



The Headmaster's Newsletter

12 January 2010

Dear Parents,

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mr. Ian Robinson, Network Manager, who remains on sick leave.

Mrs. F. Wood, Head of Spanish, who is on medical leave.

Darcy Ward, Y13, who has been absent through ill health.

Congratulations to ...

Ms. Hanlon (Head of ICT) and her husband on the early arrival of their daughter, Evelyn. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

Mr. Lewis (Maths) and his wife whose twin sons were born earlier this month.

Ashley Lucas (who left last summer) who recently achieved a 2nd Dan in Karate.

Old boys **Chris Pilgrim** (2004) & **Capt. Ian Martin** (2001) who were scrum halves on opposing sides during the Remembrance Day match between the **Barbarians and the Combined Services**. Chris is now playing for Newcastle Falcons whilst Ian has recently returned from active service in Afghanistan, and has already delivered an assembly to Year 10.

Cross-Country

Congratulations to our Intermediate Team who overturned the rankings to win the English Schools final in Newquay on Saturday 5th December. **Matthew Byrne, Y10, came 2nd in the individual race and he was ably supported by Daniel Jarvis (10th), William Reynolds (16th), Andrew Desmond (32nd), Matthew Westby & Joe Jollie**. Their combined efforts assured us of the national title!

The Junior squad did well to qualify for their final and finished a creditable 23rd nationally with good runs from **Amadeo Scanavacca, Tom McWilliam, Jack McGlashen and Joe Molyneux**.

The Senior squad finished 3rd in the prestigious Stonyhurst event with good runs from JP Seymour (4th) & Andrew Gawne (8th).

Appointments with Staff

I would respectfully point out that, if you wish to speak with a member of the teaching staff, e.g. your son's Form

Teacher, please do not just turn up in Reception and expect to speak to them as they are unable to leave their class to meet with you. It is important, therefore, that you ring the College in advance to make a mutually convenient appointment to meet with a particular member of the teaching staff, or email them to this effect.

Car Parking

Please pay close attention to the letter from Merseyside Police, sent out with last month's Newsletter, which echoes my advice and warnings in previous Newsletters.

If you insist on coming into Egerton Rd at the end of school make sure that you are parked **safely and legally**. **There is no road access to the College from 3.45-4.15pm**. Please ensure that YOU do not block our neighbours' driveways, as I observed recently! There is plenty of parking available on Palm Grove and Manor Hill and you will be able to make a swifter escape from those roads.

FOSA Appeal

We seek the services of a Bar Manager. I request any parent who is suitably qualified to contact me to run the bar at 5-6 functions per year.

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.

Key Dates

End of Term: 1.45 pm Fri. 18th Dec.

Return to College: Mon., 4th Jan.

Distribution of A-level Certificates: Thursday, 7th January at 4.00 p.m.

Parents Evenings:

Yr. 9 – Wed. 13th January 2010

Yr. 9 – Options Eve. – Wed. 20th Jan.

Yr. 8 – Thurs. 4th February

Yr. 10 – Tues. 2nd March

If you would like a draft copy of the main holiday dates for the academic year 2010/2011 (not including INSET dates etc.) please ask your son to collect one from the Main College Office.

Rugby News

Congratulations to the following students who have gained regional honours:

1st XV Captain **Philip Brocken Cheshire U-20, Jordan Lomax, North of England squad and Captain of Cheshire 16 age group, Kieran Brocken, Charlie Dewey, Jake Fitzmaurice & John Simpson, Cheshire U-15s.**

FOSA Family Quiz

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members who worked so hard to ensure that, once again, this annual event was a huge success. The raffle winners were:

1st Prize – Wii Games Console – ticket No. 6217 – Nelson

2nd Prize – i-Pod Touch – ticket No. 7362 – McDonnell

3rd Prize – £100 – ticket No. 6028 – McKeever

4th Prize – Meal for 4 – ticket No. 8515 – Lennon

5th Prize – Zorbing – ticket No. 6146 – the Carmelites.

All prizewinners have been informed

SVP Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

I would like to thank the following companies/organisations for donating raffle prizes for the SVP Christmas Party: The Caernarvon Castle - £20 meal voucher

The Shrewsbury Arms – 2-course meal + bottle of wine

Sainsbury's, Upton - £10 gift card

Sainsbury's, Birkenhead - £5 gift card

Tesco, Bidston - £20 gift card

Tesco, Heswall - £5 gift card

Immunisations

Year 10 will be receiving their Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio injection on 9th February. If you have not already signed a consent form and returned it to the

College, please ask your son to collect a form from the Main Reception. If you have any queries, please contact Nurse Rachael Simcock on 652 0841.

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.

Medical Room

If your son is unwell before leaving home in the morning, please give serious consideration to keeping him at home. In recent weeks the Office Staff have had to look after many boys who say they were unwell before they left for College and obviously should not have been sent in. 10% of the College roll were absent ill earlier this week, so there are many unpleasant and contagious ailments around, and rest is the best cure!

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 611

& 612 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 in September** 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!!

Specialist College Funding

We are grateful to **Haworth & Gallagher, Solicitors**, who have sponsored us in our bid to secure £25,000 in matched funding from the DCSF. Several other sponsors have provisionally offered their assistance.

Staffing News

Mr. Philip Sweetman, Spanish, has joined the MFL Faculty to cover **Mrs. Wood's** medical leave.

Mrs. Gill Ashton will become our **new Librarian** in January. **Miss Sally Parr** will teach **French to Y7-10** from January, taking classes over from **Miss Aveling**,

who is going part-time but will remain as Head of French.

Mrs. Anna Bennett will teach ICT during **Ms. Hanlon's** maternity leave.

Lost Property

If your son has lost uniform, kit, a coat or bag etc, do not immediately assume that it has been stolen or is lost forever! Modern youth is utterly clueless in its inability to retain possessions (who loses their school trousers?!) and we have extensive collections of lost property at the College and at the Games Fields. Please feel free to come and have a rummage!

Parents can do their bit by ensuring that your son's property is labelled or marked. Most of our collection is, of course, anonymous.

Litter!

I remain unhappy about the amount of litter generated by boys on a daily basis, although the majority of our students dispose of rubbish sensibly. Convicted litterbugs will do litter duty at lunchtime, equipped with the necessary kit. This is both a societal, regional and teenage problem and many adults fail to set a good example. We waste too much time and resources dealing with carelessness!

ICT Network

We have had new equipment installed this month that will enhance our capacity and improve student access to broadband and ICT facilities. There has been some snagging that has delayed progress but normal service has now been resumed.

Health Services in Schools

A letter has been sent home regarding this NHS initiative that will begin at the College in the New Year. The hours of our School Nurse will be extended to enable students to access confidential advice on issues such as weight management, stopping smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and guidance and general health issues. A protocol has been negotiated for Catholic schools. There will be no provision of sexual health services on site, nor any guidance that contravenes the teaching of the Catholic Church. This is part of a Wirral campaign to improve teenage health and emotional well-being.

And Finally,

May the peace and joy of the infant Christ inspire your families at Christmas and in the New Year.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster