

I had told him and in return he had been beaten. I think that he wanted reassurance that he had done the right thing. He was very upset and I have never asked him exactly what form the punishment took. I thought that it was unfair that he had been punished, when it must have been obvious that many of the boys had been making a noise. [REDACTED] **DPA**

[REDACTED] **DPA** Laurence would offer the boys six strokes with their pants up or 3 strokes on their bare backsides. I thought this was rather deviant, but I thought it was for those parents to make a complaint and I thought that 'the higher ups' at the school and the Abbey would deal with it.

When I taught at the school it was exclusively in the Junior School and I had no real contact with the older boys.

At some point Laurence became Bursar and then Abbot. Then about halfway through his second term as Abbot, he suddenly disappeared. We were told that he had medical issues. Initially we did not know where he had gone, but later we heard that he had gone to St Anselm's in Rome. My wife and I were visiting Rome and we decided to contact Laurence and meet him for dinner. At this time we had no idea of any allegations.

I am not sure when we did hear, but it would have been in the media, saying that he had 'skipped bail'. When I heard this I was very disappointed and sad for Laurence, it made me think about what had been said. I had always wanted to think the best of him, but this forced me to reconsider. The only thing I know about the allegations are what I have read or heard in the media. I have no idea of the details of the allegations.

Signature: Leo HOPLEY  
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Signature witnessed by: BOB MODDREL