



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – November 2018

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13th November 2018

**Dear Parents,
I hope that you and your sons enjoyed some time together at half-term. November is a month of Remembrance at the College and we have been active in our commemorations. 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.
Former Chairs of Governors Mr Brian Cummings and Mr John Brown who have had health problems.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Br. Joe O'Sullivan, former Governor of the College Mr Kevin Houlihan, Grandfather of Zach Harris, Mrs Margaret Trought and Mrs Pat Price, Grandmothers of Matthew Trought, Mrs Moira Harris, Grandmother of Matthew Houghton. May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

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 (11G) is an elected member of the Youth Parliament representing young people locally.

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:

The Wilfred Owen Youth Choir, directed by Mr Watson and including many Anselmians performed with distinction during the Wilfred Owen centenary Commemorations last week in Birkenhead, including their appearance on Songs of Praise at Christ Church, Owen's parish church, on 4th November. They participated in a choral workshop with Martin Neary on 8th November.

Jonathan Stevens Y13 has also secured a place in the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for the 2018-19 season.

Drama:

Liam Holsgrove Y7 successfully auditioned for a part in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at the Epstein Theatre this Christmas and will perform along side several local celebrities.

Sport

Rugby:

The 1st XV had a good start to the season and reached the 4th round of the Nat West Vase, defeating Birkenhead School (twice) along the way. They succumbed to a 37-19 defeat to Austin Friars in Cumbria last

week. The Year 10 Under-15 team have made similar progress and play a team from the Isle of Man in the next round.

Cross Country:

Our Intermediate Teams (Y9-10) have qualified for the final of the English Schools Cup in Woodbridge, Suffolk, on 24th November. The juniors narrowly missed qualification finishing 4th in the semi final.



Our Thai boxing World Champion Joe Ryan(10 E) has been nominated for an award as Britain's best Martial artist. There is a link on the College website to his You Tube video.

Ofsted Action Plan

Our **Action Plan**, which is an appendix to our established Improvement Plan, is published on the College website and has been reviewed for 2017-18. I am pleased to say that most of the objectives have been addressed, although we recognise that there remains room for improvement in a couple of areas. Our judgements have been verified by external reviews and our summer GCSE and A Level results. 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



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

League Tables



It has been a very successful summer for our students.

Our GCSE results were impressive and above average, as confirmed on the DfE Performance Tables for 2018, which can be accessed from our website. This is demonstrated by our highest-ever Attainment 8 score of 60.6, and our value added figure of +0.26 suggesting that boys achieved, on average, 1/4 of a grade higher than their targets in each subject. Disadvantaged and SEND boys 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! 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.

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 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 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. The first winners of the Headmaster's Award, for last half-term, are Finnan Ashton (7K), Harvey McGrath (8G), Luca Marzin (9E), James

Bussey (10H) and Daniel Alderson (11G).

Congratulations to Luca and Finnan who have been awarded our first bronze pins!

Key Dates

Nov :

21st Winter Concert 7pm
22nd 6th Form Open Evening
26-30th Y13 Mock Exams
30th Sierra Leone Race Night
Dec:
6-7th College Panto
7th-14th Y11 Mock Exams
11th Advent Service 6.30pm
14th FOSA Christmas Quiz
17th Prize Giving (Pupils finish 1.00pm)
18th Radio City Xmas Concert
19th SVP Christmas Party
End of Term 3.30pm
20th Staff GDPR INSET Day

Anselmian Association

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. The Association Mass for Deceased Members and members of the Anselmian community was celebrated by Fr Forshaw in the Chapel on 3rd November and was well-attended. Geoff Pyke's brother and sister visited us from Canada.

Y11/6th Form Open Evening

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! An email reminder has been sent to all parents and boys.



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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!

Air Cadets

1175 Air Cadets (Prenton) Sqn, Prenton Dell Road. CH43 3BY are currently recruiting and are holding an open evening on Thursday 15th November @ 7.00 pm for pupils in Y8 and above. All welcome.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for your donations. The Charles Thompson Mission needed 2 vans to collect them.

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 on 14th November. The annual Christmas Family Quiz will be held in the Hall at 7pm on Friday 14th December. Tickets will be available soon from Reception.

Raffle tickets will be sent home, via your son, next week. Please look out for them, and check the bottom of his bag, and return stubs and payment.

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.

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



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details for all the mobile phone companies:

[http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2009/10/parental-](http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2009/10/parental-controls-for-mobile-phones/)

[controls-for-mobile-phones/](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, money, PE kits, homework or any other property at home they should check at Reception to see if it has been handed in by an heroic parent. *The office staff are happy to accept these items, however they are not able to deliver them personally to students.*

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. 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.

Our recent Audit indicated that we were making good progress but in order to ensure continued compliance we will have further staff training on Thursday 20th December.

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!



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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 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!

The 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



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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. Boys should make their way to Reception to be collected by a parent/carer. 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,



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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. **We will be supporting this worthy cause as one of our advent charities.**

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. **We have been encouraged by the response from parents and families. Thank you for your generosity.**

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.

Staffing News

Mrs Louise Bridson (RE) retires at Christmas after 19 years loyal service. **She is currently absent on health grounds and her timetable is being covered by Miss Justine Hesketh-Osgood, supported by Miss Long and Miss Monk. Mrs Helen Eizdi-Sheshpiri** will join the RE staff in January. She is an experienced former Head of RE.

Fr. Andrew Moss has joined us as Chaplain, subject to Diocesan confirmation. Fr. Andrew celebrated Masses for us on All Saints Day and is available to support boys, in full confidence, on Friday lunchtimes in the Chapel.

Mrs Claire Piccirillo is supporting students as a part-time Learning Mentor in Mr Reynolds' absence.



Anti-Bullying Week 12-16th

We are marking this week with a series of assemblies and reflections delivered by pupils on the theme of "Respect".



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They have been thought-provoking and impressively presented.

Remembrance Events

All boys had the opportunity to attend Remembrance Ceremonies last week during which we remembered those 12 Anselmians killed on active service during the 2nd World War and Korean War who are commemorated on the College War Memorial plaque in the Hall. We prayed for them and for all victims of conflict and Fr. Andrew gave the final blessing before the Last Post and a Minute's Silence.



INSET Days

The Governors have agreed that Thursday 20th December will be an INSET Day to enable staff to complete further GDPR training. This means that term will end at 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th December.

The February INSET Day will be on 1st February. This is to enable boys and staff to participate in voluntary outreach activities as part of the Edmund Rice Schools Network European Congress. More details in future Newsletters!

Music:

Tickets are available from Reception for the Winter Concert, 7pm on Tuesday 20th November, priced £4 and £2 for concessions.

This has been a busy term for Mr Watson and the Faculty. Our singers and musicians performed with distinction during Wilfred Owen Centenary Commemoration Week and enjoyed their appearance on Songs of Praise and at Christ Church!

Mock Examinations

Both Year 13 (26th-30th November) and Year 11 (7th-14th December) have their first set of Mock Exams before Christmas. These will give students, and their parents, the clearest indication yet of their academic progress. The timetables have been published on Show My Homework. Given their rapid advance parents would be unwise to accept suggestions of "no homework" at face value!

And Finally...

We remember, and pray for, all members of the extended Anselmian community who have passed away this year, including members of your families.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

