



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter - November 2019

The Headmaster's Newsletter – October-November 2019

30th November 2019

Dear parents,
doesn't time fly? Advent has begun and we are now entering the final 3 weeks of the Christmas Term. This is always a busy time at the College!

Please remember in your prayers ...

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.
Mr David Gorman, Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Mr Peter Reynolds and Mr Iain Smith are recovering from ill health and Former Chair of Governors Mr Brian Cummings.

Please also pray for the repose of the souls of Mr Peter Bowskill, Mrs Jan Winters and Bishop Brian Noble.

May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to the following:

Senior Maths Challenge

The following pupils qualified for the next round of the Challenge on 29th November: Jack Young, Paul Hunt, Robert Meadows, Y13. Joel Sebastian, Robert Barlow, Daniel Lyon Y12 and Liam Keating Y10!

Year 13 students

11 boys have, so far, been offered interviews at Cambridge and for Medicine. Before the end of term.

Senior Debating Team

Congratulations to Zak Gainey, Devan Jones and Noa Sundqvist who defeated the team from St. Ambrose College to win the Edmund Rice Schools Senior competition last month, ably assisted by Mr Dowse and Mr Luxemburg. Our Under-15

Team tied the final. Well done to James Derbyshire, Stephen Dowse and George Wright.

Junior Cross Country



Our Junior Team have qualified for the Final of the English Schools Cup at Mount St. Mary's in Derbyshire on 7th December as regional champions. Good luck to Mr Simpson and our Year 8&7 Team on Saturday, including Oberon Kearney (Y7) who finished 2nd when representing Merseyside in the recent Inter-Counties fixture.

Rugby



Both the 1st XV and the Under-15s (Y10) reached the last 32 of the Nat West Vase, winning 4 matches. The 1sts have had a good season but lost 46-20 to Altrincham Grammar School.



The Under-15s take on Bishop Heber HS at home on Wednesday for a place in the last 16. We have recently enjoyed victories across the age range against Merchant Taylors and Sandbach HS. The Year 7, 8 and 9 teams have also been in good form.

Badminton

Congratulations to our Y11 team consisting of Josh Hale, Johnny Light, Jake Raynor and Taylan Wade who defeated local rivals, including Wirral GS in the final, to qualify for the regional round of the national Badminton Cup.

Hockey

The 1st XI have had a good run of form recently defeating Lymm HS 4-2 with a hat trick from Obe Callaghan (Y11). They lost to Birkenhead School 3-2 but we won the 2nd XI match 4-0 and the U-14s won 3-2.

Morgan Evrem and Family

Morgan(Y13) will switch on the Christmas lights at Wirral Hospice St. John's on 8th December to start their "Light a Life" Appeal, in memory of his grandfather Allan Powell. It is also the 3rd anniversary of the death of our former pupil Will Allen who, like his friend Morgan, was a dedicated charity supporter.

KEY DATES:

December:

2nd-6th Y13 Mock Exams
4th Edmund Rice Staff Street Retreat
3-4th KS4 Geography Trips
4th Winter Concert 7pm
7th Cross Country National Final TRFC Concert 7pm
9th-16th Y11 Mock GCSEs
13th FOSA Christmas Quiz
16th T Factor
17th SVP Christmas Party
17th Radio City Carol Concert
18th Prize Giving 7pm
19th College closes, 1.00pm

January:

6th College Re-opens 8.30am

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



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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. A Year 7 boy was hit by a car in October which, mercifully, was driving very slowly. Road safety is more important than personal convenience. Our boys are capable of walking around the corner!

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!



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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 Audit in July 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



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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

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 your 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.

Wirral LA– Information regarding Antibiotics

The Local Authority has asked all schools to pass on the information attached to this newsletter regarding the use/overuse of antibiotics.

Powers of Search & Confiscation

The law gives powers to



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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 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.

Remembrance



The Annual College Remembrance Ceremony was held on the 11th November, attended by Key Stage 3 and the 6th Form. Our guests from the Anselmian Association were most impressed by the respectful demeanour of the boys. We commemorated all victims of war, including the 12 Anselmians killed in action during the 2nd World War and in Korea who are commemorated on the Memorial Plaque. Old Anselmian Canon Marmion gave the Blessing.

Staffing News.

Mr Griffiths (English) has left his post for personal reasons and **Mr Blakemore** has



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assumed his timetable and is 8E's Form Teacher. Mrs Clare Whiteley joins the English Faculty in January.

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, refugees and local homeless people. Miss Baines and the 6th Form Edmund Rice Youth Ambassadors collected our Award at Birkenhead Town Hall in October.

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 on Friday 4th October was a great success. Mr Tony Nelson, old Anselmian and Governor, was our Guest Speaker and enthralled us with tales of the law!

FOSA News

Our next event is the popular Christmas Family Quiz on Friday 13th December in the Hall. Tickets are £10per family or £4pp including food platters, and this is a family event so there will be a Tuck shop and child entertainments (within reason!). Tickets are available from Reception and the Raffle Prize will be drawn during the evening.

Christmas Raffle Tickets

Tickets for the FOSA annual raffle have been distributed to all boys. Please try to sell 2 books and return the payment, stubs and any unused tickets to your son's

Form Teacher. They are currently at the bottom of his school bag!

There are some terrific prizes including £250 1st Prize!

College Panto

Advent has begun and with it the Panto season! Oh yes it has! **Congratulations to Miss Ashton and the cast and crew for a fantastic production** with many memorable performances, including those from Inigo Roderick Waters, Joshua Stevens and Stephen and Tom Jones. Our refugee visitors from Asylum Link in Liverpool were highly amused, despite the language barrier and freezing temperature. We also provided our guests with a Christmas meal and gift.

Thank you to Mrs Lynne Rumsby and her friend Ruth for the wonderful food!



Tranmere Rovers Carol Concert

Our Year 7 Choir will be performing as part of the TRFC Concert on Saturday evening from 7-8.30pm. Our singers are also entitled to a ticket to the match. There will be food, a Christmas Market and entertainment at Prenton Park from 5.30pm. Do come and join us!

Mock Exams in December

In case your son has concealed the dates from you they are as follows!

Y13 2nd-6th December

Y11 6th-13th December.

These Exams require revision! The results will form the basis of Y13 and Y11 Reports in January.

Year 11 6th Form Options Forms are due to Mr Rumsby this week.

Advent charities

We will be supporting Caritas "Keep the Light Shining" Appeal (Diocesan Children's Fund) in KS3, Alder Hey Hospital and Clare House in KS4 and the 6th Form will assist the Charles Thompson Mission as part of the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders global campaign on local homelessness. The boys will be fundraising, including cake sales, and there will be a voluntary non-uniform Day in each Year group.



Congratulations to the Junior SVP and Key Stage 3 led by Miss Campbell and Miss Monk. Boys in Years 7&8 have donated 140 Christmas shoe boxes for disadvantaged children in Romania, to be distributed by the Samaritan's Purse Charity. Thank you for your generosity.

Prize Giving 2019

Our annual ceremony will be at Our Lady's Church in Birkenhead on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm. Our Guest Speaker will be old Anselmian Mr Dominic Redfearn, Global Brand and Communications Director at Diageo.

Winter Concert

This year's Concert is on Wednesday 4th December at Birkenhead High School. It is their turn to host! Our students will be performing



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alongside those from BHSA
and it promises to be another
excellent musical evening.

Sunday Times Parent Power

We were ranked in the top 20
Maintained Schools in the
North West in this year's
Sunday Times Parent Power
feature of leading schools
nationally.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

