



# The Headmaster's Newsletter

06 December 2007

Dear Parents,

The College year now approaches Advent and our preparations for the celebration of Christmas. This is always a busy and exciting time here and we hope that you will be able to join in the festivities.

## 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.

## Congratulations to...

Winners of the Maths Puzzle of the Month (October): **Huw Thomas, Joe Jollie, Adam Jowett, Daniel Hardman, Gabriel Reavey (9P)** who has been invited to attend the Poet Laureate ceremony at Wallasey Town Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November, where he will give a reading of his poem and the overall winner will be announced.

**The Language and Enterprise Team** who have made it through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage of the Merseyside Schools' Language & Enterprise Award. This will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**Michael Strother**, a member of the Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club. On 27<sup>th</sup> October Michael won the Senior 4 Quad in the Dee Autumn Head Race at Chester. The race was over a distance of 4,000 metres. On 10<sup>th</sup> November he and his crew won the Senior 4 event at the Northwich Head Regatta, over a distance of 2250 metres.

To those Year 10 students who were graded excellent or very good for effort in the recent monitoring. This is a very good start to the GCSE course:

**Oliver Wheeler, Alastair Quinn, Thomas Fraine, Andrew Oates, Cameron McKay, James McIntosh, Michael Sullivan, James Hilton, Stephen Simpson, Niall Robinson, Adam Neal, Ben Walsh, Jonathan Downing, Matthew Moore, Nicholas Hurst, Robert Sanders, Aidan Walley, Benjamin Gould, Christopher Smith, Craig Reid, Jamie Guiton, Alexander Stuart, Alexander Whelligan, Anthony Davies, Benjamin McGough, Jack Lyons, Jonathan Forsey, Matthew Kenny, Matthew Rogan, Alexander McIntosh, Joseph Cotgrave, Sean Howard, Adam Bramhall, Alexander Lloyd, Benedict Thomas, Benjamin Jones, Daniel Meredith, Sean O'Brien, Shaun McHugh.**

Congratulations and well done to all these boys.

## Advent Service and Carols

This will take place in the College Hall on **Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm**. This is always an uplifting and enjoyable evening and an excellent start to the Christmas celebrations. There will be carols and readings, as well as a topical reflection. All families are invited to join us as we seek to reclaim Christmas for Christ! Please complete the reply slip if you would like to attend.

## Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The College's SVP Society will again be holding their Christmas Party for Local Senior Citizens. This will take place in the College on **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30 to 3.30 pm**. If you require tickets for elderly relatives or friends, please complete the reply slip attached to this newsletter and return it to the school

reception **no later than Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December**. If needed, transport can be arranged. Please indicate on the form if this is required and the College minibus will arrive between 12.00 and 1.00 pm at the address given

## Prize-Giving

Our annual Prize-Giving takes place on **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (NB the list of prizewinners is posted on the noticeboard at the bottom of the main stairs – please ask your son(s) to check this), or who are taking part in the musical concert to apply for tickets. Those requiring tickets should complete the reply slip and return it to school as soon as possible. Tickets will then be issued via the registers. 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.)

I am delighted to report that the Bollywood Evening held last month was a huge success and I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make it a memorable evening, especially our cooks, Mrs. Jowett, Mr. Williams & Mrs. Cairns. The next event will be:  
**The Christmas Family Quiz.** This ever-popular evening will take place on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.** Flyers have been put in all registers. The cost is £10 per team ticket, available from the Office, or on the evening. Children of all ages are welcome. **My team are confident of success and challenge all-comers! Do come and join us.**

## Y9 SVP Christmas Gift Shop

This will be run during Advent and the purpose is to enable students to buy small, affordable gifts for their family and to send a clear message that commercialism is not what Christians focus during Advent. Please encourage your sons to bring in any small gifts, new, nearly new or unwanted gifts that could be used in the gift shop, e.g. small enough to fit in a student's bag, such as toiletries, candles, photo frames, gloves, books etc. They should not be fragile. The gifts will be wrapped free of charge, so the boys would welcome any donation of rolls of Christmas paper or gift tags. All money raised will help to fund the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Please try and give this your full support.

## St. Joseph's, North Road

Any boys who belong to this parish and who are musicians and/or interested in drama are asked to attend a meeting at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday next, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 11.00 am. They will then take part in the Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, i.e. Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

## 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 **7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](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!!

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form Economics students! This seminar was organised by Mr. Cribb under our Technology College Enterprise plan.

### Important Dates

<b>Y11 Trial Exams</b>	<b>19-30<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>
<b>Entrance Exam</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>
<b>Y7 Parents Evening</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>
<b>Careers Fair</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>
<b>FOSA Xmas Quiz</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>
<b>Senior Citizens' Party</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>
<b>Prize-Giving</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>

### End of Term

Please note, term ends on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> XV, coached by Mr. Hill & Mr. Mason. Under the inspired captaincy of Andy Stenhouse, they won 11 consecutive games between September & November, and have only lost twice this season, having defeated Calday, Birkenhead, Manchester GS and St.Edward's College.

The Junior & Intermediate Cross country teams have qualified for the national final of The English Schools Cup in St.Alban's on 1<sup>st</sup> December and Mr. Horman is optimistic of another good performance.

### INSET Days

Dates for your diary! Please note that **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February** will be an INSET Day and a holiday for all students. **St.Anselm's Day, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April**, will be celebrated as a College holiday for all students. We have 2 INSET Days to arrange, following the DCSF decision to allocate a 6<sup>th</sup> Day this year in preparation for the New National Curriculum (Year 7) in September 2008. These will be confirmed in my January Newsletter.

### 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!

### House of Lords

I will be representing the College at the House of Lords next Wednesday evening at a Reception for Grammar School Headteachers invited by The Lord Plumb and Graham Brady MP, renowned supporters of Grammar Schools.

### And Finally....

During the next 3 weeks we will seek to guide your sons towards what it means to be a Christian at this time of year and how Advent can inform all our lives for the better.

Yours sincerely,



**Headmaster**