



The Headmaster's Festive Newsletter – Dec. 2017

23 December 2017

Dear Parents,

There was a happy and festive mood at the College today as term ended. I hope that you and your sons enjoy the Christmas break

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.

Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth and Mr Iain Smith are recovering from ill health.

Mr Brian Cummings, old Anselmian and ex- Chair of Governors who has been ill.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Mr Bernard Smythe, father of Bradley, who died last month.

Mr John Ward, grandfather of Ollie Fotheringham and Chris Garland.

Mrs Marie Jeanne Shallcross, grandmother of Edmund Shallcross-Ibrie.

Will Allen whose anniversary was last week.

May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

Sport

Rugby:

The 1st XV under the captaincy of Ewan Nolan and Ben Dufton-Kelly have only lost one Saturday fixture this term..

Ben Lyon Y11 has again been selected to represent Cheshire, U'16 this season.

Cross Country:

The Junior Boys finished 27th in the English Schools Cup Final in Sevenoaks, Kent, on 25th November. The Intermediate Team fought hard and ran well finishing joint 9th, with Louis Johnston 9th and Finan Johnston (Y10) 12th. We were one of only 9 schools to have 2 teams in the National Final!

Old Anselmian Dan Jarvis finished 16th in the Senior Men's Race at the UK Cross Challenge Race and has been selected for Great Britain Under-23s.

Martial arts:

Joe Ryan (9E) continued his fantastic season becoming the Yokkao junior World Champion by beating the Dutch current European Champion last month.

Trampolining:

Charlie Stone (Y7) won 2 Bronze medals at the National League Final in London this month.

Football:

Jack Reilly (Y8) has been selected to represent Wirral School Boys U-13s this season.

Drama:

Congratulations to Miss Ashton, Mr Luxemburg and the cast for their inspired performance of Aladdin at the start of the month. There were memorable performances from Joshua Stevens, Oliver Cunliffe, Devan Jones, Michael Hughes and Joe Spence but it was a terrific team effort. Our guests from Asylum Link in Liverpool had never seen anything like it and greatly enjoyed the show as did the guests at the SVP party!

Ofsted Action Plan

Our Action Plan, which is an appendix to our established Improvement Plan, is published on the College website. We are focussing upon the areas for Improvement identified by Ofsted and investing in Staff training to improve standards of teaching & learning and assessment.

Our internal monitoring suggests that this is being achieved, with the overwhelming majority of lessons being graded as "Good" or better in our quality control internal procedures. We have had external reviews of teaching and assessment, and staff training, to support us in making this progress. Our monitoring data suggests that students in each Year group are making appropriate progress, with particular highlights in Years 8,10 and 13.

Our improved exam results this summer, especially at A level but also at GCSE, confirm that the Action Plan is working!

Homework and Academic expectations

We aspire to provide a Grammar School education for all our students, irrespective of background and

circumstances, and this has been reinforced by our Ofsted experience! The key to this is high expectations, not only from staff but from parents and families as well. **We expect parents to monitor their son's work, including homework, and to require him to spend sufficient time on it and to take pride and care in its presentation and completion. We have established the Lunchtime Study Club where boys who fail to produce homework completed to an appropriate standard, or who misbehave in lessons, will work at lunchtime. Please ensure that you son completes corrections in all subjects and catches up any work missed through absence, trips or fixtures. Half-term is an ideal time for this. Never believe any suggestion of "I have no homework to do"!**

We seek to establish a culture where it is cool to achieve! Most of our students do very well and flourish at the College. Our ambition is that all of them do so and we need your support to achieve this!

We also expect students to arrive at College fully equipped and ready to learn. Boys will not be allowed to disrupt the learning of others and will face appropriate sanctions if they misbehave. **No boy who works hard and engages with his studies will ever underachieve at St. Anselm's!**

Staff news

Mr Neil Lynch has re-joined us to teach Science in Key Stage 3 this month as Mrs Simpson is suffering from injury. Mr Alan Leach is teaching 6th Form Psychology.

Powers of Search & Confiscation

The law gives powers to schools to search and confiscate items from pupils under the following guidelines. Thankfully, the College rarely has to exercise this power but I feel it is important that parents and pupils are aware of it.

College staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.

The Headmaster, members of the SLT and Heads of Year have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that

Page 2 The Headmaster's Newsletter - 23 December 2017

the pupil may have a prohibited item.

Prohibited items are:

Knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images.

Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

The Headmaster and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by College rules which has been identified in them as an item which may be searched for. Banned items are listed in the College's Behaviour Management Policy, which is available on the website. Staff are not required to ask parents' permission to carry out the search, nor inform them that it has taken place, although we would always endeavour to do so. Staff will contact the police should a pupil refuse to allow their outer clothing, bags and/or lockers to be searched. The College will not use this power without having reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil has a banned substance. We have the power to examine data or files on electronic devices if they have reasonable grounds to do so. They may also erase data and files if there is reason to do so.

College Sanctions

Let me make it abundantly clear that College sanctions are not negotiable! **Parents and students do not have the right to pick and choose whether to cooperate with the College sanctions system.** We will always listen to polite representations, but the simple truth is that such parents have almost always been misled. The Governors expect parents to set an appropriate example to their sons.

Term-Time Holidays

Once again, I draw your attention to changes to DfE legislation regarding family holidays taken in term time. This can be found on our College website. Term-time holidays could lead to prosecution by the welfare authorities! **The recent court case has not been reported in full and penalties still exist. The boys have a 7 week summer break this year. That is sufficient to accommodate all family holidays and occasions!**

Keep Track of your son's Homework and Deadlines!

St Anselm's College provides an online service for parents to keep track of your child's school homework and deadlines.

The service is free to access and available via the Internet and any Smart Phone. Simply visit the College website by typing in www.st-anselms.com. On the school homepage in the 'Students' or 'Parents' drop down menus you will see the option '**Show My Homework**'. Click on this to display a calendar-view, showing the dates when your son received homework from his subject teachers and when it is due for collection.

If you have any questions regarding this service please contact the ICT team at ict@st-anselms.com

Parents are still expected to check and sign their son's Homework Planners, which boys are still expected to use.

Some homework cannot be posted on Show My Homework, as we get used to the system, and it is unwise to leave everything to technology!

Connect Ed

This is our Absence Reporting System. The College previously used a system called KeepKids Safe. This has now been updated and is called ConnectED. You can access this system through an app called MyEd. The parental mobile number is then linked to your son and information regarding College events, key dates, educational visits and attendance can be accessed. This will also allow you and us to send and receive free messages to and from school. We are in the process of updating the College interface on this system and ask that all parents, who have smart phones, download the app. It is also very important that we have up to date mobile numbers for parents and ask you inform us if you have changed your number recently.

Medication

Please ensure that the spare medication, you provide for your sons, **particularly epi pens and inhalers, which are kept in our Medical Room, is still in date, and will still be so in January, or replace them with new ones.**

The College will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a medical practitioner and are in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist. We will not accept medicines that have been taken out of the original container nor make changes to dosages.

Appointments

Please provide prior notice of medical appointments for your sons. We also require a parental letter or copy of the appointment letter for our records. Recently some boys have been reporting to reception to sign out without the staff having prior knowledge. This is a safeguarding issue.

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.

Contact Details

Please ensure that all your contact details are kept up to date. It is particularly important that we have all current telephone numbers in case of illness, injuries, absence etc.

Key Dates

January

3rd College re-opens 830am

Y13 Sierra Leone Meeting 6pm

4th Close and Buses 2pm

Prize Giving 7pm

5th-8th KS3&4 Spanish Trip

9th Y8 GCSE Options Evening 7pm

18th Y9 GCSE Options Evening 7pm

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 they should check at Reception to see if it has been handed in by an heroic parent.

Lockers

It is surprising how many students do not have padlocks on their lockers, given that they are in daily use and essential for security. Please ensure that your son has one!

Absence line

A further reminder – if your son is absent please call the direct line for absentees –

Page 3 The Headmaster's Newsletter - 23 December 2017

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. **Dyed or highlighted hair is not allowed.** This rule applies equally to 6th Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut.

