



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September/October 2018

The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

9th October 2018

**Dear Parents,
The Academic Year is
now in full swing
following a very
successful summer
for the College!**

**Please remember in
your prayers ...**

Mrs Diane Tod and family,
benefactors of the College.

Mr David Gorman, 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**

Br. Joe O'Sullivan, former
Governor of the College
Mr Michael Roberts ,
Mr Gordon Wright,
Grandfather of George in Y9
May they rest in peace.

**Congratulations to the
following:**

Oxbridge:

Elijah Ferrante has begun his
History degree at Balliol
College, Oxford, and Haydn
Bennett has started his
medical degree at the
University of Liverpool.

GCSE Results:

James Chindripu, from
Heswall, achieved a perfect 10
top grades (9s) in his GCSEs
this summer. This constitutes a
College record and places
James in the top 700 students
in the country!

Politics:

Joel Kay Y11, was recently
voted as a member of the

Youth Parliament representing
Wirral young people.

Scouts:

Gabriel Ford and Jake McGinity
Y9, Callum Cox Y10 and
Joshua Edge Y12 have all been
selected to participate in the
24th World Scout Jamboree in
West Virginia in 2019. They
will all be taking part in many
fundraising events to help with
the cost of attending this
prestigious event.

Music:

Joseph Pendleton Y10 has
been selected as a drummer
for the Wales and West RAF
Cadets' band performing at a
high-profile event to be held at
the National Memorial
Arboretum on 2nd November.

Jonathan Stevens Y13 has
secured a place in the
Liverpool Philharmonic Youth
Orchestra for the 2018-19
season. He will have the
opportunity to work alongside
2016 Young Musician of the
Year, Cellist, Sheki Kanneh-
Mason and Conductor Vasilly
Petrenko

Sport

Rugby:

The Senior Rugby Squad won
all their matches on their Tour
of North America. They
remained unbeaten this
season until defeat at
Manchester GS on Saturday
and play Birkenhead School,
whom we have already
defeated this season, for a
place in the regional round of
the Nat West Cup. The Y8
Under 13 teams remain
unbeaten.

Cross Country:

Our squad won the first
Merseyside League Race this
month, following victory in the
prestigious Sedbergh Invitation
Tournament in September.
Both the Junior and
Intermediate Teams have
progressed to the regional

round of the English schools
Cup in November.

Computer Scientist

Y11 pupil Joel Sebastian
attended the CyberStart Elite
camp in July, this was the final
stage of the Government's
Cyber Discovery Programme.
23,663 Y10-13 pupils started
the programme and Joel was
one of the 170 who made it
through to the finals, held in
Manchester, London & Bristol.
Joel attended the Bristol Camp
and won an individual
competition in the process.

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 in
2017-18. 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 very good exam results
this summer, at both A level
and GCSE, confirm that the
Action Plan is working!



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

Exam Results



It has been a very successful summer for our students.

Year 13 exceeded targets in achieving 51% A*-B grades and 100% A*-E. Once again we are placed in the top 25% of 6th Forms for progress from GCSE and, having achieved similar value added to last year we hope to retain our status as the best Wirral school 6th Form for progress from GCSE to A Level. There were many outstanding individual achievements with Hardik Poptani, who only joined us in year 10, achieving 2 A* & 2 A grades and Patrick Delaney, Con Desmond, Jayvier Pereira and Matthew Toomy Conlon all earned 4 high grades. Elijah Ferrante secured his place at Balliol College, Oxford and Haydn Bennett his medical place at Liverpool. His triplets are also off to university. 42% of all UCAS places were at Russell Group universities and all students who applied have received university offers. This success was well-deserved!

Our GCSE results were excellent. This is demonstrated by our highest-ever Attainment 8 score of 60.6, with boys averaging at least a grade 6/B per subject, and our value added figure of +0.3 suggesting that boys achieved, on average, 1/3 of a grade higher than their targets in each subject. This was the first

year when all subjects, bar D&T, were graded 9-1, with 90% of all entries securing grades 9-4 and 38% of all entries were graded at the top grades, 7-9. Maths and English achieved high value added as did the Sciences, Geography, History, Computer Science, Design Technology and German. Disadvantaged and SEND made good progress, well above the national averages, so we have strong evidence that we have responded effectively to the Ofsted Report of 2 years ago.

James Chindripu became the first Anselmian to achieve 10 grade 9s, the new highest grade, and Kapilash Kugabalan, Robert Meadows, George Shannon, Jack Adlard, Matthew Kendall and Sam Tillotson-Scroder all achieved universally high grades. We are looking forward to presenting this data to Ofsted!

We have enjoyed tremendous parental support during a challenging 2 years and feel that we have vindicated your faith in us!

Positive Behaviour for Learning

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our system for awarding outstanding achievement and further improving behaviour for learning. We have been working together with staff and students trialling this new system since the start of term and the feedback has been very positive. Students will have the opportunity to gain an Achievement Point each lesson. Achievement Points

may be awarded for outstanding effort, achievement, contribution to lesson, outstanding homework or College Ambassador. These points will be allocated to a student's record via SIMS and shared with parents. Over the course of the year students will be awarded a bronze, silver or gold star pin dependent on the number of Achievement Points that they have. Each half term Pastoral Heads of year will also nominate one student per year group for the "Headmaster Award". This may be for any acts of kindness or excellence in extra-curricular activity outside the classroom. We have also introduced a new procedure for addressing any concerns relating to behaviour for learning – The Three Cs. The Three Cs system provides students with an opportunity to reflect on the consequences of their behaviour and encourages students to take responsibility for the choices they make. In the same way a student can receive an Achievement Point, a Behaviour Point will be added to a student's record for any consequences given. You will be kept informed if the number of behaviour points your son has accumulated becomes a concern. Mrs S Cubbin.

Key Dates

Oct :

15th Whole College Photograph
17th Careers Fair 2.30pm-6.00pm
18th Y11 Parents Evening
19th 3.30pm Half-term begins
29th College re-opens

Nov:

1st All Saints Day
3rd Anselmian Association Mass 11am



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

9th Remembrance Ceremony
21st Winter Concert 7pm
22nd Y11 6th Form Open
Evening
26-30th Y13 Mock exams
30th Sierra Leone Race Night
Dec:
6-7th College Panto
11th-17th Y11 Mock Exams
14th FOSA Christmas Quiz
17th Prize Giving tbc
18th Radio City Xmas Concert
20th End of Term

Anselmian Association

The Golf Day on 18th May was our best yet. Congratulations to Matthew Cubbin and his winning Team. Matthew joined the College staff in September!

The annual Dinner on 28th September was well-attended, by 135 guests, and a great success. We all enjoyed the reminiscences of Judge Denis Clark (retired) one of our most distinguished old boys. Thank you to FOSA for running the Bar. Please see our page on the College website for further details.

Y11/6th Form

Transition

Our 6th Form Open evening, for Y11 students, takes place at 7pm on Thursday 22nd November. Our A Level results confirm what a strong 6th Form we have!

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!

Harvest Festival

We are currently collecting for the Charles Thompson Mission and the Wirral Food Bank. All donations will be gratefully received and passed on to our neighbours. There has been a very good response from students and staff and all donations are most welcome!

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

We invite new members to join the Committee. Our next event is a proposed Body Shop products evening in November. The annual Christmas Family Quiz will be

held in the Hall at 7pm on Friday 14th December.

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. Able-bodied Anselmians are sufficiently fit to walk around the corner! If not they should report to Mr Taylor for extra fitness training!**

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



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

observe College rules will be deployed cleaning it off the yard and removing it from underneath desks.

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! We have requested boys to clear their lockers before half-term so that the Caretakers may fumigate where required!

GDPR

Along with all public bodies and companies we are obliged to observe the new European Data Protection Regulation.



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

We have appointed Judicium as our (corporate) Data Protection Officer. Please see our website for further details.

Mrs Madden has emailed all parents asking for your consent to receive my Newsletter and general communications and also for parental consent to publish photographs of your sons on the website and in our publicity material. We have received such consent in the past, but must request it by these means to comply with GDPR.

Y 11 Parents Evening

will be held on Thursday 18th October from 5-8pm. It is essential that Parents and boys attend. Year 11 are a very talented and conscientious group and have the potential to achieve outstanding GCSE results.

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!

Only 6th formers are allowed beards and facial hair.

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.**

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 Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

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.

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.



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

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.

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.

Wirral Food Bank

We have featured information on the College website about the availability of free and low cost food in Wirral from the Wirral Food Bank and Community Shops. Please bring it to the attention of anyone who needs such support.

Student Enrichment Fund

I have referred in previous Newsletters to the constraints on schools budgets and the fact that the budget formula adopted by Wirral Local Authority disadvantages St. Anselm's in comparison to most other schools. If we received the funding the DfE allocates to Wirral Borough Council for the College I would not need to raise this point. The Governors have decided that we must seek parental assistance in order to enable us to continue to maintain the current, extensive range of extra-curricular activities provided by the College. We are not funded for this and they are costly. Our current Budget cannot sustain such provision and the staffing and transport costs that accompany it so we are appealing to parents for help. Other secondary schools in Wirral, including some that your children attend, have been requesting such a contribution for years. We have tried to avoid doing so. A voluntary contribution of £60 per pupil per year would enable us to maintain our current provision of extra-curricular activities and opportunities, which compare



The Headmaster's News Letter –Sept/Oct 2018

to those available at fee-paying independent schools but are provided free of charge. We recognise that some of our families will be unable to support such a contribution, which we understand, but most of our families are probably in a position to do so.

Parent Pay

I have written to you outlining our new parental payment system which will be used instead of cash and cheques to pay for trips and the Student Enrichment Fund. The facility to pay for Music lessons and lunch money will be added in due course. We will master it!! We have adopted this online system in response to parental feedback. You have all been sent your own unique Username and Password. Please contact the Finance Office if you require any assistance, including by email.

New Staff

The following staff have joined us:

Miss Rebecca Long (Head of RE), Miss Rachel Monk (2nd in RE) Miss Rebecca Campbell (RE), Mr Matthew Cubbin (Head of MFL), Mr Juan Torrecillas Molina (MFL), Mrs Zoe Meakins (Psychology), Miss Katie Lenton (Science), Mr Matthew Williams (Maths), Mrs Carole (SEND TA) and Mr Dan Edwards (PE & SEND).

Adoremus



6th Form students and staff represented the College at the Eucharistic Congress and pilgrimage in Liverpool on September. Our banner was carried proudly in the procession and the impressive bearing of our students attracted many favourable comments, including from Bishop Mark.

And Finally...

I hope that you and your sons will enjoy the half-term break, even if you only have the weeknds together. It also represents an opportunity to catch up on missed work and to revise and improve work studied so far this term!

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

