



The Headmaster's Newsletter

04 February 2009

Dear Parents,

The term is progressing well and we are persevering despite the inclement weather!

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs. Doreen Cummings, wife of Mr. Cummings our Chairman of Governors, who is undergoing medical treatment.

Mrs. Vicky Anderson, English teacher, who remains on ill-health absence leave.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Charles McParland, a former student of the College who left in 1993. Charles sadly passed away recently following a long illness, at the age of 33. Please remember him, his fiancée and all his family in your prayers.

Congratulations to

Alexander Roberts (Y13) who has been invited to attend a Champagne Reception at Buckingham Palace in June to celebrate the centenary of the Air League. At this reception Alexander will be presented with his Air League Certificate and Wings from Prince Philip. He has also been invited to apply for the Prince Philip Flying Scholarship 2009 entry which is only open to the 2008 winners of the Flying Scholarship.

A tremendous achievement!

Andrew Nance who last summer took part in a musical production of 'The Rose and the Ring' performed by The Company Music Theatre in Manchester. The Company has recently been awarded £5,000 and the BIZA award at the Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards in the category of 'Most Promising New Talent.'

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.

Cross Country

The teams have continued their outstanding form. **The Merseyside League** has now concluded with the **Year 7,8,9 & Senior Teams** being crowned champions, and the **Year 10 & 11 Team** finishing second. **Matthew Westby (Y8) & Andrew Gawne (Seniors)** were individual league champions.

6th Form Sierra Leone Immersion Retreat

The party of 11 6th Form students and 4 staff, Mr. Hollifield, Mr. Fraine, Miss Baines and myself, flies out to Freetown on 6th February for a 10 day visit. We shall be visiting schools and community projects, including our brother school, St. Francis in Makeni. Thank you for your recent gifts. I am delighted to announce that we will be taking small gifts from staff and kit from Liverpool and Everton with us. We all expect this to be a life-changing experience, especially for the 6th Formers. They have done a magnificent job fund raising and are very grateful for your support.

Key Dates

5th February Y8 Parents Evening
13th February – Staff INSET – a holiday for all boys.
16th -20th Feb. inclusive – HALF TERM BREAK
23rd February – College re-opens
3rd March Y10 Parents Evening

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 any of 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 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.

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. And 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!!

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 regularly in Upton for the time being, as there are many other services available and the bus is frequently full by the time it arrives there.

Sports Fixtures

I would like to remind anyone who is confused that selection for a College team is an honour and we expect parents to ensure that their sons attend these fixtures. This is made absolutely clear to all parents before your sons' arrival at the College. We understand that there will be family occasions and other events which clash with fixtures. We expect these to be the exception, not the rule. If your son is genuinely unavailable, please send a note to the teacher-in-charge of his team advising us in advance, so that we may select another boy and give him a deserved chance.

FOSA

The next event will be the **Barn Dance on 20th March from 7pm in the Hall.** We shall be dancing to the strains of The Liverpool Country Dance Band. Tickets are available from Reception, priced £7 for adults & £3 for children.

An Outstanding Provider

I am delighted to inform you that I have recently received a letter from Mrs. Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector and Head of Ofsted, informing us that the College has been named in her official list as **"an outstanding provider of education"** in 2008.

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 at the College.

Musical Events

The Battle of the Bands Final is being held at the New Cavern Club in Liverpool on Sunday 8th February. The doors open at 6.30pm and tickets priced £3 are still available from the Office. Some outstanding musicians will be performing! **The Beginners Upwards Concert** takes place in the College Hall on **Wednesday 11th February** from 7pm.

Staffing News

I am pleased to inform you that **Mrs. Wood, Miss Hicks and Mr.Humphreys** have returned to full teaching following ill-health related absence. Mrs. Anderson, teacher of English, remains on sick leave and her timetable is being expertly delivered by **Mr.Anthony Whitehead**, previously of Prenton HS, who has made a great impression on his students.

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.

6th Form Entry in 2009

A reminder to all Year 11 boys intending to continue into our 6th Form next year that AS Options Forms must be returned to Mr. Rumsby by Friday 6th February.

And Finally,

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 25th February, and we shall mark the occasion with Key Stage Masses involving all students.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster