



# St. Anselm's College

## *Edmund Rice Academy Trust*



The Headmaster's Festive Newsletter - December 2019



# The Headmaster's Newsletter – December 2019

## 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear parents,

We have reached the end of a busy term and stand on the threshold of a new decade! Our Advent preparations have gone well and we are ready for the Christmas holiday! 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 Bill Reid, Mr Peter Bowskill, Mrs Jan Winters, Mrs Evelyn Collins and Bishop Brian Noble.

May they rest in peace.

**Congratulations to the following:**

### Headmaster's Awards

Winners for this half term were:

Jack Parry Y7, Zak McCarthy Edwards Y8, Thomas Jones Y9, Ben Edwards Y10 and Thomas Whiteley Y11

### Senior Maths Challenge

The following pupils qualified for the next round of the Challenge on 29<sup>th</sup> November: Jack Young, Paul Hunt, Robert Meadows, Y13. Joel Sebastian, Robert Barlow, Daniel Lyon Y12 and Liam Keating Y10! Jack and Robert, both of whom have been interviewed at Cambridge University, subsequently achieved Merit Awards.

### Year 13 students

13 boys have had interviews at Cambridge, Oxford and for

Medicine this term, a College record!

### Barclays Tec Innovation Challenge

Joshua Chakada, Nathan Walsh and Hugh Grealis Y10 and Joel Sebastian, Martin McKenna, Cam'ron Tsang, Ethan Clayton and Yass Latif Y12 represented the College in their respective teams as finalists of the Barclays Tec Innovation Challenge which took place at their Head Office in Knutsford this month. All boys were a credit to us.

### Senior Debating Team

Congratulations to Zak Gaine, 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.

### Music

In the recent exams Jude Holmes Y12, Charlie Davies Y11 and Stephen Jones Y11 passed their Grade 6 Rock and Pop guitar exams.

Gabriel Ford Y10 achieved a merit in his grade 1 Keyboard exam and Fred Greaves Y13 achieved a merit in his ABRSM Grade V Theory exam.

### Junior Cross Country

On Saturday 7th December, our Junior (Year 7/8) boys team competed in the Cross Country English School's Cup National Final. The race was held at Mount St Mary's College in Derbyshire. Despite missing two key runners due to illness, our boys performed well. Oberon Kearney (Year 7), led the team home in a remarkable 14th position, despite being a year younger

than the majority of the field. Seb Thorpe was our next counter, closely followed by Alfie Forsyth Wisbey, Ben Connor, Miles Craven and Ed Looker (all Year 8 students).

We managed to achieve 15th place out of 27 schools, coming 1st out of the North West schools and 4th across the whole of the North of England. All of the athletes who competed and those who missed out due to illness, deserve huge credit for their level of commitment towards their training and races during this campaign. A huge thank you must also be given to Mr Simpson, Dr Cooper, Miss McKinley, Mr Edwards, Mr Taylor and Mr and Mrs Green for giving up their weekend to support the boys.

Congratulations to all who took part!



### Rugby



**The 1<sup>st</sup> XV have had a good term reaching the last 32 of the Nat West Vase, winning 4 matches. Before losing to Altrincham GS. We have beaten Manchester GS, Merchant Taylor's, Birkenhead School and Sandbach HS this term. Congratulations to Ben Lyon**







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who is a member of the Cheshire U-18 Squad.



The Under-15s defeated Bishop Heber HS 13-7 to book their place in the last 16 of the nat West Vase. We play King's Grantham on 15<sup>th</sup> January. We have recently enjoyed victories across the age range against Merchant Taylors, Liverpool College and Sandbach HS.

### Basketball

The Year 8 team continued their winning ways this month beating Calday, South Wirral and Mosslands all in the same week.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> XI match 4-0 and the U-14s won 3-2.

### Morgan Evrem and Family

Morgan(Y13) switched on the Christmas lights at Wirral Hospice St. John's on 8<sup>th</sup> December to start their "Light a Life" Appeal, in memory off his grandfather Allan Powell.

### KEY DATES:

#### December:

18<sup>th</sup> Prize Giving 7pm

19<sup>th</sup> College closes, 1.00pm

### January:

6<sup>th</sup> College Re-opens 8.30am

7<sup>th</sup> Eco Group Trip

8<sup>th</sup> Y13 BTec PE Exam

9<sup>th</sup> Y13 BTec Business Studies Exam

9<sup>th</sup> Y13 BTec Science Practical Exam

10<sup>th</sup> Y10 Science STEM Trip

14<sup>th</sup> Y11 Mock Results & Study Skills Eve

15<sup>th</sup> U-15 XV Cup tie v. King's Grantham, home 2pm

16<sup>th</sup> Y13 Parents Evening

20<sup>th</sup> Y13 BTec Science Exam

23<sup>rd</sup> Y8 GCSE Options Evening

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> ERI Ambassadors

Geneva Trip

29<sup>th</sup> Holocaust Memorial Event

February:

1<sup>st</sup> ER Pre-Immersion Student Gathering

1<sup>st</sup> Rugby Tour Race Night

4<sup>th</sup> FOSA AGM

7<sup>th</sup> CB INSET Day

9<sup>th</sup> Battle of Bands Final

10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Y10 Exams

14<sup>th</sup> U 12s Hockey Tournament

14<sup>th</sup> Half-Term Begins 3.30 pm

### 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. 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





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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> Formers. I am the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes an acceptable haircut. Only 6<sup>th</sup> 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





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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 your 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 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-](http://www.st-anselms.com)

[anselms.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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





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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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Wirral LA– Information regarding Antibiotics**

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

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## **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.

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## **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







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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 "6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Staffing News.

**Mrs Clare Whiteley** joins the English Faculty in January, replacing Mr Blakemore who was on a temporary contract.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form, or Mr Hale for further details.

## FOSA News

The Christmas Family Quiz on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December was great fun and the best team won!! Congratulations to the Christmas Raffle Prize Winners (see website for details).

Particular thanks to Mr & Mrs O'Halloran and their team who generously donated their hamper to the homeless at the Charles Thompson Mission.

### College Panto

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 sang as part of the TRFC Concert on 7<sup>th</sup> December after the Accrington Stanley match. Congratulations to Miss Jones who conducted them.

## Mock Exams

The Mock Exams have been completed and Y11 Reports will be sent home in January. Both Y11 & Y13 have another round of Mock Exams in March, and we will be expecting to see progress since December!

## Advent Charities

We are supporting Caritas "Keep the Light Shining" Appeal (Diocesan Children's Fund) in KS3, Alder Hey Hospital and Clare House in KS4 and the Charles Thompson Mission in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form as part of the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders global campaign on local homelessness. The boys have raised nearly £2,000! Congratulations to the Junior SVP and Key Stage 3 led by





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**Miss Campbell and Miss Monk.** Boys in Years 7&8 have donated 140 Christmas shoe boxes for disadvantaged children in Romania for the Samaritan's Purse Charity. Thank you for your generosity.



## SVP Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday the SVP hosted their annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party in the Hall. Our Guests were treated to a buffet lunch, carols and an edited rendition of the College Panto "Robin Hood"! Over 150 contented guests joined us, an SVP record!

## Sunday Times Guide

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

We wish you a Merry, and holy, Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

## Prize Giving 2019

Our annual ceremony was held last night at Our Lady's Church in Birkenhead and was a joyous, and reasonably short, celebration of a successful year! Our Guest Speaker, old Anselmian Mr Dominic Redfearn, Global Brand and Communications Director at Diageo, gave a fascinating speech about his Anselmian education and how it has supported him in his successful career. The audience were favourably impressed!



## Radio City Concert

Our Pop Choir sang with distinction at the annual Radio City Cash for Kids Concert on Tuesday evening at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. Congratulations to the boys and to Mr Watson and Mrs Reid.

