

The Headmaster's Newsletter

07 December 2010

Dear Parents,

Advent has begun and with it our preparations for the end of term and Christmas.

Congratulations to ...

Patrick Greaves (10G) on being selected to represent Cheshire at 15 group level.

Year 7 who collected over 200 shoeboxes filled with presents for Operation Christmas Child.

The 1st & Under 16 Hockey XIs who have both qualified for the Wirral Cup finals in January.

The Intermediate Cross Country Team who qualified for the English Schools Cup Final as Northern Champions. The final has been postponed until the New Year owing to bad weather in the North-East!
Matthew Bardgett (11G) who won the Supadance Medallist National Finals in Prestatyn.

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. There is plenty of parking available on Palm Grove and Manor Hill. I congratulate parents on the fact that the situation on Egerton Rd. is better than in any previous year. Thank you! However, it was pointed out to me a couple of weeks ago that a parent had parked on the zig zag lines in front of the pedestrian exit causing a very serious health and safety risk and was not happy when asked to move!

Key Dates

9th Dec. 7.00 pm - Annual Carol Service
10th Dec. – FOSA Family Quiz Night

13th Dec. – Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

16th Dec. 7.00 pm - The Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony.

17th Dec. 1.00 pm – END OF TERM

FOSA Family Christmas Quiz – 10th Dec. 7.00 pm

This is always a very popular and well attended event, so order your tickets now to avoid disappointment! Tickets are available from the Office. The Christmas Raffle draw will take place on the night. 1 book of Raffle tickets has been distributed to every student in all year groups and there are terrific prizes available.

Annual Carol Service – 9th Dec.

This will take place on **Thursday, 9th December at 7.00 pm at Our Lady's, Cavendish Street, Birkenhead. ALL PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS ARE INVITED. All Y7 boys are singing and are required to attend.**

SVP Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – 13th Dec.

This is another annual event which will be held in the College Hall on **Mon. 13th December from 1.30 to 3.30 pm.** A separate letter has been sent out to parents inviting them to nominate grandparents/friends/neighbours.

Prize-Giving – 16th Dec.

This will be held at **Our Lady's, Cavendish Street on Thursday, 16th December at 7.00 pm.** It is compulsory for Year 12 students to attend to formally receive their GCSE certificates and a separate letter has been sent to their parents. All other prize-winners have been informed in a letter via their registers and they should complete the tear-off slip and return it to the College Office as soon as possible. A list of prizewinners will also be posted on the College noticeboard. If in any doubt, please ask your son to speak with Mrs. Howlett

End of Term

EARLY FINISH

Please note, the boys will finish early on 16th December (Prize-giving) and 17th December (end of term). The 611 and 612 buses will depart from the College at 1.00 pm on BOTH DAYS.

Job Vacancy – Shrewsbury Diocese

It has been brought to our notice that there is a part-time vacancy (afternoons) for a Receptionist/Secretarial Support at the Diocesan Curial Office in Park Rd. South. The closing date is Friday, 7th January 2011. For further information, contact Mrs. Mary Passey at the Curial Office on 652 9855.

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 £16,190.00 BUT NOT RECEIVING WORKING TAX CREDIT**, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and a school uniform grant (for Year 7 only). You should contact the Local Authority if you think you meet the above criteria.

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. Items (marked with the boy's name) will then be left in the 'Collections Tray' for collection by them

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.

Absence Calls

If a boy is not marked in the Register he is regarded as absent and the Receptionist, Mrs. Peers, has been instructed to ring a parental contact number. All boys who are late must sign the late book to prevent this happening. These calls can cause distress to parents, but have to be made to ensure a boy's welfare. **If your son is late and has failed to sign the late book then he is to blame for any distress caused. Please emphasise to him that it is HIS responsibility to ensure that he signs the late book.** This includes boys on the 611 & 612 Buses, who must also sign in when the buses are late.

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. Confiscated items cannot be reclaimed on any day other than Friday. Electronic equipment, including personal possessions, now plays an important part in student learning. However, it can be misused! I remind all parents that we retain the right to confiscate such equipment if we suspect misuse, such as inappropriate material being brought into the College or circulated.

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.

Litter

I remain unhappy about the amount of litter generated by boys on a daily basis, although the majority of our students dispose of rubbish sensibly. Convicted litterbugs will do litter duty at lunchtime, equipped with the necessary kit. We have adopted some new procedures this year which are working well. All forms are taking increased responsibility for their communal areas and standards have improved.

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. Any family members found supporting these misdeeds will be reported to the education welfare authorities.

Year 11 Reports

Year 11 completed their mock exams last week and we anticipate impressive results. Year 11 reports will be posted to parents during the final week of term, in time for Christmas, post permitting!!

All Year 11 students will have a 6th Form Taster Day here on Tuesday 11th January when we will give them an insight into 6th Form lessons and routines.

Key Stage Parental Governors

The Link Governors are:
Key Stage 3 (Y7-9) Mr J Greaves
Key stage 4 (Y10&11) Mrs J O'Gorman
6th Form (Y12&13) Dr J Oates
Details of their forthcoming surgeries will be available soon.

Sierra Leone Mission

A group of 4 staff, sponsored by the British Council, will be visiting Sierra Leone in mid-December. Our next Immersion Retreat group of 6th Formers and staff travels there in February 2011. We have already begun fund-raising, but the costs are significant, so parental support would be greatly appreciated. If anyone would like further details please contact me at headmaster@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. An Internet Safety Briefing was held for parents on Thursday 7th October.

Advent Charities

Our Advent charities this year are:
The Charles Thompson Mission in Birkenhead, The Wirral Ark and Asylum Link in Liverpool.

All 3 do a wonderful job supporting the homeless and destitute. They welcome gifts of tinned and dried or preserved food, toiletries new clothes, especially underwear and socks, and clean second hand clothes. If you can help please send in your donation with your son. These

will be stored in the Prayer Room and transported at the end of term. The Year 10 & 11 SVP are collecting small gifts for Christmas hampers for the disadvantaged.

6th Form January Exams

All 6th Formers have AS or A2 papers from 10th January. They will need to do some serious revision after Christmas! In order to assist them with their preparations Tuesday 11th January will be a 6th Form home study day.

Seel St. Mission

Congratulations to the Y12 & Y10 Seel St. group who, with staff support, have revived our visits to the Mother Theresa Sisters' mission to the homeless in Liverpool on Mondays and Tuesdays.

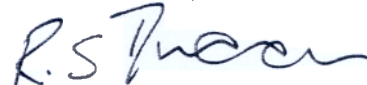
Easter Term

Next term begins at 8.35am on Tuesday 4th January. The College will be closed from 20th December until 4th January.

And Finally...

On behalf of the Governors & Staff I wish you and your families the blessing of the peace and love of the Infant Christ at this special time of year. I hope you enjoy the Christmas Holiday.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster