



The Headmaster's Newsletter

27 May 2011

Dear Parents,

At this time of year our focus naturally switches to our senior students who are taking GCSE and AS/GCE exams. Please remember them in your thoughts. We have also received some excellent news about exciting developments which should help secure the College's future and leave us well-placed to enjoy future success! Please 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 souls of ...

Two parents of boys in Year 9, who have sadly passed away during the past two weeks:

Mrs. Ursula Rowe, mother of Samuel Rowe (9G)

Mr. John Anthony Miller, father of Niall (9M) and

Mrs. Ratcliffe, mother of Paul, Chairman of The Anselmian Association.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to ...

Jake D'Arcy (10K) who has been selected to represent England at Tenpin Bowling at the World Sports' Festival which will take place in Vienna from 22nd-27th June.

Patrick Greaves (10G), who has been a regular at scrum-half for the Cheshire Under-15 Rugby XV.

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

Our teams have begun the season in excellent form. Both the Intermediate & Junior teams won the Wirral Trophy with **Owen Hayes & George Birss** being highest point scorers. Many of our boys, too numerous to mention(!), have been selected to represent Wirral in the Merseyside Championships. Both teams won the Wirral rounds of the English Schools Cup and have progressed to the regional round.

Sports Day

This is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 10th June and all parents and families are welcome. A letter from Mr. Taylor will be sent out this week.

'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

26 May Y13 Leavers' Mass
27 May -6 June – Half Term Break
7-9th June Yrs 7,8 & 9 Exams
10th June Sports Day
4 July College Holiday in lieu of Royal Wedding Day
18 July Participation Awards (Y7-10)
19 July End of Term & Academic Year

FOSA Race Night

This will now be held on **Friday 1st July at 7pm in the Hall**. Tickets are available from the Office, priced £5 for a family of 4. Refreshments will be available, including a BBQ.

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.

Key Stage 3 Exams

Boys in Years 7,8&9 have College Exams from 7th-9th June. They have been issued with revision guidance and given homework time, but they ought to be doing some focussed revision during this week and the half-term holiday.

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.

Academy Status

The College remains on course to convert to Academy status on 1st June this year. I will write to all parents once this important step has been taken. The Governors and I are convinced that this is an important event in the future development, and safeguarding, of the College.

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!

Lord of The Flies

This tale of everyday schoolboy life will be performed in early July under Mr. Ravenscroft's expert direction. Rehearsals are going well.

Anselmian Association

The May Dinner was a great success attracting over 200 guests. Visit the College website to discover more or email anselmianassociation@st-anselms.com

6th Form Block Project

The best news of my 9-year stewardship as Headmaster came when we learned that the Edmund Rice Trust has exchanged contracts to purchase Outwood House, adjacent to the College, from the Christian Brothers. This will be refurbished, with the support of Wirral Local Authority, for development as our new, and long-awaited, 6th Form Block. The Trust has taken out a loan of £450,000 to this effect. As you are aware the Trust is a charitable enterprise, created to fund capital projects at the College, which relies entirely on parental and community contributions and has recently paid off the loan on the Sports Hall. All boys in current years 7-11 stand to benefit from this, but the Trust needs increased contributions to service this huge loan.

I will write to parents when the sale has been completed and the Trust has handed the building over to the College.

And Finally...

We have basked in the glory of the Resurrection this month and look forward to the forthcoming celebrations of The Ascension and Pentecost.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster