



The Headmaster's Newsletter

02 February 2010

Dear Parents,

The excitement of the snow has now worn off and order has been restored! Our Emergency procedures worked well and we are now back in familiar routines.

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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of ...

Mr. Simon Phillips, brother-in-law of Mrs. Peers (Receptionist) who passed away at the end of December. Please remember him and his wife and family in your prayers.

Mr. Bob Stevenson, Head of Science at St. Anselm's College for many years, who passed away in early January. His Requiem Mass will take place in Nazareth House on Monday, 8th February at 10.00 am, followed by interment at Frankby Cemetery.

Congratulations to ...

Mrs. Evans (Head of Yr. 8) and her husband on the birth of their son, Ethan, who was born just before Christmas. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Cross-Country

We have enjoyed much success in this year's Merseyside League!

Congratulations to our year 8, 9, 10/11 & Senior Teams, all of whom won their respective Leagues. The Year 9 & 10/11 B teams finished 2nd in their Leagues, a tremendous achievement.

Daniel Jarvis (Y9) & Matthew Byrne (Y10) were individual champions.

Bus Safety

A young pupil was injured this morning when a fellow student pressed the emergency open door button as the 611 bus arrived at the College. We do brief the boys on safety issues and will remind them of the need to be sensible and aware of the safety of others. This incident was a complete accident but any boy whose conduct endangers others will have to be banned from the College buses.

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 past advice and warnings. 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.

Our next event is a **Family Race Night on Friday March 12th**. Tickets are available from the Finance Office.

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

Half Term Break – Fri 12th -Fri 19th Feb Inclusive. NB: Friday 12 Feb is a Staff INSET Day.

Parents Evenings:

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.

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.

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. **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!!

Staffing News

Mr. Chris Humphreys (Maths) left the College at Christmas. Mr. Platt is now

teaching full-time and has taken over some of his classes. Other classes previously taught by Mr. Humphreys are now being taught by Mr. Green & Mr. Hale. We have been able to provide continuity of tuition through Mr. Green's full-time presence since the New Year. In the medium-term we have a vacancy for a part-time Maths Teacher. Suitably qualified staff should contact me on 6521408.

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.

Building Projects

The **Food Technology Hub** continues to progress well and is on course for completion in the Spring. It will be formally opened in June. The Boys' Toilets in the Main Building are being re-furnished. We are making increased use of other toilet facilities around the site, and some Portaloos have been installed!

Advent Donations

Thank you for donations for shoeboxes, which were distributed by the SVP and for the clothes, food and toiletries which were gratefully received by **Asylum Link and the Charles Thompson Mission.**

Sweet Selling

I am sure that you will remember, and endorse, my previous messages about boys selling sweets etc. Any boy found doing this on the College site, or buses, will be excluded and his stock and ill-gotten gains will be confiscated and given to charity. A repeat offender has already been punished. You do not send boys to school for them to be preyed on by self-styled entrepreneurs! This practice can lead to a trade in contraband, such as cigarettes, and worse! Schools are obliged to ensure that no sweets or chocolate are available on site, in keeping with the Healthy Schools agenda. Any family members found supporting these misdeeds will be reported to the police and the education welfare authorities.

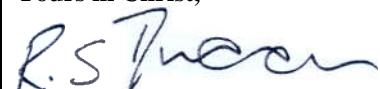
Sierra Leone

Miss Baines and Mr McGowan depart for Sierra Leone on 6th February. They will be transporting a range of gifts, including ICT equipment and sports kit, requested by our partner schools and paid for by the generosity of our students and donors. We have also sent several thousand pounds to St. Francis School, Makeni, to re-vamp their electrical infrastructure, to enable them to make effective use of their new teaching equipment.

And Finally,

I wish you and your families a happy and successful New Year!

Yours in Christ,


Headmaster