



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – December 2018



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18th December 2018

**Dear Parents,
Welcome to my final
Newsletter of the
term and the
Calendar Year 2018.
Our Advent
preparations have
gone well and we
approach the
Christmas season
with optimism.
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.

**Mr Freddie Young, husband of
Mrs Young our former
Governor.**

**Please pray for the
repose of the souls of**

**Br. Joe O'Sullivan, former
Governor of the College.**

**Mrs Vera Shannon, mother of
John and grandmother of
Oliver, both Anselmians.**

**Mr Wally Bridson, Mrs
Bridson's father-in-law
May they rest in peace.**

**Congratulations to the
following:**

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,
including their appearance on
Songs of Praise at Christ
Church, Owen's parish church,
on 4th November. One of the
patrons, our MP Rt. Hon. Frank
Field, visited the College last
week to present them with
their Awards.

Jonathan Stevens Y13 has also
secured a place in the
Liverpool Philharmonic Youth
Orchestra for the 2018-19
season. He has also received
an offer from the prestigious
RNCM to study Performance
and Composition next year.

Drama:

Liam Holsgrove Y7 is
appearing in "Snow White and
the Seven Dwarfs" at the
Epstein Theatre alongside
several local celebrities. Oh yes
he is!

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. The
Year 10 Under-15 team made
similar before losing 28-17 to
Castle Rushden earlier this
month. All other teams have
performed well, especially the
Year 7 & 8 teams who have
only suffered 2 defeats.

Cross Country:

**Our Intermediate Team (Y9-
10) performed magnificently**

**in the Final of the English
Schools Cup in Woodbridge,
Suffolk, on 24th November,
finishing 6th in a competition
involving 1500 teams! Zach
Russell and Harry Ross-
Hughes finished 19th and 29th
respectively in the individual
race.**



Cam'ron Tsang 11K is part of
the Chinese Martial Arts
(BCCMA) Team GB and took
part in the Nordic Open
Wushu Championship in
Stockholm recently. He
achieved a bronze and a 4th
place in his events and came
13th in an over 18's event.

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!

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 winners of the Headmaster's Award, for this half-term, are Dominic Nugent(7M), Tommy Cox(8P), George Wright(9G), Obediah Callaghan(10E) and Oliver MacDonald(11K). I

congratulate the boys on their efforts and impeccable timing!

Key Dates

Dec:

19th SVP Christmas Party

End of Term 3.30pm

20th Staff GDPR INSET Day

Jan:

7th College re-opens 8.35am

10th Y12 Parents Evening

11th Y8 Computer Science

Enrichment Day

15th Y11 Mocks Results

Evening

16th Edmund Rice Pre

Immersion Student Gathering

17th Y9 Careers Event

17th Y13 Parents Evening

24th Y8 Options Evening

Anselmian Association

Our next event is the Association St. Anselm's Day AGM & Pub Meal at Pollard's in Willaston on Friday 19th April from 7pm. All Anselmians are most welcome.

Y11 Certificates

Evening

Mock Exam results certificates will be distributed in the Hall to all Y11 students, with parents present, on Tuesday 15th January. The renowned Revision Company Elevate will lead a study support guidance session for boys and parents

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 boys have over 2 weeks at Christmas and Easter and a 7 week summer break this year. That is sufficient to accommodate all family holidays and occasions!

Drama

The College Pantomime, **Robinson Crusoe**, performed on 6th & 7th December, was a resounding success. The 1st performance was joined by 40 refugees from Asylum link in Liverpool, who were hosted by the SVP. Well done to Miss Ashton and her talented team on another memorable event!



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. The annual Christmas Family Quiz on Friday 14th December was great fun! Over 2200 raffle tickets were sold. We





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particularly thank Governor Mr. Tony Nelson for his generous support. He did win some prizes! The raffle was drawn and prizes have been distributed. Our next event is a Fish and Chip supper in the New Year.

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.**

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 details for all the mobile phone companies:

<http://consumers.ofcom.gov.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,**





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including through poor attendance, lose their eligibility for Bursary payments. Tax payers' money must be spent wisely!

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 Judicum 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!

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**





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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 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.

Drug Abuse

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, as recently highlighted on television.

Over the counter prescribed pills like Diazepam and Xanax are also being mixed with alcohol and causing serious problems among teenagers locally.

Mrs Cubbin has emailed you advice and guidance from the Wirral Drugs Team. If you son has any such items in his possession you need to act and the letter outlines sources of support.

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





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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, 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.





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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. **Mrs Helen Eizdi-Sheshpiri** will join the RE staff in January at the start of next term. She is an experienced former Head of RE.

Mr Craig Crennell (Physics) leaves us today for a new job in Liverpool. He will be replaced by **Dr. Wai San Lett**. **Fr. Andrew Moss** has joined us as Chaplain. Fr. Andrew celebrated Masses for us on

All Saints Day, and officiated at the Remembrance and Advent ceremonies 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.

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 for the boys 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. We are giving boys a day to participate in acts of outreach and service in the spirit of blessed Edmund. If you have a worthy cause that needs practical support for a day, please contact Miss Baines on lbaines@st-anselms.com.

More details in future Newsletters!

Music: Mr Watson and the Choir again performed with distinction at last night's Radio City Cash for Kids Concert at the Anglican Cathedral.



Mock Examinations

Year 13 Mock Exam grades are being sent home, just in time for Christmas, and Year 11 Reports will be sent out in January, after results are digested at the Certificates Evening!

Prize Giving

Our annual Prize Giving on Monday evening, at Our Lady's Church Birkenhead, proved to be a great success. The church was full to hear our Principal Guest, Dr. Brendan Smith, spoke warmly about his Anselmian education and how it prepared him for a distinguished career as a Surgeon. The musicians played magnificently and most Prize Winners were in attendance. A fitting tribute to a successful year!

Wirral Foodbank

Year 7 and 8 have donated a whopping 215kg of items and a donation in the region of £300 from non-school uniform days to the Wirral Foodbank. The staff at the Foodbank were very grateful and commented on the generous nature of our boys and their families and asked that we pass on their thanks.

And Finally...

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support for the College.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

