



# The Headmaster's Newsletter

12 March 2010

## Dear Parents,

The end of a busy term is less than 3 weeks away

## Please remember in your prayers ...

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

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

Mr. Bob Stevenson, **ex-Head of Physics and founder of our SVP society**, who died last month. A mass in his memory will be celebrated here at 7pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr. Tom Raine, father-in-law of Mr. Hollifield, who died last weekend. May they Rest in Peace.

## Congratulations to ...

Andrew Nance (Y13) who has been chose to join the National Youth Music Theatre cast of 'Sweeney Todd' which will be produced in London this August. Final casting has not yet been decided but Andrew has been asked to prepare the role of Pirelli.

## Cross-Country

Congratulations to the **Junior Squad** who won the Trefoil Trophy at the North of England Championships in Stockport on 6<sup>th</sup> March, and especially to **Year 9** who won their age group. **Daniel Jarvis** was the individual Y9 champion!

## 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 Events

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 12<sup>th</sup>** see attached flyer.

Family Tickets are available from the Finance Office, priced £5, to include light refreshments.

## 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](http://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

**Easter Break – Mon 29 March -Fri 9 Apr Inclusive.**

**Fri 30th April INSET Day**

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.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. **No earrings or piercings are allowed, including for 6<sup>th</sup> 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](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!!

## Staffing News

**Miss Sally Parr** (French) has left us for a full-time post in London. Mrs. Wood has returned to us following a period of medical leave and she has assumed Miss Parr's timetable, so you can rest assured that these classes are in good hands.

## 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!

## 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 newly re-furnished Boys' Toilets in the Main Block are now fully operational! The Food Technology Building is progressing well and is due for completion in mid-May.

## 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 have returned safely from their visit to the Brothers' Mission. We have made donations of £2000 to support the work of the Brothers in Freetown and £5000 to our twin school, St. Francis, in Makeni. These funds were raised by our students on the past 2 Br. Kerrigan sponsored walks. They also took ICT and sports equipment and advised their hosts on the development of their electricity and ICT networks. Thank you to all parents and families who contributed!

## Lent

**Our official Lenten charities are Street Child Africa and the Diocesan Good Shepherd Fund.** Our students will be involved in a series of fund-raising ventures this month to support them. Visitors from both charities will be addressing Key Stage Assemblies next week and thanking our students for their efforts in the past. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form pilgrims, led by Mr. Jones & Mrs. Lennon, will travel to Lourdes at the end of term to support the disabled pilgrims of FLAME from Liverpool Archdiocese.

## Confirmation Programmes

We regularly receive information from local parishes regarding preparation for the sacrament of confirmation. This is aimed primarily at boys in years 8 & 9, although it is open to older boys who have yet to receive this important sacrament. 2 such programmes are beginning this month at St. Catherine's parish in Hoylake and Holy Family/Our Lady & St. John parishes in Pensby & Heswall. More details are available from their respective parish priests and administrators.

## Canadian Tourists

A plea for assistance! We need families to host the visiting rugby players from Hugh McRoberts High School in Vancouver who are visiting us in March, with a fixture on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We have strong links with this school, whose parents have hosted our boys in the past. I would expect all our Canada Tour Party from last summer to host a tourist and would welcome any other volunteers. They require accommodation from 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March, inclusive. Further details are available from Mr. Hill who has sent a letter home to last summer's Tour Party.

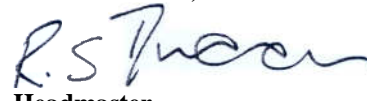
## 6th Form Reports

Reports for all students in years 12 & 13 will be posted to parents at the end of term.

## And Finally,

Our spiritual focus is strongly directed towards the Lenten themes of repentance and preparation for Easter, which are being explored in our liturgies and assemblies.

**Yours in Christ,**



**Headmaster**