



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



Our Mission

Our Catholic Community offers a learning environment for us to develop our God-given talents and to recognise Christ among us. We respect the dignity of God's creation and, inspired by Gospel values, seek to serve one another.

A Warm Welcome

“This is an outstanding school in which students achieve exceptionally well and reach very high standards.” Ofsted



Welcome to St. Anselm's College. As an Anselmian myself, I am immensely proud of the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of the students, the dedication of the staff, the calibre of the spiritual education on offer and the palpable sense of community which exists.

Founded in 1933 and with Academy status since 2011, the College aims to foster the spiritual, intellectual, physical and personal development of boys aged 11 to 18, equipping them for the challenges of life in the 21st century and enabling them to lead fulfilling lives. As a Roman Catholic Grammar School, the distinctive education offered by St. Anselm's to academically able Catholic and Christian boys in Wirral, Cheshire and Merseyside is free, yet priceless. Every year our students achieve impressive examination results and the overwhelming majority of Year 13 leavers proceed to university, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Academic achievement is not the only indicator of our success, however. We seek to educate the whole person, in the tradition of the Christian Brothers, and value participation in a wide range of sporting and extra-curricular pursuits to afford all students the opportunity to develop their talents. We provide a context in which boys learn to take responsibility for their actions, enhance their social skills, benefit from Christian example and participate in activities to benefit those less fortunate.

This prospectus provides an insight into life at St. Anselm's but I encourage you to visit the College to experience for yourself its pervasive ethos and family atmosphere.

Simon Duggan, MA (Oxon), MA (London), LLE
Headmaster

Our Philosophy

“St. Anselm's College is an outstanding Catholic College which focuses on the academic and pastoral care of all students.”

Ofsted

“Let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure He will never forget it, nor let it pass unrewarded. How many of our actions are lost for want of applying them to this end? Were we to know the merit of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver... One thing you may be sure of, that whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, He will amply reward you.”

Blessed Edmund Rice



The ethos of St. Anselm's originates from the philosophy of the Christian Brothers – the promotion of personal growth and the pursuit of excellence. The College seeks to provide students with the knowledge and skills required for the journey of life; to instil a sense of honour, integrity and self-worth; and to support an abiding faith in a yet higher authority.





Our motto – ‘Fides, Quaerens, Intellectum’ or ‘The faith that seeks to understand better what it already believes’ – comes from the writings of St. Anselm and encapsulates our spiritual goal: we seek to live Jesus in our hearts. We promote a well-ordered and gently disciplined community, in which the 11-year-old is allowed to be a child and the 18-year-old is encouraged to be a man.

The education we offer challenges the mind, body and spirit of each individual. Our academic courses are guided by Gospel teaching, an influence that extends well beyond the normal curriculum and nurtures respect and empathy for our neighbours near and far.

A young girl in a school uniform is looking at a gecko on a table. The gecko is orange and yellow with dark spots. The girl is in the background, slightly out of focus. The title 'The Curriculum' is written in a large, dark blue serif font over the bottom left of the image.

The Curriculum

St. Anselm's provides a broad, balanced and differentiated academic education beyond the confines of the National Curriculum, with additional subjects offered in both Key Stages 3 and 4. As a High Performing Specialist School, we use our experience as a Technology College and a Language College to raise academic standards even higher.

Our stimulating curriculum – in which Religious Education plays an integral role – is designed to maximise students' academic potential and develop in them a love of learning that will inspire them throughout their lives. Our dedicated staff have excellent subject knowledge and are in the vanguard of personalised learning. They understand pupils' preferred learning styles and employ cutting-edge teaching techniques, supported by extensive use of technology such as interactive whiteboards and laptops.



“A number of linked factors underpin the school’s excellent performance. Foremost is the students’ outstanding personal development that contributes greatly to the exceptionally positive learning atmosphere in the school.” Ofsted



Students' work is continually monitored and regularly assessed, with families being kept updated through written reports and Parents' Evenings for each year group. We ensure that all boys are sufficiently challenged, providing the services of skilled Learning Mentors and Teaching Assistants to support students with Special Educational Needs and those experiencing academic or personal difficulties.

The College places great emphasis on the importance of independent study beyond the timetabled day. Homework is essential to fulfil the demands of academic courses and stimulate independent learning and thinking. Staff ensure that the amount given is appropriate to the age of the student and that all homework is marked and recorded.



Spiritual Community

It is our intention to educate a generation of spiritually literate young men who will not allow the Catholic case to go by default in an increasingly materialistic and selfish world.

St. Anselm's is committed to instilling an awareness of religion, not only as an academic discipline, but also as an integral part of daily life. The development of faith is supported through regular prayer, assemblies and organised discussions of Christ's presence in everyday life, whilst symbols of Christian significance are given prominence throughout the College. Pupils and staff benefit from the use of two areas for reflection, prayer and the celebration of Mass – the hall and the College chapel in Outwood, formerly the Brothers' residence.

We have an outstanding pastoral system in place to monitor, guide and support boys as they undertake the transition to adulthood. Each pupil's wellbeing and progress is the responsibility of his Form Teacher, who is supported by the Head of Year, the Head of Key Stage and the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher. We want our boys to know that their opinions are heard and valued. The student council plays a key role in this respect, with representatives from every year group contributing to the development of the College.

“Be intent on prayer and whatever happens will turn to our good.”

Blessed Edmund Rice





Parents also play a fundamental role in the success of St. Anselm's and we foster a spirit of co-operation and mutual trust. Meetings with staff are held regularly but the College's open-door policy means that parents are welcome to discuss their son's progress or happiness at any time. The thriving parents' association – the Friends of St. Anselm's (FOSA) – organises a range of fundraising and social events during the year and all parents are automatically members.

“Parents, students and staff refer to the school as ‘a family’ and this is reflected in all aspects of school life.” Ofsted



Sporting Activities

“St. Anselm’s gave me the best possible start and all the teachers encouraged me to pursue my ambitions.”

Ben Johnston
Saracens, Brive, Nottingham and England

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The College has a long tradition of excellence in sport and we are proud to have achieved the prestigious Sportsmark award from Sport England in recognition of our commitment to promoting the benefits of physical education.

On site, boys enjoy the use of the well-equipped Brother Senan Kerrigan Sports Centre, a gym with fitness suite and the College grounds for training, whilst our main sports pitches and pavilion are situated a short distance away at The Ridings, Noctorum. Students are offered a wide range of activities including athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, cross country, gymnastics, hockey, rugby and tennis. Throughout this

programme, we endeavour to develop the physical, moral, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of each boy through his participation in sport.

We are proud of the high standards achieved, particularly in athletics, cross country and rugby. Our teams consistently reach the finals of national competitions in both athletics and cross country, the rugby teams compete successfully against many of the best schools in the Northwest and the College has even represented England in international events. The Games Faculty organises pre-season practice, training weekends in the Lake District, an annual ski trip and sports tours abroad.

Many boys progress to representative honours, competing for their county at regional level and their country at national level. Distinguished old boys include several recent rugby internationals – British Lion and Heineken Cup winner, Austin Healey; England three-quarter, Ben Johnston; and Ireland backs Simon Mason and Christian Saverimutto.



Cultural Life

Music forms an essential part of the curriculum and College life. The fully equipped Music Faculty has its own ICT room and wireless network. Each boy is given the opportunity to play an instrument, with tuition from permanent and peripatetic tutors who encourage students to develop their talents beyond basic abilities into specialist skills.

Our range of musical societies includes the Chamber Orchestra, Junior Choir, Wind Band, Brass Ensemble, Guitar Group and Samba Band, complemented by parents and staff, as well as various student bands. Our musicians often perform publicly – including in events abroad – and great excitement surrounds the annual 'Battle of the Bands', which culminates in a final at Liverpool's New Cavern Club.

We have a thriving dramatic tradition, with regular opportunities to perform. A major musical or play is staged each year, with recent productions including 'Carousel', 'Hamlet', 'Oliver' and 'Lord of the Flies'. The College magazine, 'The Anselmian', is published annually and is edited with great enthusiasm, skill and wit by senior pupils, supported by staff.




“The College was at the forefront in enabling me to fulfil my aspirations as a musician and it was with their continued efforts and support that I was able to achieve this. The teaching staff always managed to obtain the best from pupils and were able to highlight our strengths and boost the weaknesses we had. I will never forget my time at St. Anselm's, as there are so many wonderful memories. It was a brilliant stepping stone in my life and one that I will always be grateful for.”

Leslie Neish

Brass finalist in 'BBC Young Musician of the Year' Competition and peripatetic music teacher





A young boy with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue school uniform and a striped tie, is looking intently at a map. He is pointing at a red line on the map with his right index finger. The map is held by another person whose hands are visible. In the background, two other boys in similar uniforms are standing outdoors, one holding a clipboard. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

“Boys show a tremendous generosity of spirit and awareness of the needs of others through their support of local and global charities.” Ofsted

Enriching Experiences

College clubs and societies allow boys to pursue a wide range of interests including art, chess, computing, drama, robonics, science technology and web authoring. We also encourage students to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Our annual Participation Awards (Years 7 to 10) and Colours Awards (Years 11 to 13) celebrate involvement in extra-curricular activities, with presentations made at special ceremonies, often by distinguished Anselmians.

Many faculties organise day visits and residential trips to enhance the learning experience. There are regular visits to the theatre, local businesses, galleries and museums, as well as expeditions abroad that widen boys' horizons. All students have the opportunity to participate in residential retreats to foster their spiritual development and enhance self-awareness. Sixth formers support the Edmund Rice Family Pilgrimage to Lourdes each year and can visit the Brothers' Mission in West Africa and elsewhere. In College, boys are inspired by visiting speakers from businesses and charities.

We have developed close links with Africa through the Brothers' Mission in Sierra Leone and our twin school, St Francis in Makeni. We support these institutions through prayer and finance, with the whole community taking part in our annual sponsored walk in memory of Brother Senan Kerrigan. Our students demonstrate compassion for those less fortunate through the activities of the St Vincent de Paul Society to support local homeless people, refugees and underprivileged children, as well as the efforts of the Friday Club to enhance the lives of adults with learning difficulties.



Sixth Form

“25 years later, I still appreciate the well-rounded education at St. Anselm's that prepared me for a career in medicine.”

Dr Kevin Jones
Consultant Physician in Thoracic Medicine,
The Royal Bolton Hospital

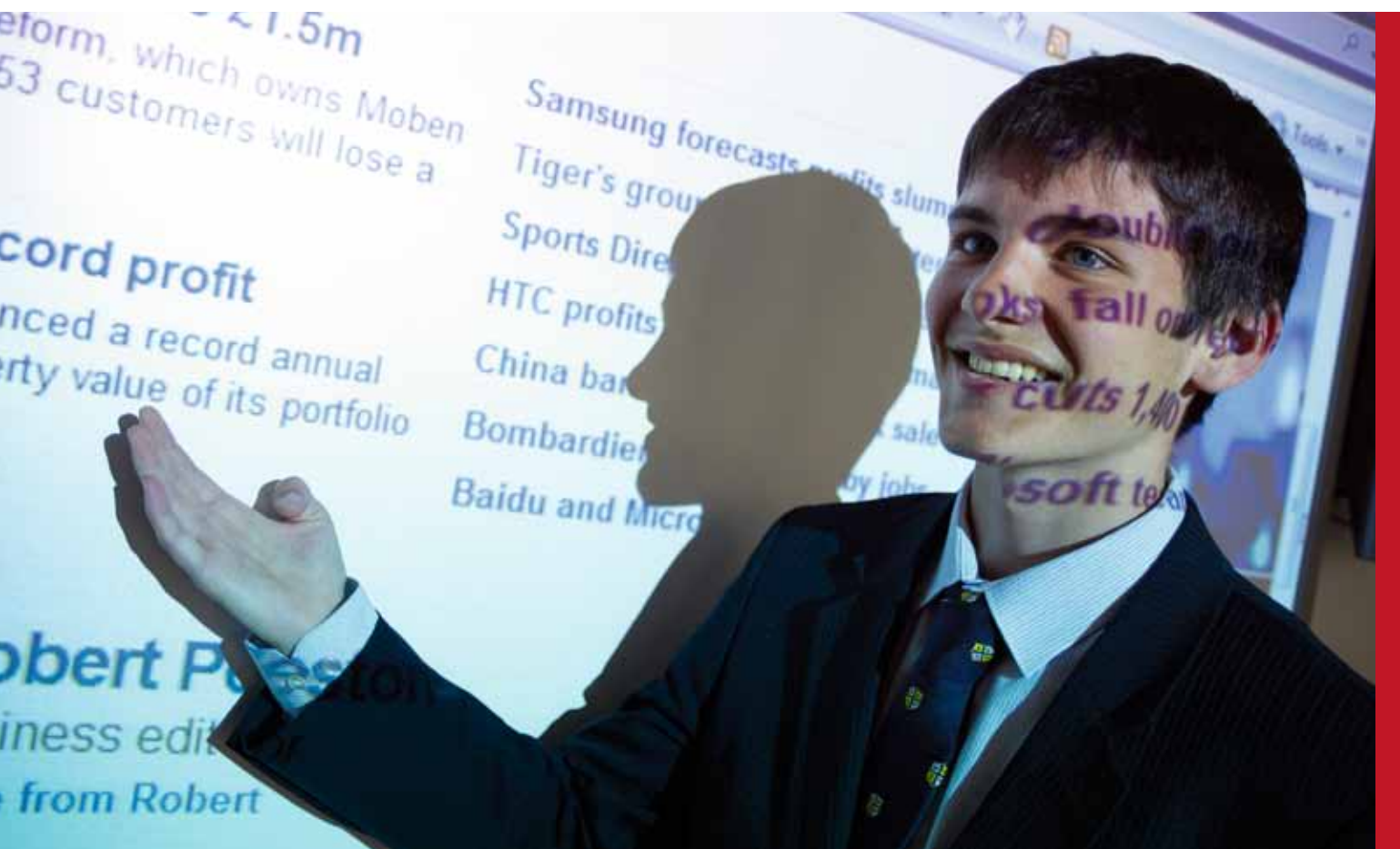
The Sixth Form plays a key role in the life of St. Anselm's. As important ambassadors for the College, sixth formers gain valuable leadership experience as prefects and peer mentors. They are naturally at the forefront of our sporting and cultural endeavours and participate in numerous field trips and social events.

With their own dress code and distinct curriculum – based around a broad range of academic and vocational Advanced Level courses – sixth formers enjoy fantastic opportunities to extend their learning and prepare for university and a career. Year 12 students are encouraged to take 4 AS courses and all follow the General Religion and Games enrichment programmes. In Year 13, most students take 3 A2 courses in addition to General Studies. Plans are underway to enhance our current facilities – comprising a library with an e-learning facility, a lecture theatre and tutor rooms – through the refurbishment of Outwood House into a state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre.



“High quality management, outstanding teaching and a curriculum that meets students' needs and aspirations exceptionally well combine to produce excellent achievement, outstanding personal development and high standards.”

Ofsted



We treat sixth form students as young adults, whilst continuing to provide the monitoring and guidance required to assist them in the fulfilment of their academic potential. They are expected to adopt a mature and independent approach to their studies and aim for the highest levels of achievement. With the help of our dedicated staff, they develop levels of ambition, confidence and perseverance that prove invaluable in higher education and employment. As a result, almost all gain places at the university of their choice, including Oxbridge and Medical places.

Future Success

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark, wavy hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a blue school blazer, a light blue collared shirt, and a striped tie with blue, red, and yellow. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar uniforms.

“The impact of specialist status is to be seen in the development of teaching and learning methods that promote excellent progress.” Ofsted

The College understands how important it is for students to develop the critical skills, global perspective and digital literacy required to be successful in the modern world. In partnership with expert outside agencies, we deliver high-quality, personalised careers advice and we are proud to hold the Greater Merseyside Connexions Quality Award for Careers Education and Guidance.

Students participate in a structured careers programme delivered by their Form Teacher, the Head of Careers and the Connexions service within Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). All boys in Year 10 undertake a week of work experience, with further opportunities available in the sixth form. Students have regular access to a Connexions Adviser, as well as databases and other information in the Careers Library. In addition, all boys benefit from a careers interview with Connexions in Key Stage 4, which parents are welcome to attend. The Careers Officer is available at Parents' Evenings and the College also organises an annual Careers Fair for students and families

“My time at St. Anselm's was a happy one, with great characters among the lads and staff. St. Anselm's gave me what I believe you need from a school: real confidence and a drive to succeed in whatever you chose to do. Virtually everything I have since done, at Oxford, the Bar in England and California and on television and radio, owes something to my time at St. Anselm's and the opportunities, encouragement and the support the College gave me.”

Michael McParland, Barrister and broadcaster





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Healthy School

HIGH PERFORMING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Statutory Rights and Information

All school prospectuses must provide information covered by Statute and additional material which parents might reasonably request. This includes detailed Admissions Policy, GCSE and GCE results and data, destination of leavers, a summary of the most recent Ofsted Inspection Report and information concerning charges for trips, visits and extra-curricular activities. The changing nature of much of this material means that it is best communicated via other methods, including the College website.