



The Headmaster's Christmas Newsletter



18 January 2008

Dear Parents,

We now approach the great feast of The Nativity of Our Lord in a spirit of joyful anticipation. The content of this Newsletter is designed to ensure that you have all the information you need about your sons' education amidst the chaos!

Please remember in your prayers ...

Chris Hadfield in Year 12 who is still too ill to return to College.

Mr. Martin Grace and Mrs. Linda Christian who are on sick leave.

Mr. McGowan's father is seriously ill. The **Carus** family, following the passing of **Mr. Len Jones, grandfather of Jack in 10G.**

Congratulations to...

The **Y10 Language and Enterprise Team** who won the final of the Merseyside Schools' Language & Enterprise Award, despite facing a "Dragons Den" style panel and being interviewed in German. Their prize includes a day of lavish hospitality in Liverpool's tourist attractions next term! The **Year 8 & 9 Team** on their victory in the **Lego League Technical Award.**

Advent Service and Carols

This was an uplifting and enjoyable evening and an excellent start to the Christmas celebrations. There were excellent performances from the Orchestra and the Year 7 choir who sang the carol "silent night" in a variety of European languages, including Slovakian! £292 was collected for Asylum Link and Fr. Michael has asked me to pass on his thanks for your generosity.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

This was an outstanding success. The students of the College SVP were, once again, generous and caring hosts and our guests had a lovely time.

Prize-Giving

Our annual Prize-Giving takes place on **Thursday, 20th December** at Wallasey Town Hall at 7.30 pm. Owing to the shortage of space (the balcony is out of commission due to structural problems) we are restricted to inviting only those parents whose sons are receiving certificates/prizes, or who are taking part in the musical concert to apply for tickets. Please note that we can only issue a maximum of two guest tickets per family. **Please also note that the boys will finish school at 1.00 p.m. on this day. The H5 and H7 buses will depart from the College at this time.**

Musical Instruments

If you have any musical instruments at home which are no longer used, the Music Faculty would be delighted to hear from you. They always need extra musical instruments, in good condition. If you can help, please contact Mr. Charlesworth, Miss Pomfret or Mrs. Lennon (Faculty Assistant).

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.

School Profile

This has replaced the Governors' Report to Parents and can be accessed electronically on <http://schoolprofile.parentscentre.gov.uk/344/5900>. If you do not have access to a computer and would like a hard copy, please contact Mrs. Wilkinson on the College telephone number.

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. At times it can also mean leaving the Office unstaffed.

Friends of St. Anselm's (F.O.S.A.)

The Christmas Family Quiz was a terrific success, especially for my team. Thank you to all who attended! Congratulations to **Patrick Hadfield, 7E, and Form 7P** who sold the most Christmas Raffle tickets.

College Reunion

This is an advance notice that there will be a reunion of former students who left the College in 1973. This will be held at the Old Anselmian Rugby Club, Eastham Village Road, Eastham on **7th June 2008**. A number of former students who left in 1972 are also interested in attending. If you require any further information, please contact Dr. John Firth at john-firth@btconnect.com

Recycling

We still require used printer cartridges and redundant mobile phones for recycling in our effort to make the College a more environmentally friendly institution. Please keep sending these items (excluding Epson) in to us. The funds raised will be used for environmental projects.

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 we will 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.** This includes boys on the H5&H7 Buses, who must also sign in when the buses are late.

Hair Styles & Uniform

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.

Mobile phones/Walkman/ 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.

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!!

College Extranet

Pupils and parents can access curriculum material and College information on this facility which uses the internet. It is accessed via the Joint Technology College website

www.jointtechnologycollege.co.uk, then you click on our logo. Your son has a username and password. The system is easy to navigate. In the event of difficulties please e-mail Mr.Cribb at jointtechnologycollege@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Ben Chapman Visit

Ben Chapman, MP for South Wirral, chaired a business seminar at the College on 9th November entitled "China & the Local Economy: Impact & Opportunity". His influence helped secure an impressive array of speakers including Mr. Gong Jianzhong, Chinese Consul-General, Mr. David Tinsley from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Giles Blackburne from the China-GB Business Council, himself an Old Anselmian. Their talks were well-received by an audience of local business people, including our 6th Form Economics students! This seminar was organised by Mr. Cribb under our Technology College Enterprise plan.

Important January Dates

Monday 7th Start of Term
Wednesday 9th AS/A2 exams begin
Tuesday 15th Y9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 23rd Y9 GCSE Options

Please note that ALL Year 7-11 Parents Evenings are formal occasions and students are expected to wear College uniform.

End of Term

Please note, term ends on **Friday, 21st December** and the H5 and H7 buses will depart from school at **1.00 pm** on that day. All boys will return to school following the Christmas break on **Monday, 7th January 2008 at the usual time.**

Sporting Success

Our sports teams have been in excellent form this term. All rugby teams have enjoyed impressive victories, but pride of place must go to our outstanding 1st XV, coached by Mr. Hill & Mr. Mason. Under the inspired captaincy of Andy Stenhouse, they won 75% of their fixtures this term.. The Junior & Intermediate Cross country teams qualified for the national final of The English Schools Cup in St.Alban's finishing 6th and 10th respectively, a tremendous effort!

INSET Days

Dates for your diary! Please note that **Friday 8th February** will be an INSET Day and a holiday for all students. **St.Anselm's Day, Monday 21st April**, will be celebrated as a College holiday for all students. We have arranged **2 INSET Days on 21st & 22nd July** following the DCSF decision to allocate a 6th Day this year in preparation for the New National Curriculum (Year 7) in September 2008.

Summer Term will thus end on **Friday 18th July.**

GCSE Success

When we received our record GCSE results in August we knew that they were very good. However, the latest data from the DCSF shows that they were in the top 11% of schools nationally for value added from Key Stage 2-4 and top 15% for value added from Key Stage 3-4. I am sure that you will be delighted by this outstanding achievement by students and staff!

"Parenting Teenagers"

Support Group

Clara Donnelly from the RC Diocese of Shrewbury Marriage & Family Life Ministry is running this programme for 6 weeks from Wednesday 16th January 2008 at **St.Alban's Parish Centre**, St.alban's Road, Liscard, from 7.30pm. This programme comes highly recommended and seeks to offer fresh and thought provoking on the enduring challenge of raising teenagers, whether you are married, single or divorced.

Y 11 Reports

Year 11 Reports will be posted this week as an early Christmas present to the boys! Their performance in the recent Trial Exams was very encouraging, so do not be afraid to open the letter! If you do not receive a copy by 4th January, please telephone the College Office.

St.Joseph's College, Stoke

Please support the campaign to save this outstanding Edmund Rice school from closure on www.save-st.josephs.com

And Finally....

May the Peace and Love of the Infant Christ inspire and protect you and your families this Christmas.

May God Bless You,

R.S. Puer

Headmaster

