



The Headmaster's Easter Newsletter

11 April 2011

Dear Parents,

The longest Easter Term of my 23 year career is entering the final straight! Our students are active in Lenten fundraising and there is a clear focus upon forthcoming GCE & GCSE exams. Students in Years 11, 12 & 13 must revise thoroughly during the Easter holiday. Years 11 & 12 will only have 2 weeks tuition after Easter before their exams start.

Please remember in your prayers ...

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Christopher Smith (13 MRL) who passed away in February. Chris' parents Kate and Mike have asked me to communicate their thanks for the numerous messages of condolence and support that they have received. The College will be celebrating an SVP Mass in memory of Chris at 7pm on Wednesday 13th April in the Hall. A letter has been emailed to parents. Please return the reply slip if you wish to attend.

Congratulations to ...

Marcos Molloy (7P) who recently became A.B.A.E National Boxing Champion at under 42kg weight.

Alex Jackson (Yr 11) who has been shortlisted to receive an Arkwright Scholarship. He is shortly to be interviewed and will be advised if he has been successful by early July.

Joe Madden (Yr 12) who has been appointed as Junior Captain at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club for 2011. He has also been selected for Cheshire Boys' Squad at the 4 Centres Golf Tournament in April

4 of this year's Yr.13 biologists who have won awards in the British Biology Olympiad. **Joshua Roberts** won a bronze medal and **James Hilton, Jonathan Downing** and **Alex McIntosh** were all awarded Highly Commended Certificates.

Daniel Jarvis (Y10) who was selected to represent Merseyside at the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships in Nottingham on 19th March.

Sport

I take this opportunity to thank the **Yr. 7 & 8 rugby parents** who kindly ferried the boys in their own cars over to St. Edward's on Saturday, 19th March when the bus failed to turn up. This avoided the fixtures being cancelled at very short notice.

Congratulations to **Mr Booth, Mr Davenport** and the **Y7 Rugby squad** who won the prestigious Manchester GS 10-a-side Tournament, defeating the hosts in the final! There were outstanding individual performances from **Joe Hardy & Alex Luxon-Kewley** in a magnificent team effort.

The Y7 squad (u-12s) reached the final of the Cheshire 7s Tournament, having defeated Wirral, Birkenhead, Bradford GS & Stockport GS.

The Y8 7s squad (u-13s), reached the final of the Plate competition at the Ellesmere College tournament.

The Y11 (U-16) 7s squad reached the final of the Plate at the Cheshire 7s.

Cross Country

The Intermediate Team finished 10th in the defence of our national title at the English Schools Championships.

The Junior (Y11&10) team finished 2nd in the Northern Schools Championships.

'Keep Kids Safe'

We have introduced a new and up-to-date Absence Reporting System at the College. The new system reads 'N' absence marks from the registers and automatically sends a text message/voicemail/e-mail to parents/carers. All Absence/Medical Appointment messages reported on the absence line are keyed into registers. Late pupils must sign the late book to avoid a call home.

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.

Car Parking

Anyone who parks illegally from 3.30-4pm risks deserved police action. 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.

Key Dates

Thur 14 Apr–Tues 3 May – Easter Break

6 May – Anselmian Asscn. Dinner

13 May – Colours' Awards

27 May -6 June – Half Term Break

4 July College Holiday, for Royal Wedding

INSET

Friday, 15th April will be a Staff Inset Day and, therefore, students will finish for the Easter break on Thursday, 14th April.

FOSA Race Night

This was postponed, owing to slow ticket sales. This is usually a popular event, so the Committee is going to re-advertise it next term. It will be held on **Friday 1st July at 7pm in the Hall**. Tickets will be available from the Office next term.

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 £16,190.00 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).

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.

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. **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 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.

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 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! Schools are obliged to ensure that no sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate are available on site, in keeping with the Healthy Schools agenda.

Sierra Leone Visit

The 6th Form Immersion group, accompanied by Messrs Dowse, Harris & McGowan, visited our twin school, St. Francis, Makeni, in February. They received a wonderful reception and were able to distribute kit, equipment and presents collected by staff and students.

They also visited local projects, staying at Sr. Mary Sweeney's school for girls with hearing difficulties, a charity we support. The students were a very cohesive group and were lauded for their conduct and maturity. During the trip they were able to meet the boys who had visited us in September for the Touraid festival and visited Edmund Rice projects in Freetown.

Sierra Leone Container

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of the MacNamara, Wainwright & Greaves families, and Miss Baines, we are now in a position to send out a shipping container to our contacts in Freetown. This will carry 60 computers and 30 bikes, as well as books and clothes. We are now investing in a larger container, likely to cost £3,000, so we are still fundraising! Any Lenten donations can be sent to the College. **Any further donations of goods can be brought to the College on Friday 6th May. We will have a final collection at John Beech Ltd in Bromborough Pool on Saturday 7th May from 11am-12** and an email reminder will be sent out. We need packing cases and bubble wrap to protect our stock, so any donations will be gratefully received at the College! Thank you, and the local schools and businesses who have helped us, for your generous support.

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.

Academy Status

Our consultations are now complete. A copy of the presentation I gave to parents is available on the College website. The Governors and Trustees are convinced that Academy Status is the best option for safeguarding the distinctive Catholic, Edmund Rice education provided at the College. They have voted to pursue our application, which has been accepted by the DfE and it is likely that the College will become an Academy next term. Parents and students will notice little change although there is always room for improvement. We hope to invest our improved budget allocation in improved facilities, including a new 6th Form Block project.

I thank those parents, a small minority, who raised questions and trust that you have been satisfied by my answers as no further correspondence has ensued.

Reports

6th Form and Year 10 Reports will be posted home before the end of this term. Please read them carefully and contact your son's Head of Year in the event of any concerns.

Tesco Vouchers

Once again we are collecting Tesco's computers for Schools vouchers. Past collections have funded interactive whiteboards and laptops, so your contributions will be gratefully received at Reception!

Ofsted Interim Assessment

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a letter from Ofsted. They have conducted an interim assessment of the College's performance, based on DfE data and have concluded that standards have been maintained since our "Outstanding" Inspection Report in 2008. As a result we will not require inspection in the near future under the current framework, which focuses inspection resources on the schools deemed to be most in need.

Value Added Success

We have again been included in the SSAT (Specialist Schools & Academies Trust) List of Schools with the best progress from Key Stage 2-4, age 11-16, for schools in England & Wales for GCSE results in 2010.

Anselmian Association

Dinner

This will be held at the College on Friday 6th May, 7 for 7.30pm. The 3-course hot pot meal will cost £15 and our Guest Speaker is the Radio Merseyside personality and comedian Sean Styles. All proceeds will go to the 6th Form Block project. The Dinner is all-male and the dress code lounge suits. Tickets are available from the College Office or via the Anselmian link on our website, anselmianassociation@st-anselms.com or from Paul Radcliffe on 07722318348.

And Finally...

I wish you and your families a Happy Easter and hope that you will be inspired by the joy of the Risen Christ this Spring.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster