



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Easter 2018

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09 April 2018

**Dear Parents,
I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Easter weekend. We finished term by focusing upon the events of Holy Week with liturgies on Maundy Thursday, assisted by the visit of a copy of the Shroud of Turin as a focus for devotions.**

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.
Mr & Mrs Hyde are celebrating the birth of their son **Calvin John**.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

....

Mr Davar Saranjam Gassab, father of Ayeden.
Br. Noel Denis O'Halloran, ex-Headmaster of the College (1959-65), who died in January.
Mr. Norman Spencer, father of Mrs Desmond
May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

Executive Prefects:
Our new team have been elected. They are:

Head Boy Tom Spence, Deputy Head Boys Ebi Hanifehpour and Alfie Rideout-Wylde and Assistant Head Boys Kian Hughes and Max Thompson.

Congratulations on a job well done to their distinguished predecessors ex-Head Boy Ethan Urquhart and his team of Pietro Piccirillo, Michael Rooke, Nathan Cope and Ben Dufton-Kelly.

Politics:

Joel Kay Y10, was recently voted as a member of the Youth Parliament representing Wirral young people.

Army Cadets:

Oliver Fotheringham Y11 has successfully completed his ILM qualification through CVQO

Biology:

A number of our 6th Formers took part in the recent Royal Society of Biology's UK Olympiad and performed well receiving the following recognition:

Y 13 – Haydn Bennett Gold medal, Thariq Abdul Silver medal, Jayvier Pereira Bronze medal, Greg Mercer, Emmanuel Augustine-Antomy, Nathan Bennett highly commended and Cameron Bennett, Conor Gray, Michael Gallagher commended.

Y 12 – Kian Hughes, Max Thompson, Jacob Lau, James Simpson, Josh Campbell, Hugo Clough, Jack Harvey, Joe Lythgoe, James Lally and Joe Corcoran were all commended.

Sport

Rugby:

The 1st VII reached the semi-final of the Cheshire 7s in March.

Congratulations to Mr Mason, who demonstrated that he can still play as well as coach, when he appeared for Ireland

"Legends" (Veterans) who achieved a hard-fought 22-all draw against their England counterparts on the eve of the 6th Nations Match last month!
The Y10 Under-15 team lost the semi-final of the Nat West Plate competition to Dr Challoner's GS by 36-17 in Amersham, bringing their outstanding season, which included winning the Northern section of the Plate, to a close. This is the best Cup run in a national competition by an Anselmian team for 16 years! The full story is on the website.



Cross Country:

Our Senior Squad finished 4th in the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry last month. Joe Wigfield (Y13) ran the 7th fastest individual lap in this national competition. Our team time was 30 seconds quicker than last year when we finished 2nd!



Martial Arts:

Joe Ryan (9E) continued his fantastic season becoming the Yokkao junior World Champion by beating the Dutch current European Champion. He successfully defended his title beating an opponent from Cyprus and recently won his 1st professional fight defeating an 18 year old from Thailand.



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BBC Schools News

Report

Our KS3 reporters, led by Miss Murdoch, focused on the forthcoming centenary of the death of Wilfred Owen and other local celebrities. Further details are on the College website.

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!

DfE Performance

Tables

I am delighted to inform you that we achieved the 2nd highest score by any Wirral 6th Form in the January 2018 DfE Tables, based on 2017 A Level results for progress from GCSE to A level 2015-17. Our score of +0.13 was the best for any

school 6th Form in Wirral and the best of any Grammar School, including the girls' ones, and comfortably above the local and national average! Congratulations to Miss Baines and her team!

Key Dates

March:

29th End of Term, 3.30pm

April:

16th College re-opens

20th Y10 D of E Excursion until 22nd

20th Y12 Elevate Seminar

23rd German Each Students Arrive – 27th

26th & 27th Spring Drama

Showcase

26th Y7&8 Maths Challenge

May:

1st Y12 Higher Education

Evening

3rd Live Lounge

4th It's a Rockout

7th Bank Holiday

10th Y9 Italy Rugby Tour – 14th

11th Colours Awards

16th Y7-10 English Schools' Cup, Round 1

21st Staff INSET Day

25th End of Half Term, 3.30pm

Anselmian Association

Our forthcoming

events are:

20th April: AGM and St.

Anselm's Day Meal, 7 for 7.30pm at Pollard's Inn, Willaston, £20pp.

18th May: Golf Day at Wirral GC.

25th May Y13 Leavers' BBQ 6pm

Please see our page on the College website for further details.

Y11/6th Form

Transition

All Y11 students, except a couple who were absent, were

interviewed by senior staff on 28th March regarding their post-16 options and intentions. Letters offering 6th Form places and, where applicable, further advice, will be posted this weekend.

Y13 Mock Exams Part 2

Miss Baines has arranged for the results of this year's 2nd set of (March) Mock Exams to be sent home this week.

Revision

Targeted revision classes for Y11 and Y13 students have begun this week. Revision guidance has been issued by subject teachers, in all subjects for Y11 and Y13. Please contact them, or Mr Dowse and Miss Baines, if you require further guidance.

Battle of the Bands

This was a great success at the New Cavern Club. Every band performed with distinction! Thank you for your support!



Staff news

Mrs Catherine Simpson (Psychology) and Mrs Lesley Davenport (English) have opted to leave their employment at the College following a period of absence. We wish them well. **Mr Neil Lynch** is teaching **Science** in Key Stage 3 and **Mr Alan Leach** is teaching 6th Form Psychology. **Mrs Olivia Walberg** has joined the English staff.



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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!

Senior Rugby Tour

The Senior Rugby Tour departs for Canada and the USA in mid-July. Our recent Race Night Fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising £5000. Thank you to our fantastic parental organisers and fundraisers and to all who supported us.

Apostolic Life

The 6th Form Immersion Retreat to Sierra Leone led by Mr Haimes, Mr Hale, Mr Watson and Mrs Rawsthorne was a wonderful experience. The group will be visited projects and schools in Freetown and Makeni, including St. Joseph's School for Hearing Impaired Children and our twin school St. Francis in Makeni. We also discovered a village school in the bush in Mabureh, supported by the Christian Brothers, which needs our support. Thank you for your gifts and donations. The Retreat Group have subsequently led assemblies and addressed their peers regarding our links with Sierra Leone and lasting impressions of the trip. The story is scheduled to be featured in the Wirral Globe next week.

Mr Hale and 4 Y12 students participated in the Edmund Rice Schools 6th Form Retreat, and a 6th Form group attended a symposium upon modern slavery and human trafficking last month. Y10 students will be attending an Edmund Rice Schools Advocacy Day in Liverpool on 26th April.

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.**



FOSA News

The AGM month attracted some new Committee members. Our next event is A Spanish-themed evening in June, see website for details. FOSA 500 Club March winners:
1st £177 - P T Keilty
2nd £59 – DT & JM Harte
3rd £59 – M Caton

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.**

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.**

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.

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.



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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.

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!

Free School Meals

New Information received from the Local Authority: Free School Meals wage threshold eligibility criteria will be introduced from 1st April 2018 for new claims from working parents who also claim Universal Credit (protection is applied to existing claims made up to 31st March 2018).

Their message is to apply immediately and before 31st March 2018.

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.

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!

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

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!

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!



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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!

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!**

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.**

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 co-operate 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.

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!**

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.



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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!



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.

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.

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.

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 July, 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.



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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.

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 the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

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.

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.

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.

And Finally...

We are at the business end of the Academic Year for Y11 and Y13 students, who need to be engaging in revision and past paper practice. Other year groups must ensure that they have completed corrections and re-drafts and caught up any missed work.

I wish you and your families the peace and joy of the Resurrection.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

