



The Headmaster's Newsletter

29 April 2009

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of a long, but successful, Easter Term. I hope that you and your families will enjoy this holiday, which is the most inspiring time for Christians.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs. Doreen Cummings, wife of Mr. Cummings our Chairman of Governors, who is undergoing medical treatment.

Mrs. Vicky Anderson, English teacher, who remains on ill-health absence leave.

Mr. Tony Smith, Old Boy and Head of 6th Form and History here for many years who is currently a patient at APH.

Mr. Chris Boyle, a history teacher here for many years, who is also a patient at APH.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mr. Michael Bowditch, an Old Boy and a teacher here until his retirement 20 years ago.

Mr. John Moscrop, an Old Boy of the College and a well-known local estate agent.

Mr. John Lowry, an Old Boy of the College

All these gentlemen passed away in the last couple of weeks. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to

Jake Dolan, Nick Kelly, Alex St. John, Elliott Swift-Barrett (all Y8) and Michael Suffield, Joe Neal, Aris Robinson (all Y9) who have won the RoboCup National Final Soccer Activity and now go on to compete in the World Finals in Graz, Austria in July. RoboCup is an international competition where teams are required to build and programme robots to perform certain activities.

Calum Bourke, Alex Strother, Matthew Westby (all Y8) and Edward Camphor, Liam Cottier, Peter Nolan (all Y9) put in a creditable performance in the Rescue Activity.

Congratulations to all boys and good luck to the soccer group in the Final in July. The **Year 10 7s Squad** who won the Shield at the Cheshire U-15 tournament. **Jordan Lomax (c), Joe Loxham, Micah Harty-Wint, Sean Sullivan, Matthew Walton, Harry O'Loughlin, Luke Swann, Luke Williams, Jack Williams, Louis Gorman & James Harrison.** The **Year 8 7s Squad** which has reached 3 semi-finals this season. The **Year 7 rugby teams** who regained the Thompson Cup from Calday with victories by the **A & B Teams (50-0 & 12-5) and a narrow defeat for the C team 15-12.**

Selling of Sweets

There has been of outbreak of sweet-selling recently. This activity can lead to fights and theft and is therefore banned. Any boys engaged in such practices will be excluded and their ill-gotten gains confiscated. Sweets are not allowed to be sold in schools under DCSF food regulations and we will not let any student subvert these necessary rules. The Governors & I expect the full co-operation of parents in this matter. It is simply an issue of common sense.

Books for Schools

The College is registered with The Times and Sunday Times for their Books for Schools promotion. The tokens appear daily – 4 in The Sunday Times, 3 on a Saturday and 1 each day Monday to Friday. The tokens can be exchanged for a selection of books suitable for the College Library. However, as some books require as many as 100 tokens, we need as many as possible. Collection boxes are located in Reception, the Library and Room 110. The promotion lasts until July. Please ask your relatives, friends and neighbours to contribute. Thank you.

Cross Country

Our teams performed magnificently in the recent **Northern Schools Cup Final** in Stockport, **winning 3 of the 5 Boys' races.** Congratulations to the **Year 8 Team** who retained their season unbeaten

record, with an individual victory for **Matthew Westby.** **Daniel Jarvis** finished 2nd and **Tarique Al-Shabazz** 4th. The **Year 9 Team** matched their achievement with 1st place, following outstanding runs from **Matthew Byrne (2nd), Andrew Desmond (6th) & Liam Gawne (7th).** The **Senior Team** ran superbly to register an unexpected victory, led home by **Jon-Philip Seymour (2nd).** **Chris McLoughlin** marked his final appearance for the College with a winner's badge. The **Year 7 Team** finished 3rd & the **KS4 team 6th.** The **Junior Teams** again won the **Trefoil Trophy**, but we were surprisingly edged into 2nd place overall, as a new scoring system has been introduced, presumably to prevent us from winning every year(?)!

Congratulations to our Relay Teams who dominated the **Wirral Spring Relays** with victories for **Year 7 (100m), Year 8 (100 & 800m), Year 9 (100 & 800m) & year 10 (800m).**

As a result of these successes the following students were selected to represent Merseyside County schools in the English Schools Finals at Leicester on 21st March - **Matthew Byrne, William Reynolds & Matthew Westby (Juniors), Sam Robinson (Inters), Andrew Gawne & Jon-Philip Seymour (Seniors).**

Key Dates

April

4-21st incl. – Easter Holiday (Staff INSET on 20th)

21st – College re-opens for students

24th – Anselmian Association – Anselmian Day Dinner

May

8th – Colours' Presentation for Y 11-13

20th – Visit to the College of His

Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

July

17th End of Summer Term

College Travel Plan Mission Statement

The students, staff and Governors of St. Anselm's College are working in partnership with the local community, other local schools, Mersey Travel and Wirral Local Authority to ensure that our

students can travel to and from the College safely. We aim to develop strategies and initiatives that will encourage staff, our young people and their parents to consider the impact that their chosen mode of travel has on their own health and on the environment.

The benefits are:
For the College

- Improve safety
- Reduce congestion
- Establish safer walking and cycling routes
- Increased awareness of environment issues surrounding transport
- Links to the National Curriculum, including citizenship/KS3 cross-curricular dimensions

For the Local Community

- Improve the local environment by reducing air and noise pollution
- Reduce congestion problems
- Improve walking routes
- Improve road safety

For the Parents

- Reduce stress and time spent in traffic jams

For the Students

- Improve health and fitness by walking and cycling
- Improve travel awareness and road user skills
- Improve awareness of the surroundings
- More aware of their impact and future impact on the global environment

The SHARP System

SHARP stands for School Help and Advice Reporting Page. This has been set up by Merseyside Police to allow students to report, in confidence, incidents to do with bullying, health, community issues, weapons and hate crimes. There is a link from the College website to the SHARP System and from the Anti-Bullying

section of the MLE. The web address is www.thesharpsystem.com Once on, students need to go to **sharp schools** then **north west** and then **Wirral** (they will need to scroll quite far down the page). They will then find St. Anselm's College, where there are a series of links on issues relevant to young people today. They can also report issues concerning them from this page via email.

College Discos

From time to time the College holds fundraising discos for Years 7 and 8. These discos are held in the College Hall and supervised by staff from the College. Other discos, which may be advertised as school discos, are not sanctioned by the College, nor are they supervised by College staff. You may wish to keep this in mind before giving permission for your son to attend these events!

Free School Meals

If you, or your spouse, are in receipt of Income Support OR Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance OR Guaranteed Pension Credit OR Child Tax Credit, with a total annual taxable income of **LESS THAN £14,495 BUT NOT RECEIVING WORKING TAX CREDIT**, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and a school uniform grant (for Year 7 only). You should contact the Local Authority if you think you meet the above criteria.

Forgotten lunches PE kits

Please remind your sons that if they have left their lunch, PE kits or any other property at home to please go to Reception to check if it has been handed in by a parent. Items (marked with the boy's name) will then be left in the 'Collections Tray' for collection by them. The staff in the Main Office are extremely busy and it can take several minutes checking the timetable and then delivering the items to the student concerned.

Absence line

A further reminder – if your son is absent please call the direct line for absentees – **651 3576** – and leave a message **before 9.00 am** on each day that he is off school.

Absence Calls

If a boy is not marked in the Register he is regarded as absent and the Receptionist, Mrs. Peers has been instructed to ring a

parental contact number. All boys who are late must sign the late book to prevent this happening. These calls can cause distress to parents, but have to be made to ensure a boy's welfare. **If your son is late and has failed to sign the late book then he is to blame for any distress caused. Please emphasise to him that it is HIS responsibility to ensure that he signs the late book.** This includes boys on the H5&H7 Buses, who must also sign in when the buses are late.

Hair Styles & Appearance

The College Policy is clear. Boys who have shaved heads will be sent home until their hair grows as will those with hair below the collar until it is cut. **No dyed or highlighted hair is allowed.** This rule applies equally to 6th Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. And **anyone returning after Easter** with an inappropriate hairstyle will be sent home. **No earrings or piercings are allowed, including for 6th Formers.**

iPods/CD Players

A reminder of the College Policy. Boys SHOULD NOT bring these increasingly expensive items to College as we cannot guarantee their security. If a boy in Y7-11 openly brandishes one it is liable to confiscation. Any boy bringing a mobile phone to College does so at his own risk. Confiscated items will only be returned on Fridays after school. To reclaim an item, a pupil must bring a letter from a parent, which Mrs. Howlett or myself will countersign. Confiscated items cannot be reclaimed on any day other than Friday. Electronic equipment, including personal possessions, now plays an important part in student learning. However, it can be misused! I remind all parents that we retain the right to confiscate such equipment if we suspect misuse, such as inappropriate material being brought into the College or circulated.

St. Anselm's College Mailing List

Keep up-to-date with life at St. Anselm's College by visiting www.st-anselms.com to join our mailing list. Look for the mailing list link on the left of the homepage; it couldn't be simpler – so the ICT Dept. inform me!!

Pupil Amendment Details

If there are any changes to the details we currently hold on file for your son (e.g. change of address, telephone numbers etc.), please ask him to collect the necessary form from Reception. This should be completed by you and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

College Buses

The H5 & H7 buses are provided primarily for the benefit of those students living furthest away from the College. There is unprecedented demand on the H7 at the moment, so it will not be stopping in Upton for the time being, as there are other services available and the bus is frequently full by the time it arrives there.

FOSA NEWS

The recent Barn Dance was tremendous fun, but poorly attended. It is dispiriting for the Committee, the best one I have known, to put so much effort in and then see the Hall largely empty. Please try to support our events, which are well-organised and great fun.

It might be that we are not capturing your imagination, although many events are well-attended. Please come to a Committee Meeting, or email me at headmaster@st-anselms.com if you have any (constructive!) suggestions. Our next meeting is in Room 102 on **Tuesday 21st April at 6.30pm**. Do join us

Specialist College Funding Help Needed!

I am aware that this is not the ideal economic and financial climate in which to make this request. Following our recent successes we have been re-designated as a Specialist College and invited to assume a 3rd Specialism as a Leadership Partner School.

All specialist schools that successfully re-designate have the opportunity to access a £25k capital fund, if they can match this with £25k of sponsorship.

This would allow us to renew facilities and equipment, eg: in ICT, and to assume and sustain relationships with local business partners.

The 1st £10k must be secured in cash or kind (goods/services) from businesses and employers. The remainder can come from employer organisations or charitable donations. The sponsorship must be unconditionally pledged.

If anyone is able or willing to assist, or interested in more details, please contact myself or Mr.Rumsby.


Headmaster

Staffing News

Mrs. Victoria Anderson, teacher of English, will leave us at Easter. Her classes will continue to be taught by **Mr. Whitehead**, supported by **Mrs. Robinson**, both of whom have taught them this year.

Staff absence is one of the most difficult issues for any Headmaster to deal with. School funding and contracts, and child welfare regulations, mean that it is very difficult to cope with unexpected medium-term absence. We always cover our classes with subject specialists, at vast expense, and while we can maintain continuity of tuition I recognise that such absences are disruptive. The Governors and staff work very hard to ensure that no class is unfairly treated. This sometimes means re-deploying teachers to different classes. We ensure that accurate reports are provided and that pupil performance data is communicated to parents. Sometimes it takes longer to mark books as this is on top of our normal workload, as I know to my own cost, having taken over classes in Years 10, 11 & 12 during the past year!

Chaplaincy

We are seeking volunteers to support the work of our Chaplaincy Team. Anyone interested in helping is invited to contact **Mr. Jones**, Head of RE, or myself, at the College. Mr. Jones will be leading our **6th Form Pilgrimage to Lourdes** during Easter Week, supported by Mrs. Lennon & Mrs. Kingsland. The party will be part of the Edmund Rice Family pilgrimage and will support the pilgrims of **FLAME**.

St.Anselm's Day

We shall celebrate our Patrimonial Feast Day with Key Stage 3 Mass on the first day of the Summer Term. All boys have an INSET holiday on the 20th, which will serve as their reward, and this enables us to break up for the summer on 17th July.

And Finally,

Our Easter Liturgies this week centred around **"The Passion of Christ"** according to St.John, with readings and reflections, followed by Bidding Prayers.

Yours in Christ,