



The Headmaster's Newsletter

03 February 2012

Dear Parents,

We are now in the final week of half-term. Our students are making generally good progress and displaying high standards of behaviour and courtesy.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs. Doreen Cummings and Miss Lizzie Cummings, wife and daughter of Brian Cummings, our Chairman of Governors.

Mrs. F. Wood, Head of Spanish.

Mr. A. Wood, Governor, who is currently receiving medical treatment.

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

Mr. George McKay father of Mr. A. McKay.

Mrs. Kathleen Davenport mother of Mr. P. Davenport.

Mr. Joe Quinn father of Mrs. P. Young, Headmistress at Upton Hall School.

Mr. Alan Jones, father of Mrs. A. Powell
Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to ...

Oliver Shannon (11E) who has been offered a post-16 scholarship at Everton FC next year.

Basic Life Support

The College is pleased to announce that they are working on a pilot project with Liverpool John Moores University. The project involves paramedic students and staff from the Faculty of Health & Applied Social Sciences coming to the College to teach students in Year 9 Basic Life Support (BLS) as part of their science curriculum. This exciting project is the first part of what could be a local roll-out of the scheme across Wirral, Cheshire and Merseyside. Students will be given instruction on how to stay safe, how to note whether someone is unconscious, what to do if they are and how to do the potentially life-saving skill of BLS, if the need should arise. If there are any enquiries about this pilot or you have concerns regarding your son's participation, then you can contact either Mrs. Howlett at the College or Paul Jones at LJMU for advice.

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone – parents and friends of the College – for their donations of raffle prizes for various College functions throughout the school year. These are as diverse as Moulton Brown toiletries to a whole lamb! They help enormously in raising much-needed funds and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank you for your generosity at Prize-Giving when £347.47 was raised for the Anaphylaxis Campaign in memory of Chris Smith.

Finally, may I thank all those who donated goods and clothes to our 3 Advent Charities: **Charles Thompson Mission, The Wirral Ark, and The Wirral Food Bank.**

On the Buses!

The 611 Bus continues as normal. There are now two 612 services morning and afternoon, as a result of unprecedented demand. One runs between Bebington & the College, the other runs from Eastham. See our website for further details.

Roadworks in West Kirby mean that the 611 will not stop on Bridge Rd and a section of Grange Rd until Easter.

Details have been emailed out, please see our website for clarification. The boys appear to have responded to these minor changes to the route.

'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 police action. If you insist on coming into Egerton Rd at the end of the College day 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, including during Parents Evenings, when there is sufficient parking available on the College site.** I again congratulate our parents on the improved situation this year, the best I have known!

Key Dates

7th Feb. – Y10 Parents Evening 5-8pm

Fri. 10th – Fri. 17th Feb – Half Term Break

NB: - Fri. 10th is a Staff Inset Day.

5th-7th March – Y10 Examinations

15th March – Y8 Parents' Evening

FOSA

The **Annual AGM takes place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th February** in the Food Hub.

Our next event is on **Friday 9th March**, and will include pub games, beer tasting and fish & chips.

Fantasy Football League

Mrs. Martin (Maths Dept.) is inviting all students (and parents if they wish) to register for the 2011/12 season. For more information you can visit

www.schoolsfl.com with the College PIN number 6401 to set up your team.

It is felt that SFL helps to improve maths and ICT skills and helps develop a positive community spirit within the school. 1,407 schools finished the season last year out of 47,203 entrants. The overall winner of the 2010/11 season was a Year 12 pupil from a school in Hampshire. This year it could be you!!

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 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. **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. **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.

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.

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.

Staffing

Mrs. Jayne Dixon is teaching **Spanish** to 7M, 8G & 9M, and **Mr. Christopher Nolan** is teaching Years 10-13, in Mrs. Wood's continued absence. Mrs. Wood is making a good recovery and we hope that she will return to work before Easter. **Mrs. Gemma Parry-Paxton** has joined us to teach English & Media Studies, replacing Mr. Ravenscroft.

New Website

There has been a favourable response to our gleaming new website which compares favourably to that of any local school! It contains current information about College events and policies. If you have yet to view it the address is the same at: www.st-anselms.com.

16-19 Bursary Fund

This has replaced the EMA for students in Year 12, although the EMA will continue to be paid to eligible students in Year 13, at a reduced rate. The Bursary will only be 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 Mr Hollifield. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact Mr. Hollifield, Mr. Morgan or myself in complete confidence.

French Exchange

Bienvenue to our visitors from the **Lycee Fenelon in Paris** who are visiting us this week. The boys, mostly in Years 9 & 10, appear to have settled in very well. My thanks to our host families, and Mr. Hollifield for his impeccable organisation. Our Expeditionary Force departs for France in March.

Outwood House Update

The new 6th form project goes out to tender next week. The plans look very exciting and we are still on track to open in 2012. There has been a good response to the appeal from **The Edmund Rice Trust**, but increased support and contributions are required to ensure that this project is fully completed within a reasonable timescale. Please make a donation or contribution if you can. A Gala Summer Ball is planned for July and a Grand Opening ceremony for the Autumn.

Anselmian Association

The Association's Annual Dinner will be held at the College on **Saturday 28th April at 7pm**. Tickets will be available shortly.

2011 Performance Tables

Our excellent results in 2011 make enjoyable reading, especially at GCSE, and bear comparison with other local grammar and independent schools. They are available on the DfE website.

Sierra Leone Container

Our donations have finally arrived in Makeni and have been gratefully received. Please see our website for further details. Thank you for your generous support. The recent ITV Wales programme, "**Craig Bellamy's African Dream**", on ITV 4 gave a very realistic insight into life in Sierra Leone.

Lent 2012-02-02

We will observe Ash Wednesday on 22nd February. Our Lenten charities are **Street Child Africa** and **The Good Shepherd Fund**.


Distribution of Newsletter

Please note, the Headmaster's Newsletter will be emailed to ALL parents. **Hard copies will only be given to Year 7 pupils via their registers.**

And Finally...

We have celebrated the **Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord**, 40 days after Christmas. We seek to live our lives in a spirit of peace and goodwill as we approach Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Yours in Christ,


Headmaster