



The Headmaster's Newsletter

03 June 2009

Dear Parents,

Half-term is upon us and I hope you enjoy a good break with your sons! The enclosed information should help you navigate through to the end of the summer term! His eminence the Cardinal was unable to visit us on 20th May owing to ill health, but he has offered to visit us in the future!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mr. Tony (T.A.) Smith, an Old Boy of the College and Head of History here until his retirement in 1991. Tony was associated with the College as both a student and a teacher for over 50 years.

Dr. Chris Boyle, colleague of Tony's, who also taught History here for many years.

Mr. Ray Nugent, an ex-employee of the College and a stalwart of Anselmians' Rugby Club.

Philip Yates, an Old Boy of the College and uncle of Luis da Costa (Y7) who died suddenly this week at the age of 29. All these gentlemen passed away in the last few weeks. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to

Sean Sullivan (Gold Certificate), **Liam Cox**, **Adam McCann**, **Max Norman**, **Gabriel Reavey** and **Kieran Ryan** (Bronze Awards), **Theo Abbott**, **Adam Baragwanath**, **Andrew Brown**, **Kieran Donnachie**, **Robert Grisenthwaite**, **Adam Massey**, **Thomas Moscrip**, **David Nielsen-Scott**, **Jack Williams** and **William Wyness** (Highly Commended).

All the above took part in the Junior Version of the Biology Olympiad for students in Yrs. 9 & 10. They sat 2 rounds of written papers, with only the best candidates going forward to the second round and then only the best of those going forward to the National Finals. The competition is called BIOLOGY CHALLENGE. The only other Wirral schools mentioned in the winners were one girl from Wirral Grammar for Girls and 6 boys from Birkenhead School. In addition to the above-mentioned students, 20 other boys will receive 'Commended' certificates.

This is a magnificent achievement for St. Anselm's and well done to all those who took part.

Building Confident Parents

The Diocese will be running a 6 week Programme for parents of teenagers commencing on Wednesday, 3rd June in St. Alban's Parish Centre, St. Alban's Rd., Liscard (opposite car park for Cherry Tree Shopping Centre) from 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. The course will be very positive in its nature and anyone attending should not feel or think of themselves as bad or failing parents, in fact, quite the reverse. The Programme offers fresh thought-provoking ideas on how parents can build on and add to their existing parenting skills. It is for all parents whether single, married, separated or divorced and will support and reaffirm the very important role of parents. If you require any further information contact Mrs. Clara Donnelly on 691 2811 or email cc.donn@talktalk.net

Selling of Sweets

There has been an 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.

Key Dates

May 22 nd	Start of Half Term Break
June 1 st	College re-opens at 8.35 am following Half Term Break
July 1 st	Sports Day
13 th	Participation Awards, Y7-10
17 th	End of Summer Term

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. **Anyone returning after Half Term** 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

Our next event is a **Race Night on Friday 10th July**. Family tickets are priced £10 and will be available shortly from the Office. FOSA members will be providing refreshments at **Sports Day on 1st July** at the Fields.

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.

Staffing News

Miss Joanne Hicks has returned to work following a period of ill health. She will be teaching History and Geography to classes in Years 7,8 &9 for the duration of the term.

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. Edmund Rice Week will be celebrated during the week commencing 29th June. Our theme will be that of **"Building a Christian community"**. The annual **Br.Kerrigan Walk**, to raise funds for the Edmund Rice Mission in Sierra Leone, will be held on Friday 3rd July.

College Exams

Years 11, 12 & 13 are now on Study Leave and their GCSE/GCE exams have now begun. Years 7 & 8 finish their summer exams today.

Year 9 Exams begin on Monday 8th June.

Year 10 Exams begin on Monday 1st June.

Please ensure that your son revises during the next fortnight!!

Athletics

Both Junior & Intermediate Teams have qualified for the regional final of the English Schools Cup on June 15th in Blackpool. The Juniors won their qualifying round!

Sierra Leone Trip publicity

An account of our recent 6th Form Immersion Retreat will be printed in the programme for Liverpool FC's last game of the season against Spurs at Anfield on Sunday 24th May!

And Finally,

The impending Feast Days of The Ascension and Pentecost remind that Our Lord is always with us, through the Holy Spirit, if we are prepared to seek Him!

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster