



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Sept 2019

The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

30th September 2019

Dear Parents,

The first month of the Academic Year has passed quickly and we are back in the swing of things! It was a successful summer for the College community as the following stories confirm.

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 May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

College Prefects

Fred Greaves and Ben Lyon have joined the Executive Prefects Team and Bradley Smythe, Owen Miller, Seb Lea and Oscar Terry have been appointed Senior Prefects.

Volunteer work

Harvey McGrath Y9 was busy during the summer holidays volunteering at Pensby Library, helping out the various different user groups with technology advice, gathering information and serving tea & toast.

Charity:

Morgan Evrem (13RGH) and his family have been invited to switch on the Christmas Lights at Wirral Hospice St. John at the Light up a life service in memory of his grandfather Allan Powell. Morgan is one of

our most dedicated charity campaigners.

Sport:

Athletics:

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.

Rugby:

The season has begun well with victories at all age groups, including clean sweeps against Hutton GS and St. Edward's College. The 1st XV have advanced to the 3rd round of the Nat West Cup and play Bishop Heber on 23rd October.

Cross Country:

The season has started well!

The Intermediate Team won the Sedbergh Tournament.

The Moel Famau run was won by Josh Hale with Oberon Kearney (Y7) in a remarkable 2nd place! Oberon is from an Anselmian Cross Country dynasty and won his first Merseyside League race last week.

Swimming:

Vadim Bosc (Y9) 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. He has since won 2 bronze medals for the 100 Breaststroke and 200m IM at the British Summer Championships in Glasgow.

Trampolining

Charley Stone (Y9) finished 7th in the U-14 British finals in Birmingham last month.

Martial Arts

Cam'ron Tsang Y12 was part of the China Spirit UK Kung Fu Team which was invited to compete in the International Oslo Wushu Open this month.

Cam'ron won Gold and Silver medals and came joint 4th in another event.



Joe Ryan (Y11) won the Thai Boxing ISKA World Title this summer and recently defeated his opponent from New Zealand in an international tournament.



Ofsted Report 2019

Our Ofsted Report was emailed to parents in July. The College was judged to be a "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,



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

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!

2019 Results: A Level Success

Our Year 13 students are celebrating a successful conclusion to their College careers after achieving 59% grades A*-B grades at A Level, 81% A*-C, with a 99% pass rate, in the top 3 results for Wirral 6th Forms in 2019 and the best of any Boys’ 6th Form. 98% of students achieved 3 or more GCE (A Level) or equivalent passes. This maintains the College’s tradition of high value added from GCSE to A Level. In 2018 we achieved the best such results of any 6th Form in Wirral and our results during the past 3 years have always been in the top 25% nationally for A Level progress. 70% of all BTEC grades were awarded Distinction or better with 100% passes. 40% of all university places accepted are at Russell group universities, in line with the average of the past 3 years.

4 students have secured Oxbridge places. **Jacob Gilroy**, from Heswall, achieved 3 A* & 1 A grade and a place at Hertford College, Oxford, to study Mathematics, while **Ebi Hanifepour**, from Wallasey, achieved 3 A* grades and a place to read History at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he will be joined by **Joseph Lawler**, who will read History & Economics at Pembroke College. **Tom Ryan**, from Eastham, has a place to study Engineering at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

There were many other outstanding individual performances with **Joseph Curry** (Architecture, Sheffield University) and **Peter Shield** (Mathematics at Imperial College, London), both from Wallasey, achieving 4 and 3A* grades respectively.



GCSE Results 2019

Our Year 11 students enjoyed some outstanding individual achievements. 96% of Year 11 boys achieved grades 4 or above in both English and Maths, with 25% gaining grades 7-9 in both subjects, and 36% of all GCSE results were at the top grades, with 93% grades 4-9. The Attainment 8 score of 60.6 was the best of the past 4 years since this national measure was introduced. This maintained the high standards of recent years. There were some outstanding individual results with many boys achieving the new grade 9 led by **Divij Wankhade** from Upton. His 8 grade 9s are one

of the best set of individual results achieved at the College under the new numerical grading system. **John Barron**, from Prenton, **Thomas Hennessy**, from Great Sutton, **Matthew Ryan**, from Eastham and **Joel Sebastian**, from Moreton, all achieved 7 grade 9s and **Simon Shackleton**, from Prenton, 5 grade 9s. Many other boys achieved high grades and impressive results, exceeding their targets.



KEY DATES:

October

- 1st Y 10-11 Field Trips
- 2nd -5th Barcelona Trip
- 4th Anselmian Association Dinner, 7pm
- 7th & 8th Y8 Coastal Walk
- 9th Y11 Conference
- 10th Author Visit
- 10th Wirral Arts Festival
- 13th-15th Y11-13 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 16th Y11 English Trip
- 16th ERI Ambassadors Induction
- 17th Y11 Parents Evening 5-8pm
- 18th FOSA, Oktoberfest 7.30pm
- 21st Y7 Welcome Mass
- 24th Open Morning (Y6 parents)
- 25th Half Term begins (3.30pm)

November:

- 4th College Re-opens
- 7th Y7 Parents Evening

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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

are on the **Edmund Rice Trust section of the College website. The Trustees will be making a presentation to parents after the Y7 Welcome Mass on Monday 21st October.**

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/>

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.

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 of course!

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!

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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

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 Audit in September was a success.

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, including the dates of detentions.** 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 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. 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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

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 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! 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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

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 the Local Authority disadvantages St. Anselm's in comparison to most other schools. If we received the funding the DfE allocates I would not need to raise this point.

Please continue your support this year! Our transport bill alone is over £20,000 and we do not receive any funding for extra-curricular activities. The 6 Grammar Schools receive lower funding than all other Wirral secondary schools and even some Primary ones! Ofsted judged that "spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength of the school" and that "6th Form students benefit from the wide-ranging enrichment activities provided." This is expensive however! A donation of £60 per year, which is £20 per term or £5 per month, from parents, would enable us to maintain our current provision which benefits all boys. If parents are unable or unwilling to

support us there will have to be cuts.

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 welcome Mr Griffiths (English), Ms Kaye (English), Mr Karythis (Maths), Mr Roberts (Physics) and Mrs Gillespie (Science Technician). Mr Karythis is covering for Mr Platt during his convalescence.

Edmund Rice Education

Beyond Borders:

School of Sanctuary

Our School of Sanctuary status was renewed in July in recognition of our outreach work with asylum seekers,



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September 2019

refugees and local homeless people. Miss Baines and the 6th Form Edmund Rice Youth Ambassadors will collect our Award at Birkenhead Town Hall later this month.

Br. Kerrigan Walk

This was a great success on a hot day on 27th June! The boys behaved impressively and raised a record £6,800! Our project is to sink a well and provide piped water for the village of Mabureh, see website.

Sierra Leone 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, or Mr Hale for further details.

Anselmian Association

The annual Dinner will be held in the Hall on Friday 4th October from 7pm. Our Guest Speaker is old boy and Governor Mr Tony Nelson. Please see website for details and inform us of any dietary requirements.

FOSA News

Our next event is the popular Oktoberfest on Friday 18th October in the Hall. Tickets are £10pp, including traditional food, and this is an adults-only event. Tickets are available from Reception but are selling fast!

Wirral Arts Festival

Our musicians are performing at Our Lady & St. John parish church in Heswall at 7pm on Thursday 10th October along with the Little Actors Theatre Company in support of the Festival.

Year 7 News

The Y7 Retreat on 20th September was a great success. The boys visited Chester Cathedral, including the Chapel of St. Anselm, and were excellent ambassadors for the College. Our annual Y7 Welcome Mass will be celebrated in the Hall at 6.30pm on Monday 21st October. All boys are expected to attend and family members are most welcome.



Admissions Events

Our Open Evening last month was very well-attended. Our student guides and helpers were wonderful ambassadors for the College. Thank you for your support. The Entrance Exam last month was sat by more than 400 Year 6 boys.

China Trip

We successfully hosted a visit by students and staff from Taicang Experimental Middle School in July and Mr Dowse will be leading a party of Y10 & 9 students to Taicang in March 2020.



Iceland Trip

Our first Geography Trip to Iceland in July, led by Miss Hill and Mrs Ebbrell, proved to be a great success. We hope that it will become a regular feature of the Geography calendar.

Author Visit

The celebrated author and former SAS man Chris Ryan will be visiting the College on 11th October as part of his book tour, in conjunction with Lingham's.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

