



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Jan-Feb 2018

13 February 2018

**Dear Parents,
We have received a tremendous boost with the recent publication of the DfE Performance Tables. We were the top school 6th Form in Wirral for progress from GCSE to A Level in 2017!**

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.

Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth and Mr Iain Smith are recovering from ill health.

Mr Brian Cummings, old Anselmian and ex- Chair of Governors who has been ill.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Mr Davar Saranjam Gassab, father of Ayeden, who passed away recently.

Br. Noel Denis O'Halloran, Headmaster of the College from 1959-65, who died in January. We will celebrate Mass in his memory at 1pm on Friday 16th February in the Chapel.

May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

Oxbridge:

Congratulations to Elijah-Matteo Ferrante (Y13) who has been offered a place to read Modern History at Balliol College Oxford.

Biology:

A number of our 6th Formers took part in the recent Royal Society of Biology's UK Olympiad and performed well receiving the following recognition:

Y 13 – Haydn Bennett Gold medal, Thariq Abdul Silver medal, Jayvier Pereira Bronze medal, Greg Mercer, Emmanuel Augustine-Antomy, Nathan Bennett highly commended and Cameron Bennett, Conor Gray, Michael Gallagher commended.

Y 12 – Kian Hughes, Max Thompson, Jacob Lau, James Simpson, Josh

Campbell, Hugo Clough, Jack Harvey, Joe Lythgoe, James Lally and Joe Corcoran were all commended.

Sport

Rugby:

The 1st XV under the captaincy of Ewan Nolan and Ben Dufton-Kelly have only lost one Saturday fixture this season and recently defeated both Merchant Taylor's and Bolton School.

The Y10 Under-15 team maintained their outstanding form this season by outclassing Ampleforth College 39-8 last week, winning the Northern Final of the Nat West Plate competition. They now meet the Midlands Champions for a place in the national Plate Final. This is the best Cup run in a national competition by an Anselmian team for 16 years! The full story is on the website.

Cross Country:

Our Senior Squad finished 4th in the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry last week. Joe Wigfield (Y13) ran the 7th fastest individual lap in this national competition. Our team time was 30 seconds quicker than last year when we finished 2nd!

Joe had earlier finished 2nd in the Merseyside County Schools Championships on 3rd February. Louis Johnston and Finan Johnston (not related!) finished 1st and 2nd in the Intermediate race and Zachary Russell 4th in the Y8&9 race. Eden Jones, James Price and Mark Sestan (Y7) have all achieved County selection.

James Price came 3rd in the final Merseyside League race in January and became overall Merseyside Champion.

George Godwin finished 3rd overall helping the Yr 7 A team win the completion.

Martial Arts:

Joe Ryan (9E) continued his fantastic season becoming the Yokkao junior World Champion by beating the Dutch current European Champion last month.

Professional Football:

Harry Charsley – old boy Harry recently played for Everton in Nicosia in the Europa League.

Oliver Shannon – Oliver has completed his studies at Clemson University, USA, and has been drafted as a soccer

professional with Atlanta United in the MLS.

Good Citizens

Ethan Clayton and George Samuels (Y10) regularly visit senior citizens in sheltered accommodation as part of their D of E community project. Last Saturday they served coffee and cakes and raised over £50 for the Charles Thompson Mission.

Ofsted Action Plan

Our Action Plan, which is an appendix to our established Improvement Plan, is published on the College website. We are focussing upon the areas for Improvement identified by Ofsted and investing in Staff training to improve standards of teaching & learning and assessment.

Our internal monitoring suggests that this is being achieved, with the overwhelming majority of lessons being graded as "Good" or better in our quality control internal procedures. We have had external reviews of teaching and assessment, and staff training, to support us in making this progress. Our monitoring data suggests that students in each Year group are making appropriate progress, with particular highlights in Years 8, 10 and 13.

Our improved exam results this summer, especially at A level but also at GCSE, confirm that the Action Plan is working!

DfE Performance Tables

I am delighted to inform you that we achieved the 2nd highest score by any Wirral 6th Form in the January 2018 DfE Tables, based on 2017 A Level results for progress from GCSE to A level 2015-17.

Our score of +0.13 was the best for any school 6th Form in Wirral and the best of any Grammar School, including the girls' ones, and comfortably above the local and national average! This is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of students, staff and parents and demonstrates what can be achieved at the College with the right attitude and commitment.

Congratulations to Miss Baines and her team!

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Our performance in the GCSE tables for 2017 was in line with local and national averages. Our score of -0.09 was slightly below what we hoped for, but in line with expectations and the results of the other Boys' Grammar Schools and a considerable improvement on 2016! We know that we can do better and are striving for a high score in 2018.

Homework and Academic Expectations

We aspire to provide a Grammar School education for all our students, irrespective of background and circumstances, and this has been reinforced by our Ofsted experience! The key to this is high expectations, not only from staff but from parents and families as well. **We expect parents to monitor their son's work, including homework, and to require him to spend sufficient time on it and to take pride and care in its presentation and completion. We have established the Lunchtime Study Club where boys who fail to produce homework completed to an appropriate standard, or who misbehave in lessons, will work at lunchtime. Please ensure that you son completes corrections in all subjects and catches up any work missed through absence, trips or fixtures. Half-term is an ideal time for this. Never believe any suggestion of "I have no homework to do"!**

We seek to establish a culture where it is cool to achieve! Most of our students do very well and flourish at the College. Our ambition is that all of them do so and we need your support to achieve this! We also expect students to arrive at College fully equipped and ready to learn. Boys will not be allowed to disrupt the learning of others and will face appropriate sanctions if they misbehave. **No boy who works hard and engages with his studies will ever underachieve at St. Anselm's!**

Staff news

Mr Neil Lynch is teaching Science in Key Stage 3 and **Mr Alan Leach** is teaching 6th Form Psychology.

Mrs Lesley Davenport (English) has resigned her post on health grounds. She has been replaced by **Mrs Olivia Walberg** who has assumed most of her timetable.

Powers of Search & Confiscation

The law gives powers to schools to search and confiscate items from pupils under the following guidelines. Thankfully, the College rarely has to exercise this power but I feel it is important that parents and pupils are aware of it.

College staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.

The Headmaster, members of the SLT and Heads of Year have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.

Prohibited items include:

Knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images.

Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

The Headmaster and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by College rules which has been identified in them as an item which may be searched for. Banned items are listed in the College's Behaviour Management Policy, which is available on the website. Staff are not required to ask parents' permission to carry out the search, nor inform them that it has taken place, although we would always endeavour to do so. Staff will contact the police should a pupil refuse to allow their outer clothing, bags and/or lockers to be searched. The College will not use this power without having reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil has a banned substance. We have the power to examine data or files on electronic devices if they have reasonable grounds to do so. They may also erase data and files if there is reason to do so.

College Sanctions

Let me make it abundantly clear that College sanctions are not negotiable! **Parents and students do not have the right to pick and choose whether to cooperate with the College sanctions system.** We will always listen to polite representations, but the simple truth is that such parents have almost always been misled. The Governors expect parents to set an appropriate example to their sons.

Term-Time Holidays

Once again, I draw your attention to changes to DfE legislation regarding

family holidays taken in term time. This can be found on our College website. Term-time holidays could lead to prosecution by the welfare authorities! The recent court case has not been reported in full and penalties still exist. The boys have a 7 week summer break this year. That is sufficient to accommodate all family holidays and occasions!

Keep Track of your son's Homework and Deadlines!

St Anselm's College provides an online service for parents to keep track of your child's school homework and deadlines.

The service is free to access and available via the Internet and any Smart Phone. Simply visit the College website by typing in www.st-anselms.com. On the school homepage in the 'Students' or 'Parents' drop down menus you will see the option 'Show My Homework'. Click on this to display a calendar-view, showing the dates when your son received homework from his subject teachers and when it is due for collection.

If you have any questions regarding this service please contact the ICT team at ict@st-anselms.com

Parents are still expected to check and sign their son's Homework Planners, which boys are still expected to use. Some homework cannot be posted on Show My Homework, as we get used to the system, and it is unwise to leave everything to technology!

Connect Ed

This is our Absence Reporting System. The College previously used a system called KeepKids Safe. This has now been updated and is called ConnectED. You can access this system through an app called MyEd. The parental mobile number is then linked to your son and information regarding College events, key dates, educational visits and attendance can be accessed. This will also allow you and us to send and receive free messages to and from school. We are in the process of updating the College interface on this system and ask that all parents, who have smart phones, download the app. It is also very important that we have up to date mobile numbers for parents and ask you inform us if you have changed your number recently.

Medication

Please ensure that the spare medication, you provide for your sons, **particularly epi pens and inhalers, which are kept in our Medical Room, is still in date, and will**

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still be so in July, or replace them with new ones.

The College will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a medical practitioner and are in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist. We will not accept medicines that have been taken out of the original container nor make changes to dosages.

Appointments

Please provide prior notice of medical appointments for your sons. We also require a parental letter or copy of the appointment letter for our records. Recently some boys have been reporting to reception to sign out without the staff having prior knowledge. This is a safeguarding issue.

Asthma

Many students at the College have been diagnosed with asthma. Please ensure that your son carries his inhaler with him at all times. We are happy to keep a spare inhaler for him in the Medical Room. Please send it into College in a box, marked for the attention of the School Nurse, and clearly labelled with your son's name and form.

Contact Details

Please ensure that all your contact details are kept up to date. It is particularly important that we have all current telephone numbers in case of illness, injuries, absence etc.

Key Dates

February:

13th Y 11 Mock Results & Study Skills

Evening

13th-21st Sierra Leone Immersion

14th Ash Wednesday

14th-20th KS5 German Exchange

15th Y 13 Parents Evening

16th Y 11 6th Form Taster Day, Y12 Study Day

16th End of Term, 3.30pm

26th College Re-opens

28th 6th Form Open Evening

March:

3rd Rugby Tour Race Night

5th Y13 Elevate Seminar

8th Y 7 Music Trip

15th Y 10 Parents Evening

19th-23rd Y13 Mock Exams

22nd Full Governors Meeting

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 £15,860 BUT NOT RECEIVING WORKING TAX CREDIT**, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals.

Forgotten lunches /PE kits

Please remind your sons that if they have left their lunch, PE kits or any other property at home they should check at Reception to see if it has been handed in by an heroic parent.

Lockers

It is surprising how many students do not have padlocks on their lockers, given that they are in daily use and essential for security. Please ensure that your son has one!

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.

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. **Dyed or highlighted hair is not allowed.** This rule applies equally to 6th Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut.

All boys should be wearing black, office-style, shoes, not boots or trainers!

iPods/i-phones

A reminder of the College Policy! Boys SHOULD NOT bring these 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.

Lost Property

If your son has lost uniform, kit, a coat or bag etc. please do not immediately assume that it has been stolen or is lost forever! We have collections of lost property at the College & at the Games Fields. Please feel free to come & check. Parents can do their bit by ensuring that your son's property is labelled or marked. Most of our collection is anonymous!

Sweet and Drink Selling

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. This practice can lead to a trade in contraband, such as cigarettes, and worse!

E-Safety Update – Mobile Phone Use

Can your child gain access to inappropriate material on their mobile?

It is a wise parent that sets up restrictions on what their children can access on the internet at home. Notwithstanding natural teen curiosity, it is possible for a young person to be inadvertently exposed to inappropriate, unsuitable and highly disturbing material. Many young people now have 'Smartphones,' that give the user internet access through 3G networks. Even some of the simplest mobile phones can provide access through a web browser. Many parents do not realise that this can be 'unfiltered access.' Students can be exposed to exactly the same dangers on their phone that they might face from unrestricted and unmonitored access at home. It is therefore very important to make sure that the 'Parental Control Services' offered free by all mobile phone providers are switched on. This is not always automatically the case. If you are unsure, contact your provider and ask. If the controls are not in place, then you can request that they are switched on for a particular number. The link below will take you to an Ofcom website giving more advice and contact details for all the mobile phone companies:

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2009/10/parental-controls-for-mobile-phones/>

The recent "Sexting" cases in the national media serves as a reminder of the trouble teenagers can get into. We present regular Assemblies, with very clear messages, on such issues. Guidance is available on the College website.

Cyber Bullying

The College advises all parents to be vigilant regarding their sons' use of the internet. We have had to deal with some examples of on-line bullying during the past few months. Cyber bullying will be punished in the same way as other breaches of the Code of Conduct. Our sympathy is always with the victim.

16-19 Bursary Fund

The Bursary is available to students in disadvantaged circumstances or from families on low incomes, comparable with qualification for Free School Meals. If you feel that your son might be eligible he should collect an application form from

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Mr Morgan. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact Miss Baines, Mr. Morgan or myself in complete confidence. **Students who break the terms of the 6th Form Learning agreement, including through poor attendance, lose their eligibility for Bursary payments. Tax payers' money must be spent wisely!**

Outwood House

Parental support for the Edmund Rice Trust is most welcome. The Trust purchased Outwood and is entirely reliant on parental and Anselmian contributions. Thank you if you are already making a contribution. For those of you who would like to donate details of how to contribute are on the **Edmund Rice Trust section of the College website.**

Uniform reminder

Boys in Years 7-11 are allowed only to wear grey v-neck sweaters under blazers, as required. No other colours are allowed. From September we will be moving towards white shirts only, so while blue and white shirts are acceptable from Yr8 upwards we ask that only white are purchased for the future. **Boys should wear black office-style shoes and no trainers, irrespective of current fashions! Any boy wearing inappropriate footwear will be required to change into a pair of pumps which will be provided by the College. Non-compliance will result in an immediate exclusion. You have been warned!**

Pupil Premium

We have explained how we use the Pupil Premium on our website. If you believe your son is entitled to any of the additional support outlined there, please contact me at the College. This is broadly based on eligibility for Free School Meals. The College provides additional curriculum support for Pupil Premium students and I urge parents to take advantage of these free opportunities to enhance your son's education. **Mrs Cubbin has assumed overall responsibility for this programme from September 2017.**

Safeguarding

All visitors to the College site, including parents, must sign in at Reception. No-one has a right to trespass on to the yard in search of a student, even if the visit is to drop off a message or lunch money.

Snapchat Drug

We would like to make parents aware of a current concern regarding the use of

Snapchat pills by young people. The pills generally come in two colours; pink and blue/green and have the Snapchat 'ghost' logo imprinted onto them. They are a form of Ecstasy that causes aggressive and disorientated behaviour. Teeth clenching and arm twitching symptoms have also been reported by hospital staff. Unfortunately, these can be purchased relatively cheaply and there have been several cases reported on the Wirral. There have also been concerns reported around the use of nitrous oxide gas which can cause nausea, vomiting and hypoxia. This gas comes in small silver coloured canisters and is inhaled.

Banned Substances

The Governors have made the decision to ban so-called High Energy drinks from the site. Any such items found on site will be confiscated by staff and disposed of! We have had some disturbing examples of boys consuming these drinks in the morning as an alternative to breakfast. All boys need a proper breakfast each morning in order to prepare them for a day of learning!

So-called legal highs are already banned at the College. They are only legal because government scientific agencies have yet to analyse and ban them! Laser pens are also banned. They are potential causes of disruption and injury and have no place in school. Confiscated items will be destroyed.

Battle of the Bands

This was a great success last night at the New Cavern Club. Every band performed with distinction! Thank you for your support!

No Chewing Gum please!

Chewing gum is banned on this site, so please discourage your sons from bringing any to school. It causes mess and damage. Those failing to observe College rules will be deployed cleaning it off the yard and removing it from underneath desks.

Apostolic Life

Our next 6th Form Immersion Retreat leaves for Sierra Leone tomorrow. We wish Mr Haimes, Mr Hale, Mr Watson and Mrs Rawsthorne a safe journey and good luck. They will be visiting projects and schools in Freetown and Makeni, including St. Joseph's School for Hearing Impaired Children and our twin school St. Francis in Makeni. Thank you for your gifts and donations.

Our 6th Form Edmund Rice International Youth Ambassadors Ciaran Harte and Pietro Piccirillo represented the College at the United Nations in Geneva in January. They were part of a delegation from the English Edmund Rice Schools investigating the work of ERI and reported back to the 6th Form on their experiences. **Mr Hale and 4 Y12 students** participated in the Edmund Rice Schools 6th Form Retreat last week.

On the Buses

I politely remind you that the 611 & 612 Buses are operated by Mersey Travel, not the College, and are technically public buses. We can accept no liability for them, although we will seek to support Mersey Travel to ensure a safe service. **The services are running well and are not over-crowded.**

FOSA News

The AGM last week attracted some new Committee members. Our next event is the Senior Rugby Tour fundraiser, a Kentucky Derby Race Night, on 3rd March. Tickets priced £20, including food, are available from the Office and we are forming tables of 10. Details of recent 500 Club Winners are on the College website.

Parking by Parents

If you are collecting your son please do not park on Egerton Rd! There is plenty of space in neighbouring roads and your sons are perfectly capable of walking around the corner. **Double parking causes traffic delays in a busy road used by buses and delays your departure.**

Governance

Mr John Greaves, a Governor for 10 years, has been elected Chairman of Governors and **Mrs Pam Green** as Vice-Chair. **Mr Neil Turner, Mr Christopher Cleugh and Mr Charles Mills** have recently joined the Governing Body. The Governors have produced an Action Plan following the NGA Review of Governance recommended by Ofsted. This will soon be ratified and displayed on the Governors' section of the College website.

Y11/6th Form Transition

We are holding some important events in order to support Y11 students in

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making well-informed decisions about their future.

On Tuesday 13th February, at 6pm, we are holding a Mock Exam Certificates and Study Skills Evening in the Hall for ALL Y11 students. They will be presented with their Mock GCSE Exam results and this will replicate the experience of Results' day in the summer. This will be followed by Study Skills advice.

On Friday 16th February all Y11 students will have a 6th Form Taster Day at the College during the morning. This will give them an insight into the courses available at the College and the style of Teaching and Learning. Our high position in the recent DfE Tables confirms that our provision is well-suited to our students.

On Wednesday 28th February at 7pm we host our annual 6th Form Open Evening for Y11 students. Please see the website, and bus adverts, for further details!

Year 12 Study Day

Friday 16th February is a Study Day for all Y12 students. This is to enable them to consolidate their work and catch up on any missed assignments. It also provides an opportunity for boys to pursue some UCAS research in preparation for their university applications in the Autumn.

Y13 Parents Evening

This will take place from 5-7.30pm on Thursday 15th February in the Hall.

Parents recently received Y13 Reports following the Mock Exams and this provides a welcome opportunity to pursue any concerns before the 2nd set of Mock Exams beginning on 19th March. Y13 are generally a conscientious group who are making good progress. Most boys have received attractive UCAS offers although some are performing well below the required standard at present! Beware of unconditional offers which sound attractive but often prove to be a disincentive!

consolidate their learning from this term. Y11 and Y13 need to be focusing on revision!

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

And Finally...

Half-term begins at 3.30pm on Friday 16th February. This is an excellent opportunity for boys to have a break, as well as to catch up any missed work and