



The Headmaster's Newsletter

10 November 2011

Dear Parents,

We are back in the swing of things after half-term. November is always a busy month and there are many College events which are mentioned here and also publicised on the College website.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs. Doreen Cummings, wife of Brian Cummings, our Chairman of Governors.
Mrs. F. Wood, Head of Spanish.
Both ladies are currently undergoing medical treatment.

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

Mr. Vic Gemmell, Old Boy and former Governor of the College who died this week, following a long illness.
Please remember Vic and his family in your prayers.

Congratulations to ...

Members of the College Golf Team – **Adam Beattie, James Beattie, John Button, Liam Callaghan and Kieran McCann** who won the **Pensby Shield** recently at the 2011 Schools' Golf Tournament at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club.
The String Groups who performed at St. Catherine's, Hoylake on 30th September to raise money for Sierra Leone. Special thanks to **Ben Smith, Y12**, who organised the event.

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. 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.

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.
My thanks to Mrs. Howlett and to MerseyTravel for their efforts in securing this excellent, and cheap, service!

'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. I again congratulate our parents on the improved situation this year, the best I have known!

Key Dates

Y12 Parents' Evening	9th November
Y11 Mock Exams	16-22nd Nov.
Y7 Welcome Mass	23rd Nov.
FOSA Curry Night	25th November
Y7 Parents' Evening	29th November
Advent Service	7th December
Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – 12th December	
Prizegiving	14th December
End of Term	16th December

(NB: COLLEGE WILL FINISH AT 1.00 pm ON BOTH 14th and 16th DECEMBER & SCHOOL BUSES WILL DEPART AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THURS. 15th DEC. WILL BE A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY, i.e. 3.45 pm FINISH)

FOSA

The next event is a **Curry Night on Friday 25th November**. The tickets are £7.50 per person, which includes a drink, and are available from the main School Office.

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. **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.

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 Container

This was dispatched to Freetown before half-term, following an interview with Radio Merseyside! It contained bikes, computers, gardening tools, books, clothes and sports equipment for 3 schools in Makeni, as requested by them. Thank you for your generosity. Special thanks to Miss Baines, Mrs McNamara, Mr. Wainwright and all who helped pack the container. **Our next fundraising venture is a charity shop. We have the use of the CBED shop, 29 Seaview Rd, Liscard, Wallasey, CH45 4QN from Monday 21st to Saturday 26th November, from 10am-4pm daily. We will be selling books, clothes, bric-a-brac etc. Please send donations in to the College. We also require 4-6 helpers daily to (wo)man the shop! Please contact Miss Baines on lbaines@st-anselms.com if you are able to help.**

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. Wood, Head of Spanish, is absent on grounds of ill-health until the New Year. Her timetable is being covered by **Mr. Christopher Nolan**, lately of Birkenhead High School, a very experienced languages teacher. **Mr. Peter Ravenscroft**, Head of Year 12, leaves us at the end of this term to assume a new position as Head of English at St. Mary's College, Crosby, after 7 years dedicated service and outstanding achievement. Our only consolation is that he remains within the Edmund Rice family of schools. He will be replaced by **Mrs. Gemma Parry-Paxton** from 1st January 2012.

Lord of the Flies

Mr. Ravenscroft's swansong! The cast are rehearsing enthusiastically for the film version which will be screened at the College, hopefully before the end of term.

6th Form Block Project

The Architects **Ainsley Gomon** have been appointed and are preparing the tender documents. Phase 1 will see the conversion of the ground & first floors into teaching rooms and a new chapel and the basement into a new Library. The Edmund Rice Trust need your financial support and Gift Aid forms are available on the College website.

New Website

There has been a favourable response to our gleaming new website which compares favourably to that of any local school! 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.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

This will be celebrated on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm in the College Hall. All Year 7 families are most welcome to join us. There will be refreshments afterwards. You will be formally invited.

Year 11 Mock Exams

These will run from **Wednesday 16th to Tuesday 22nd November**, with some language tests the day before. During this period Year 11 boys will be on study leave, which means they will only be required in College when they have an exam. Please ensure that your son does sufficient revision, and that he arrives punctually each day. The 611 & 612 buses will run at the usual times.

Cross Country

Good luck to our **Junior & Intermediate Teams** who compete in the regional final of the English Schools Cup in Blackpool on Saturday 12th November. Our teams have a proud record in this prestigious competition.

Advent Service

As our minds turn to higher things and preparation for Christmas I am delighted to inform you that our Advent service will be celebrated at **Our Lady's Church, Cavendish St., Birkenhead on Wednesday 7th December at 7pm**. It will only last an hour, so arrive in good voice!!

Remembrance Service

We will hold our annual Act of Remembrance in the Hall on Friday morning, when we will honour those Anselmians who lost their lives during World War II and the Korean War. Years 7-10 will be in attendance, along with members of the Anselmian Association.

Headlice Alert

Unfortunately we have had a case of headlice in Year 7, so please check your son's hair. There is no need to panic, this happens from time-to-time and the lice can only be caught from somebody else.

Operation Christmas Child

Year 7 are supporting this wonderful charity again. We are collecting shoeboxes of items for both boys and girls, to be sent to Africa on 1st December. The usual items are required, with details on the Samaritan's Purse website.

And Finally...

At this time of year we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of their country and civilisation. We seek to demonstrate our gratitude through the Christian quality of our lives.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster