



# The Newsletter

# Headmaster's

# Christmas

**02 January 2009**

**Dear Parents,**

We have now come to the end of a long and busy term! We have sought to celebrate Advent in an appropriate fashion, most recently with Key Stage Liturgies at which our guest speakers, Canon Marmion and Mr. Hale, spoke of their work with African charities and the Liverpool homeless respectively.

**Please remember in your prayers ...**

**Mrs. Doreen Cummings**, wife of Mr. Cummings our Chairman of Governors.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of ....**

**Mrs. Margaret Parker**, mother of Mrs. Murphy (Head of Year 10), who died recently. Please remember her and all her family in your prayers.

**Congratulations to ....**

**The College SVP** which once again hosted a wonderful Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Monday.

**Cross Country Triumph**

St. Anselm's College proved itself to be the **best cross country school in England** when competing at the English Schools' Cup Final in Shepshed, Leicestershire on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. With a total points score of 76 in the Junior Boys race, St. Anselm's won an historic victory over schools from Essex and Hertfordshire. The individual highlight for the team was an individual 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Junior Captain, **Matthew Westby**. He was joined by **Daniel Jarvis, Tarique Al-Shabazz, Joe Jollie, Joe Molyneux, Tom O'Neill and Ben McWilliams**.

The strong Intermediate team fought through tough conditions to gain an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> place. **Sam Robinson**, led our team home, ably supported by **Matthew Byrne, Liam Fyer, Adam Winstanley (Y10) and Andrew**

**Desmond, William Reynolds and Liam Gawne (all Y9)**

Congratulations to Mr. Horman, Mr. Edwards and the boys on their magnificent achievement which is testimony to their hard work, commitment and determination.

**Key Dates**

**19<sup>th</sup> December: End of Term:**  
College finishes at **2.00 pm** and **H5 and H7 buses will depart at this time**  
**5<sup>th</sup> January: College resumes at the usual time for the Easter Term.**

**PRIZE-GIVING**

This was celebrated at our Lady of The Immaculate Conception Church, Cavendish St., Birkenhead on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Our principal guest was **Br. Dominic Sassi**, formerly Headmaster of St. Edward's College, and recently a member of the worldwide congregation Leadership team in Rome.

**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](http://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 any of 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 the student. 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 6<sup>th</sup> Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. And anyone returning in September with an inappropriate hairstyle will be sent home.

**No earrings or piercings are allowed, including for 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 regularly in Upton for the time being, as there are many other services available and the bus is frequently full by the time it arrives there.

## 6th Form Sierra Leone Immersion Retreat

In February 2009, 12 students from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, accompanied by Mr. Fraine, Miss Baines, Mr. Hollifield and myself, will be visiting the Christian Brothers' projects and schools in Sierra Leone.

These will include the Centre for Disadvantaged Youth in Freetown, where young people whose lives were wrecked by the civil war, are given a fresh start and our twin school, St. Francis in Makeni, which was founded by our own Br.

Coffey. In taking part in the immersion, these students will be continuing the long-standing association between our College and Sierra Leone, and supporting the work for which our former Headmaster, Br. Senan Kerrigan, gave his life. We will be donating the proceeds from our recent Br. Kerrigan Walks, which will support new building projects.

The visit will cost each student over £1,000 and they are keen to receive support from the wider College community which they will be representing during the immersion visit. Please support this important venture in any way you can, through donations of items for auction or raffle, sponsorship of the students, or direct gifts.

**St. Joseph's College, Stoke, have arranged for a container to be shipped out to Freetown. This gives us the opportunity to provide books and bulkier items. If you have any children's books, educational ones or computer equipment that you no longer need, it will be gratefully received in Sierra Leone. Please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements. We have to deliver our donations to Stoke by 12<sup>th</sup> January.**

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## Sports Fixtures

I would like to remind anyone who is confused that selection for a College team is an honour and we expect parents to ensure that their sons attend these fixtures. This is made absolutely clear to all parents before your sons' arrival at the College. We understand that there will be family occasions and other events which clash with fixtures. We expect these to be the exception, not the rule. If your son is genuinely unavailable, please send a note to the teacher-in-charge of his team advising us in advance, so that we may select another boy and give him a deserved chance.

## FOSA Christmas Raffle

Thank you for your support. We sold over £1500 worth of tickets. The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize L.Foster (laptop)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize G.Barton (Flat screen TV)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize S.Sindall (I-Pod)  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize Mrs.J.Hardman (£100 voucher)  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize S.Miller (Meal for Two).

## Advent charities

Once again we have been collecting tinned food for the **Charles Thompson Mission** in Birkenhead and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothes and survival packs for **Asylum Link** and the **Liverpool Homeless**. There has been a very good response. Thank you for your support.

## An Outstanding Provider

I today received news from Christine Gilbert, her Majesty's Chief Inspector, that the College has been included in her list of outstanding providers of education, published in her Annual report for 2008. Further recognition will follow!

## Staffing News

As you will be aware, **Miss Marie-Therese Lacey**, our Lay Chaplain, left us at half-term for a post closer to home, in the Chaplaincy Team of Hope University. Her replacement will be appointed in the New Year.

Today we bid farewell to **Mrs. Linda Christian**, after 5 years service as Head of Technology. She has supported the development of Technology College status and has been instrumental in leading the improvement in student achievement in Technology. We wish her well in her new life.

Mrs. Christian's timetable will be assumed by **Mr. Ben Swan**, himself an old Anselmian.

## And Finally,

May the Peace and love of the infant Jesus be with you and your families during the Christmas Holiday.

Yours in Christ,

  
Headmaster