All boys should be wearing black, office-style, shoes, not boots or trainers!

IPods/I-phones

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. please do not immediately assume that it has been stolen or is lost forever! 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!

E-Safety Update – Mobile Phone Use

Can your child gain access to inappropriate material on their mobile? It is a wise parent that sets up restrictions on what their children can access on the internet at home. Notwithstanding natural teen curiosity, it is possible for a young person to be inadvertently exposed to inappropriate, unsuitable and highly disturbing material. Many young people now have 'Smartphones,' that give the user internet access through 3G networks. Even some of the simplest mobile phones can provide access through a web browser. Many parents do

not realise that this can be 'unfiltered access.' Students can be exposed to exactly the same dangers on their phone that they might face from unrestricted and unmonitored access at home. It is therefore very important to make sure that the 'Parental Control Services' offered free by all mobile phone providers are switched on. This is not always automatically the case. If you are unsure, contact your provider and ask. If the controls are not in place, then you can request that they are switched on for a particular number. The link below will take you to an Ofcom website giving more advice and contact details for all the mobile phone companies:

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2009/10/parental-controls-for-mobile-phones/>

The recent "Sexting" cases in the national media serves as a reminder of the trouble teenagers can get into. We present regular Assemblies, with very clear messages, on such issues. Guidance is available on the College website.

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.

16-19 Bursary Fund

The Bursary is 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 from Mr Morgan. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact Miss Baines, Mr. Morgan or myself in complete confidence. **Students who break the terms of the 6th Form Learning agreement, including through poor attendance, lose their eligibility for Bursary payments. Tax payers' money must be spent wisely!**

Outwood House

Parental support for the Edmund Rice Trust is most welcome. The Trust purchased Outwood and is entirely reliant on parental and Anselmian contributions. Thank you if you are already making a contribution. For those of you who would like to donate details of how to contribute are on the **Edmund Rice Trust section of the College website.**

Uniform reminder

Boys in Years 7-11 are allowed only to wear grey v-neck sweaters under blazers, as required. No other colours are allowed. From September we will be moving towards white shirts only, so while blue and white shirts are acceptable from Yr8 upwards we ask that only white are purchased for the future. **Boys should wear black office-style shoes and no trainers, irrespective of current fashions! Any boy wearing inappropriate footwear will be required to change into a pair of pumps which will be provided by the College. Non-compliance will result in an immediate exclusion. You have been warned!**

Wirral FUSS (Free Uniform for Secondary School) have good stocks of our uniform which is free without judgement of family circumstances. Visit <http://www.wirralfuss.co.uk/> to complete an online request or contact them at wirralfuss@yahoo.co.uk or on 0151 632 6524.

They are also glad to receive donations.

Pupil Premium

We have explained how we use the Pupil Premium on our website. If you believe your son is entitled to any of the additional support outlined there, please contact me at the College. This is broadly based on eligibility for Free School Meals. The College provides additional curriculum support for Pupil Premium students and I urge parents to take advantage of these free opportunities to enhance your son's education. **Mrs Cubbin has assumed overall responsibility for this programme from September 2017.**

Safeguarding

All visitors to the College site, including parents, must sign in at Reception. No-one has a right to trespass on to the yard in search of a student, even if the visit is to drop off a message or lunch money.

Drink, Drugs, Smoking

These are the scourges of teenage development in our society! We have concerns about the habits that some of our students are developing outside College and their likely involvement with dangerous and illegal substances. **Anyone who brings such items into College will be permanently excluded!** Parental supervision is vital at teenage parties, whether you are the host or your son is an attendee!

Snapchat Drug

We would like to make parents aware of a current concern regarding the use of **Snapchat pills** by young people. The pills generally come in two colours; pink and blue/green and have the Snapchat 'ghost' logo imprinted onto them. They are a form of Ecstasy that causes aggressive and disorientated behaviour. Teeth clenching and arm twitching symptoms have also been reported by hospital staff. Unfortunately, these can be purchased relatively cheaply and there have been several cases reported on the Wirral. There have also been concerns reported around the use of nitrous oxide gas which can cause nausea, vomiting and hypoxia. This gas comes in small silver coloured canisters and is inhaled.

Banned Substances

The Governors have made the decision to ban so-called High Energy drinks from the site. Any such items found on site will be confiscated by staff and disposed of! We have had some disturbing examples of boys consuming these drinks in the morning as an alternative to breakfast. All boys need a proper breakfast each morning in order to prepare them for a day of learning!
So-called legal highs are already banned at the College. They are only legal because government scientific agencies have yet to analyse and ban them!
Laser pens are also banned. They are potential causes of disruption and injury and have no place in school. Confiscated items will be destroyed.

Radio City Concert

Our Pop Choir performed with distinction at the Radio City Cash for Kids Carol concert last night at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. The boys sang beautifully and were a credit to the College. **Congratulations to Mr Watson and the Choir!**

No Chewing Gum please!

Chewing gum is banned on this site, so please discourage your sons from bringing any to school. It causes mess and damage. Those failing to observe College rules will be deployed cleaning it off the yard and removing it from underneath desks.

Charitable Works

We are planning our next 6th Form Immersion Retreat to Sierra Leone for February 2018 and fund-raising begins shortly. Sponsorship, including material aid, would be most welcome!

Our Advent Charities are the Radio City Toy Appeal (KS3), Wirral Food Bank (Toiletries for Teenagers KS4) and the Charles Thompson Mission (6th Form). There has been a tremendous response for each charity so we will continue to accept donations at the start of next term, including any unwanted Christmas presents!

Our 6th Form Edmund Rice International Youth Ambassadors helped arrange for visitors from Asylum Link to attend the College Panto, following a buffet meal and refreshments, on 30th November.

SVP Christmas Party

The College SVP again hosted local Senior Citizens at our annual Christmas Party on Monday 18th December. Our visitors were welcomed at Reception by a series of elves, waiters and Yellowcoats (Hi-di-Hi!) and were then treated to lunch, drinks and a performance of the College Panto. A good time was had by all!

On the Buses

I politely remind you that the 611 & 612 Buses are operated by Mersey Travel, not the College, and are technically public buses. We can accept no liability for them, although we will seek to support Mersey Travel to ensure a safe service. **The services are running well and are not over-crowded.**

Prize Giving

Our annual Prize Giving takes place at Our Lady's Church, Cavendish St., Birkenhead on Thursday 4th January, from 7pm. Letters have been sent to all Prize Winners. **Our Principal Guest will be Mr Jonathan McDonough**, barrister and former Head Boy of the College. **The College will close at 2pm and buses will depart then.**

FOSA News

Thank you for your support for the annual Family Christmas Quiz on Friday 15th December. This was well-attended and great fun, finally won by Mrs Murphy's Dream Team of Staff and 6th Formers! **Congratulations to Mr McCann** on his debut as compere, with a little support from his tall friend!

Parking by Parents

If you are collecting your son please do not park on Egerton Rd! There is plenty

of space in neighbouring roads and your sons are perfectly capable of walking around the corner. **Double parking causes traffic delays in a busy road used by buses and delays your departure.**

Advent

Our annual Advent Carol Service on 12th December, held this year in the Hall, was a great success. The Year 7 Choir sang as well as any I can remember. We were also treated to a beautiful rendition of "The Coventry Carol" (one of my favourites) by The Kaboodle Community Choir. Congratulations to Mr Jones, Mr Watson, Miss Mutch, Mrs Lennon and all our singers, readers and musicians.

Governance

Mr John Greaves, a Governor for 10 years, has been elected Chairman of Governors and **Mrs Pam Green** as Vice-Chair. **Mr Neil Turner, Mr Christopher Cleugh and Mr Charles Mills** have recently joined the Governing Body. The Governors have produced an Action Plan following the NGA Review of Governance recommended by Ofsted. This will soon be ratified and displayed on the Governors' section of the College website.

Curriculum Year 8

A pre-Christmas reminder that Year 8 boys will be selecting their GCSE options next term and that the Year 8 Options Evening begins at 7pm in the Hall on Tuesday 9th January.

And Finally...

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May the peace and love of the infant Christ be with you and your families this Christmas.**

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster