



The Headmaster's Newsletter

21 July 2011

Dear Parents,

We are now at the end of the Academic Year. This has been a very important and successful one for the College and has enabled us to safeguard the future of the unique education provided here through Academy status and the purchase of "Outwood" by The Edmund Rice Trust.

Please remember in your prayers ...

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

Congratulations to ...

Alexander Jackson (11M) who has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Technology Scholarship. The annual amount of the Scholarship is £500, with the student receiving £300 and the College's D&T Department receiving £200.

Andrew Desmond and William Reynolds (both 11G) who were selected to represent Merseyside at the English Schools' Athletics Championships on 2nd July in Gateshead

Chris McWilliam and Dan McNamara (both 8E) who took part in the Cheshire District U13s Cricket Festival over half term. West Cheshire were the overall winners, winning all three of their matches.

Aaron Haviland (Y11) who has been selected for the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Luke Roan (Y13) who has been awarded a soccer scholarship at the Jesuit University of West Virginia from September.

Fr. Bernard Forshaw, Old Anselmain and former chaplain of the Anselmian Association, who celebrates the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood this month.

Jamie Carragher (left 2010) of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, has been awarded a scholarship on the Oxford-Princeton Exchange to study in the USA next term.

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.

Athletics

Congratulations to the Intermediate Athletics squad who finished 7th at the National Athletics' Finals in Abingdon, Oxfordshire on 9th July. Among a strong team effort, there were outstanding performances from **Harry Sutton** in the Hurdles, **Luis Bosio** in the Discus, **Oliver Shannon** in the 100m and **Joseph Jones** in the High Jump and 800m.

Rugby Training

Pre-season training for all years will take place on 1st and 2nd September starting at 10.00 am until 12 noon at The Ridings. For the new Year 7 there will be a session starting at 12 noon until 1.00 pm on 2nd September with Mr. O'Keefe at The Ridings.

Cricket

Congratulations to the Senior Cricket squad who won the Christian Brothers' Cricket Sixes at St. Ambrose College in June.

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

Key Dates

18 July Participation Awards (Y7-10) – 7.00 pm

19 July End of Term & Academic Year NB: ALL BOYS FINISH AT 1.00 pm ON BOTH THESE DAYS – SCHOOL BUSES WILL DEPART AT THIS TIME

5th Sept. – Inset (staff only in school)

6th Sept. – Yrs 7 & 12 in school

7th Sept. – all Years in school

FOSA

Thank you to all who attended the successful Race Night on 1st July. Our next function will be a wine tasting, with Australian theme, on September 16th

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, 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 sporting equipment. We are likely to receive further donations from other Edmund Rice Schools. We will therefore require a larger shipping container which will probably not leave for Freetown until late August. This will exceed budget costs, so any sponsorship would be gratefully received. Please contact me at the College if you can 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

At the end of this term we bid farewell to Miss Erica D'Anna (MFL) who has done a

splendid job for us this year. No other staff are leaving, which is excellent news.

Sierra Leone Week

This was greatly enriched by the visit of Br. Pious from the Freetown Christian Brothers Community. He visited Assemblies and classes and even found time to impress us with his dancing at the Year 13 Leavers' Celebration! Thank you to those parents who attended the Sierra Leone Information Evening on 5th July at which we launched the Gift aid scheme for our twin school, St. Francis in Makeni. **If you wish to make a regular donation please contact Miss Baines at lbaines@st-anselms.com.**

Lord of the Flies

Sadly, the production had to be postponed as several cast members had failed to learn their lines by the final deadline. Mr. Ravenscroft hopes to stage an abridged production in the Autumn.

6th Form Block Project

Architects have been appointed and are now working on a feasibility study for "Outwood". We aim to complete the 1st 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

We are currently developing a new website and updating our prospectus. We would obviously like to use photographs of our students, although none will be named in keeping with safeguarding guidelines. We will write to parents of boys involved to seek their permission to use these images.

Feast of Corpus Christi

The College celebrated this important feast day with Benediction for Years 7&8 during which we processed to the garden of "Outwood", lead by Fr. Patrick O'Brien, our Chaplain, and Fr. Jonathan Mitchell, Diocesan Vocations Director.

They dedicated our devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Br. Kerrigan Sponsored Walk

This was a great success and the boys behaved impeccably. Thank you for your support. Please encourage your son to bring in his sponsorship before the end of term. If every boy in years 7-10 raised £10 each we could build a new classroom block at St. Francis, Makeni, where the need is so great. Now there's a thought!

Academy Celebration

This followed the Br. Kerrigan walk and proved extremely popular. All students will receive a commemorative gift before the end of term.

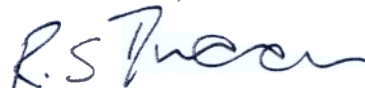
Diocesan Youth Celebration

15 students from our Legion of Mary & SVP groups in Years 12 & 10 participated in this wonderful celebration at St. Nicholas High School, Hartford, on Tuesday 12th July. This was the culmination of our Diocesan Marian Year and Year of Education instituted by his Holiness Pope Benedict XV last September. The focal point was the celebration of Mass by Bishop Mark and Anselmians, including the Headmaster, were involved in the liturgy.

And Finally...

Thank you for the privilege of educating your sons this year. The overwhelming majority of the boys make a fantastic contribution to College life and are a pleasure to teach. I hope that you and your families enjoy a restful summer, with a holiday if possible. Please don't forget about education, boys do not stop learning just because they are out of school.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster