



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Jun-Jul 2019

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17th July 2019

Dear Parents,

On the final day of term I am delighted to share our July 2019 Ofsted Inspection Report with you! It makes very pleasing reading as I think you will agree!

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.

Mr David Gorman, Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Mr Peter Reynolds and Mr Iain Smith are recovering from ill health. **Former Chair of Governors Mr Brian Cummings and Mr Peter Bowskill,** both old Anselmians.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mr Les Cleugh & Mrs Frances Cleugh, parents of Mr Chris Cleugh, our Governor and ex-Headmaster, who both passed away this week.

May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

Headmaster's Awards:

Samuel Williams (Y7), Luke Hyland (Y8), Jack McCabe (Y9) and Leon Hughes (Y10) are the recipients of this half-term's awards for outstanding efforts, attitude and contributions to lessons and College life.

Mathematics

Samuel Williams Y7 achieved the highest mark in the recent Year 7 & 8 Maths Challenge. He went on to finish in the top 2% overall in the second round.

Jack Young (Y12) and Peter Shield (Y13) achieved a MERIT award in the Open MEM Challenge from Liverpool University.

Arkwright Scholarships

Daniel Alderson and Thomas Rumsby (Y11), have both been awarded these prestigious engineering scholarships for their 6th Form studies, maintaining a proud College tradition!

Work Experience

Roberto Carpino Y10 completed his work experience week with Mayfair Kitchens who were impressed enough to offer him summer work and Saturday work after that. Many other boys have also impressed and been invited back to their workplaces, including Tom Hayley and Sam Johnston.

Charity:

Luke Hyland Y8 and the Junior SVP worked to raise £300 for the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity which is close to Luke's heart.

Chess:

Ranjula Ranasinghe Y9 won a silver medal in the Delancey schools Chess Challenge and has qualified for the UK Chess Challenge Gigafinals in Manchester.

Scouts:

Gabriel Ford and Jake McGinity Y9, Callum Cox Y10, Joshua Edge Y12 and Adam Roscoe Y13 have all been selected to participate in the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in 2019.

Sport:

Athletics:

Our Junior and Intermediate teams both reached the National Finals of the English Schools Cup in Chelmsford. The Junior team finished as the highest ranked school north of London, finishing 9th and the intermediates were 12th.

Malique Al-Shabazz, Rahim Elzeiny (2nd in 100m), Harry Ross-Hughes(Y10) and Andrew Wilkinson and Daniel Wilkinson (Y8) all excelled, achieving high

points scores or national rankings.

Old boy **Joe Wigfield** is now studying Sport & Exercise Science at St Mary's College, London and has flourished on their track and field training programme. He has been selected for Great Britain for the 3000m at the U23/U20 European Games in Sweden this summer.



Cricket:

Oliver Griffiths (Y9) was successful in his recent trial for Lancashire U14's squad for the 2019 season and has since represented the County vs Cumbria.

William Clayton (Y10) has been playing for Oxtou CC 1st Team and was selected to play against a PCA Masters team consisting of ex England Internationals, including Dominic Cork and Ryan Sidebottom. William also captained our u-15 XI to victory over St. Patrick's College Sydney in the recent Christian Brothers' Ashes Test!

Swimming:

Vadim Bosc Y8 was selected to represent English Schools Northwest Regional Team at the Inter-Divisional Championships in Crawley recently. He won the 200 Breaststroke and 200IM and broke records for both events.

Trampolining

Charlie Stone Y8 competed in the National League qualifiers and came 2nd in both his events. He has qualified for the English and British finals in Birmingham.

Ofsted Report 2019

Our Ofsted Report has been emailed to parents today. The College has been judged as a



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“Good school” with Good provision in every inspection area so that Leaders “provide a good quality of education”. Some of the highlights of the Report are:

“Senior Leadership is a strength of the School”, “Governors fulfil their responsibilities well”, “Leaders promote positive values clearly and consistently”, “The leadership of teaching, learning and assessment is highly effective”, “Teachers usually expect high standards of pupils’ work, so pupils try hard”, “Pupils’ outcomes are good. They make good progress”, Pupils with SEND are supported effectively”, “Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength of the school”.

We recognise these comments from our own experience. We are determined to use the Report to spur us on to achieve an “Outstanding” judgement in our next Inspection in a few years’ time. On behalf of the staff and Governors I thank parents and students for your loyal support during the past 3 years. We knew that we were making good progress but needed this Report to confirm it!

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**.

Parking by Parents

If you are collecting your son please do not park on Egerton Rd! 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 4G 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/>
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.

Free School Meals

New Information received from the Local Authority: With effect from 1st April 2019 paper application forms will not be accepted. Applications must be made on line.



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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 I 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!**

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 the holiday 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 next Audit is in September.

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. 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. We are moving towards white shirts only, so while blue and white shirts are acceptable from Yr10 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.**

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 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 Report! 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**



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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. College holidays are 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 menu 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. Mrs Cubbin emailed you last month regarding the so-called "momo challenge", the latest foolish on-line craze which is causing distress to inadvertent and innocent participants. It targets children of all ages and has no positive features. There is an article on the Liverpool Echo website.

The National Online Safety website provides useful advice to parents on related matters at

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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 hospitals. 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 local teenagers. 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! 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!



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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. 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.

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 this year. Thank you for your generosity. Please continue your support next year!



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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.

Youth Offer Review

Wirral LA has asked schools to publicise the following survey on activities and support services available to young people in Wirral:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S2V5FQS> for young people to complete. Parents/Carers and the General Public can comment by emailing youthoffer@wirral.gov.uk

There will be a public meeting in August which you can sign up for using the following link: <http://bit.ly/2WMeKEe>

Staffing News.

We bid farewell to Mrs Parry Paxton (English), Miss Murdoch (English), Mrs Lett (Science), Miss Hayes (TA SEND) and Mr Boardman (Science Technician), thank them for their distinguished service and wish them happiness and professional fulfilment in the future.

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders: School of Sanctuary

Our School of Sanctuary status was renewed this week in recognition of our outreach work with asylum seekers, refugees and local homeless

people. Last week Miss Baines and the 6th Form Edmund Rice Youth Ambassadors took a party of refugees from Asylum link in Liverpool on a day trip to Chester. Our guests from Syria, Eritrea and Sudan had a wonderful day!

Br. Kerrigan Walk

This was a great success on a hot day on 27th June! The boys behaved impressively. Please encourage your son to collect his sponsorship. Our project is to sink a well and provide piped water for the village of Mabureh, see website.

SVP Society



We are currently celebrating the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the College SVP, the oldest school conference in England and Wales. At the recent Colours Award Mr. Paul Lever, SVP President for Birkenhead and Bebington District presented a commemorative certificate to this year's SVP Presidents Max Thompson and Oscar Terry. On 2nd July we held a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the contribution of the SVP to Anselmian life during the past 80 years, celebrated by Fr. Jim Robinson, SVP Central Council Chaplain, Canon John Marmion and Fr. Anthony Cogliolo, both Anselmians.



Sierra Leone Retreat February 2020

Preparations have begun for our next Retreat following the outstanding success of the 2019 Immersion, the largest so far. Please contact Miss Baines, Head of 6th Form, for further details.

Diocesan Inspection 2019
The Inspectors judged us to be **“a Good Catholic Grammar School with many outstanding features.”** The Catholic Life of the College and Collective Worship were judged to be **“Outstanding”** and Religious Education as **“Good”**.

Year 7 & 8 Reports

These are being distributed to boys to bring home, owing to a fault on our SIMs system. This is not an error by the College but is a mistake by the company which affects many other schools. If your son's Report does not arrive home please contact us for a replacement copy. These documents are too important to risk delivery to the wrong house number and we do not wish to incur the wrath of GDPR legislation.

Year 9 Reports were sent home this way last week. Please inform us of any discrepancies!

Participation Awards

These were celebrated for the first time at Our Lady's Church in Birkenhead where we recognised the contributions to College life of boys in Years 7-10. Our Guest Speaker Mr Daniel Miller, an old boy whose son Thomas joins us in September as a 3rd generation Anselmian, congratulated the many award winners and identified the qualities of an Anselmian education which had served him well in his business career.

Year 12 opportunities

6th Form students have recently attended Open Days at Lancaster, Bangor, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, proving excellent



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ambassadors for the College. They also participated in a 2-day Financial Services Conference in Liverpool as well as work experience in the financial sector.

Anselmian London Network



Last week a group of 14 Year 12 students, chauffeured by Dr Cooper & I, were hosted by London-based Anselmians. Jonathan McDonagh at Serle Court Chambers and the Royal Courts of Justice, Dan Byrne at Lloyds Insurance Building and Joe O'Brien at UBS gave us a fascinating insight into the working lives of barristers, insurance brokers and City bankers. They also hosted a Reception at Serle Chambers which was attended by a range of London Anselmians who provided further careers insights. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students, who responded impressively, and we hope that it will become a feature of our 6th Form careers calendar. Jonathan, Dan & Joe also hope to establish a London Anselmian network. We thank them for their generous support and hospitality.



Key dates:

August:

15th A Level results am

22nd GCSE results am

September:

4th Y7, 9 & 12 start term

5th Whole school returns

And Finally

I hope that you and your sons enjoy the summer and have a restful break together. The Ofsted Report confirms that our boys are well-supported here and that you can be confident that they are receiving a good education. Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

