **RC-A8** described another occasion when he was caught using the 6<sup>th</sup> form staircase which was not allowed. Soper decided that he should be beaten. At this **RC-A8** refused saying he was not allowed to be beaten without his parents' consent. He remembers saying "phone my mother". The defendant said he had phoned her and at the end of the day he ordered **RC-A8** to report for a beating. You will hear the detail. He described how he was insolent. He was told to bend over and **RC-A8** confronted Soper saying he was 16 and didn't have to comply. He described how Soper laid into him with the cane drawing blood. **RC-A8** attempted to defend himself and punched Soper. He was later expelled.
35. **RC-A8** said he had read the Jonathan West blog and had contributed to it. He was shown an entry made on the **DPA** 2009 ["...he seemed to enjoy checking boy's bottoms for protective padding before beating".]
36. **RC-A8** explained that he was not interested in revenge or how Soper should be punished. His aims in coming forward were firstly to call the organisation to account for its serial cover up and secondly to help to destigmatise such sexual abuse so that men like him could talk about what happened to them and understand that they had been targeted by predators and assaulted and they need feel no shame.
37. **Counts 7 to 10 [8-11]** **RC-A608** **RC-A608** (date of birth **DPA** 1966) went to St Benedict's School in about 1976/77 and left in 1982 when he was 16. He was at the Middle School at the time the defendant was the Head Master and he remembers the defendant's office was at the top of the building and it over looked the playground. He remembers that the defendant taught some lessons including RE. **RC-A608** describes the defendant as "the scariest of the monks there. He was a disciplinarian and never smiled". He described how it was well know that the defendant would offer options of 6 beatings with a cane with trousers up or 3 with trousers and pants down and this would be lying across his lap or across his desk. The 6 beatings would be aggressive and painful but the 3 beatings were much lighter. As a result when Soper gave him the option he would opt for the three beatings. He told police he was caned by the defendant at least half a dozen times.
38. **RC-A608** recalls being placed on 'report' for poor performance from March/April to May of his last year at middle school. Whilst on report he would have