



The Headmaster's Newsletter

27 November 2009

Dear Parents,

We are now halfway through this half-term and closing in on the beginning of Advent. There are many important events between now and the end of term and this is a great time for our students.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mr. Ian Robinson, Network Manager, and Ms. S. Hanlon, Head of ICT, who are both in hospital.

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

Cross-Country

The **Junior & Intermediate** teams have both qualified for the **Final of the English Schools Athletics Cup in Newquay, Cornwall, on Saturday 5th December**. The Intermediates qualified as regional champions and have high hopes of a podium finish. The Juniors have already done well to surpass expectations. I thank our loyal band of parental supporters, some of whom will be accompanying us to the Final.

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 attached letter from Merseyside Police 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.

Food Technology Hub

(As featured in **The Liverpool Echo!**)
Work has begun on the Food Technology Building. This will be an energy-efficient, eco-friendly facility which will enable us to incorporate Food Technology into our Key Stage 3 curriculum from 2010. Watch this space for progress updates.

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

Advent Service – 7th December
FOSA Quiz Night – 11th December
SVP Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – 14th December

Prize-giving – 17th December

Parents Evenings:

Yr. 7 – Tues. 1st December

Yr. 9 – Wed. 13th January 2010

Yr. 9 – Options Eve. – Wed. 20th Jan.

Yr. 8 – Thurs. 4th February

Yr. 10 – Tues. 2nd March

End of Term: Fri., 18th December

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.

EARLY FINISH

Please note, the boys will finish early on **17th December (Prize-Giving) and 18th December (end of term)**. **The 611 and 612 buses will depart from the College at 1.45 pm on BOTH DAYS.**

Advent Service – 7th Dec.

This will be held at **The Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Cavendish Street, Birkenhead** at 7 pm on the above date. If you would like attend, please complete the attached form and return it to the Main Office (we will not issue tickets but need to know numbers)

Advent Charities

Once again we will be supporting local charities through fund-raising and collections. **Y7-9** are supporting the **Charles Thompson Mission in Birkenhead, Y10 & 11 The Wirral Ark and the 6th Form Asylum Link in Liverpool**. Donations, including clean 2nd hand clothes, tinned and dried food, sleeping bags, new underwear and toiletries would be most welcome.

FOSA Family Christmas Quiz – 11th Dec. 7.00 pm

This is always a very popular and well attended event, so order your tickets now to avoid disappointment! Please see attached flyer for further details. **The Christmas Raffle** draw will take place on the night. Raffle tickets have been distributed to all year groups and there are terrific prizes available, including a Wii, an ipod and cash. There are prizes of FM radios for the first 150 students to sell 20 tickets and a prize for the student selling the most tickets.

SVP Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

This is another popular annual event which will be held in the College Hall on **Mon. 14th December** from 1.30 to 3.30 pm. A separate letter will be sent out to parents inviting them to nominate grandparents/friends/neighbours.

Prize-Giving – 17th Dec.

This will be held at **The Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Cavendish Street on 17th December at 7.30 pm**. It is compulsory for Year 12 students to attend, to formally receive their GCSE certificates, and a separate letter has been sent to their parents. Please ask your son to check if he is being presented with a prize. Lists of prizewinners will be

posted around the College. If he is in doubt, please ask him to speak to Mrs. Wilkinson or Mrs. Howlett. If you would like tickets, please complete the attached form and return it to the Main College Office at your earliest convenience. Year 7 pupils and their parents are not required to attend – there will be plenty of opportunities in subsequent years!

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 December. **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.

Careers Convention

This will be held in the Hall on the morning of **Wednesday 2nd December**. This will be aimed at Y9-13, all of whom will have the opportunity to visit. There will be an impressive range of providers, employers and public services present.

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.

And Finally,

As the nights draw in and the weather becomes colder we have the hope of Advent to sustain us in the darkness!

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster