



# The Headmaster's Newsletter

**30 September 2011**

## Dear Parents,

Normal routines have resumed following an outstandingly successful summer for our senior students. Year 11 achieved record GCSE results, Year 13 performed creditably and our rugby squad returned triumphant from Canada. Year 7 have made an excellent start to their College careers, and the new 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre project is progressing well. I invite you to read on.

## 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 ...

Professor Terence O'Donnell, an Old Boy of the College and the first student from St. Anselm's to achieve a place at the University of Cambridge (1945) and also the first Anselmian to become a professor. Mrs. J. Wright, mother of Matthew Wright, an Old Boy, who left the College in 2006.

Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

## Congratulations to ...

All our students who supported the Br. Kerrigan Walk in July. They raised over £4500 for the Christian Brothers' Mission in Sierra Leone.

## 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

Careers Convention	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Half Term – 24-28 October inclusive	
Y11 Parents Evening	19 <sup>th</sup> October
Y13 Parents	“ 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Y12 Parents	“ 9 <sup>th</sup> November
Y7 Parents	“ 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Y11 Mock Exams	14-18 <sup>th</sup> Nov.

## FOSA

The Wine Tasting evening was a tremendous success, with over 100 tickets sold! Our thanks to our sommelier, Mr. Hollifield, who clearly put a considerable amount of effort into his research! Our next event is a **Curry Night on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.** I wonder what will be the accompanying vintage?! Tickets will be available shortly.

## 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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. **No earrings or piercings are allowed, including for 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Container

Thank you for recent generous donations of bikes, clothes, books, and musical and sports equipment. We have also received further donations from other Edmund Rice Schools. We will therefore require a larger shipping container which will leave for Freetown in mid-October. This will exceed budget costs, so any sponsorship would be gratefully received. Please contact me at the College if you can help.

**Volunteers are required to help pack the container on the next 3 Saturdays from 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October at John Beech Ltd, Bromborough Pool.** If you wish to help please contact Miss Baines at [lbaines@st-anselms.com](mailto:lbaines@st-anselms.com)

## 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

A warm welcome to our new staff: **Dr. Katy Johnson (Science), Ms Justine Kelly (LSA) and Mr. Peter Davenport (Cover & Faculty Assistant).** Our new **GTP (Spanish) is Mr. Angel Vilchez and our Foreign Language Assistants**

**are: Abdoul Diallo (French), Yolanda Gonzalez Colorado (Spanish) & Jan Willert (German).**

## Lord of the Flies

Sadly the cast proved unable, or unwilling, to make the necessary preparations so the July performances were postponed. Mr. Ravenscroft now intends to film a performance, to be screened at the end of term. This will be his directorial swansong.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Block Project

Architects have been appointed and are now working on a feasibility study for "Outwood". We aim to complete the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project for occupation and teaching in September 2012. The Edmund Rice Trust desperately needs your help, and increased monthly revenue, in order to pay off the £450,000 purchase loan within 10 years, thereby avoiding ruinous interest payments that will preclude any other capital projects. We are all painfully aware of the impact of the recession on so many families, but please support us with a gift aid donation if you can. (see attached). We are fortunate to enjoy the tremendous support of Wirral Local Authority who have provided us with a £700,000 Basic Needs refurbishment grant for this project. I thank our interim Director of Children's Services, Mr. David Armstrong, and Head of Facilities Management, Miss Jeannette Royle, for their continued support.

## 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](http://www.st-anselms.com)

## Examination Success

Our students enjoyed tremendous success last summer. Year 13 achieved 50% A\*-B grades and 99.5% A\*-E grades. 10 students secured 3+ A grades led by **Deputy Head Boy Joe Fennelly (Medicine), from Hoylake, with 3A\*s, James McIntosh (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge) from Port Sunlight, Andrew Oates (Maths, Manchester University) from Oxton and Patrick Broderick (Business & MFL, Aston) from Wallasey with 2A\* & 2As.**

Year 12 achieved respectable results, comparable to those of recent cohorts. 6 students achieved an impressive 4+ A grades: Michael Campbell, Patrick Hesketh, Thomas Moseley, Kieran Ryan, Sean Sullivan & Nick Whieldon. They can now apply to some of the world's most prestigious universities! A significant number of students, most of whom coasted towards comfortable mediocrity,

performed poorly and will have to make a vastly improved effort this year.

The Year 11 GCSE results were outstanding, producing a College record by some distance. 98.5% of candidates gained 5+ A\*-C (average 10 GCSEs!) grades, including English & maths. 42% of boys achieved 5+ A\*/A grades, whilst 42% of all entries were at A\*/A grades, a fantastic achievement by a splendid year group! 16 boys achieved 100% A\*/A grades with Matthew Caskie and Christopher Johnson both achieving 10 A\* grades and Andrew Brown and Ben Mercer securing 9 A\* & 2 As.

The Year 10 GCSE results in RS and fast-track Spanish were very impressive as well!

## 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 or myself in confidence.

## And Finally...

One year on from the joy of the Papal Visit we have followed the lead of the Bishops of England & Wales by making Fridays a day of penitential abstinence at the College. No meat will be served in our Dining Room on Fridays.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster



**St Anselm's College**  
**EDMUND RICE TRUST**  
Committed to enhancing the College facilities



## **New SIXTH FORM BUILDING**



**OUTWOOD**

### **Objective:**

**We URGENTLY need to raise**  
**£ Half million in 5 years**

**Your support is most welcome**