



St. Anselm's College

Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter - February 2020

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11th February 2020

Dear parents,

The new calendar year has started well and it is half-term next week. We have received a timely boost with the publication of the DfE 16-19 Tables. We are again top of the 6th Form tables in Wirral!

Please remember

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.

Mr David Gorman, Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Mr Peter Reynolds, Mrs Françoise Wood and Mr Iain Smith who are recovering from ill health and Former Chair of Governors Mr Brian Cummings.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Margaret Marks.

May she rest in peace.

6th Form Academic Triumph

We are once again top of the DfE Progress Tables in Wirral, measuring progress from GCSE to A Level! Our 2019 score of 0.41 is officially “well-above average”, nearly half a grade above expectations per entry, and identifies us as the top maintained 6th Form for progress in Merseyside. We are top of the Wirral Tables for the 2nd consecutive year and the top Wirral school 6th Form for progress for the 3rd consecutive year. This is a tremendous achievement by students and staff and confirms the excellence of the 6th Form education provided by the College. **Well done to our students, Miss Baines, the pastoral team and the subject teachers.**

Congratulations to the following:

Headmaster's Awards

Winners for this half term are: Oberon Kearney (7M), Lewis Foran (8P), Benjamin Smith(9K), Jake Poland(10P) and Sean Stone(11E). Lewis is the first student to achieve his Gold pin for 100 merits. Well done boys!

Senior Maths Challenge

Many of our boys in the 6th Form and KS4 excelled. 6th Formers Jack Young, Robert Meadows, Paul Hunt, Joel Sebastian, Robert Barlow and Daniel Lyon achieved Gold Awards, along with Liam Keating (Y10), and have progressed to the “Senior Kangaroo” Round! Many boys achieved Silver Awards including Tom Whiteley, Fred Martin (both Y11) and Levi Clayton (Y10).

Public Speaking

Congratulations to Michael Hughes (Y12) and Noa Sundqvist (Y13) who represented the College in the Birkenhead Catenians Public Speaking Competition in January. Michael won a high-quality contest speaking with impressive poise and cogency on the theme of “Rome: The Empire that never dies.” He will now represent us at the Regional Final in March.

Advocacy

Our Edmund Rice International Youth Ambassadors Zak Gainey and Noa Sundqvist represented the College at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as part of the ERI delegation in January. They learned about the advocacy work and lobbying of ERI and attended the Universal periodic Review of Spain's Human Rights record.

Music



The annual Battle of The Bands Final at the New Cavern Club in Liverpool on Sunday 9th February was another great success. Congratulations to the 5 Bands who deservedly received prizes, and to Mr Rumsby and the organisers for another terrific evening of musical entertainment. The winners were returning stalwarts “Abe Froman” who will now perform at the Threshold Festival in the Baltic Triangle in Liverpool and “The Anomaly” who will perform a live lounge set in the BBC Wales Studio at Glyndwr University in Wrexham.

Cross Country

We retained our Merseyside League title this term. The Y7 team finished 2nd with Obe Kearney the individual champion. Our A, B & C teams took the 1st 3 places in the Y8 competition with Jack Talbot the individual champion!



Our Y9&10 team also finished 2nd in their league and our Senior Teams finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their competition. Louis Johnston won the individual championship with Finan Johnston 3rd overall.



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In December our Junior Squad ran in the English schools Cup Final but there is no Senior National Cup. The King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry, previously graced by accomplished runners like Sebastian Coe, is the nearest equivalent. **Last week our Senior Team finished 4th after a tremendous performance. Louis Johnston ran our quickest lap and there were excellent runs from Captain Joe Joinson and Fernando Izquierdo-Bernard in their final races for the College.**

Rugby



The 1st XV have had a good season reaching the last 32 of the Nat West Vase and winning 10 and drawing 1 of their 16 fixtures. We have beaten Manchester GS (twice), Merchant Taylor's and Birkenhead School.

Congratulations to Matthew Kendall, Matthew Waddington, Ben Lyon (U-18s) and Joel Ashton (U-16) who have played for Cheshire this season.



Congratulations also to 2nd XV player Harry Hopwood who continues his ascent of the refereeing ladder! Harry recently refereed the Under-

16 Cheshire v Lancashire fixture.

Thank you to our marvellous parental committee who, ably assisted by Mr Mason & Mr Cucchi, partners in crime, organised a fantastic Race Night last weekend. Thank you also to our generous donors and sponsors of raffle and auction. The substantial funds raised will be used to purchase all the Tour kit and pay for additional excursions in South Africa!

The Under-15s (Y10) reached the last 16 before losing narrowly to King's Grantham on 15th January. The team has enjoyed a tremendous season, characterised by excellent team spirit.

All our rugby teams have had good seasons and we have enjoyed tremendous support. **We also thank Kevin, Julie and the Halewood family for the fantastic refreshments at The Ridings on Saturday mornings.**

Basketball

The Year 8 team continued their winning ways this month beating South Wirral HS and Ellesmere College.

Hockey

The 1st XI have had a good run of form recently, winning 4 of their last 5 matches and defeating Lymm HS 2-0.

The U-16 squad played well recently in the North West Regional Finals winning 2, drawing 2 and losing only 1 match, conceding just 1 goal and finishing 3rd in their pool.

Football



Congratulations to old Anselmian Joe Hardy who made his competitive debut

for Liverpool FC against Shrewsbury Town in last week's FA Cup 4th Round replay. Joe was a pupil at the College from 2010-12 before leaving us to join the Manchester City Academy. He has now seen the light! Joe is a tremendous all-round athlete and Mr Mason, who was a contemporary of Anselmian British Lion Austin Healey, remembers him as the best schoolboy rugby player he has seen.

KEY DATES:

February:

10th-14th Y10 Exams
11th-21st Sierra Leone Immersion
14th-16th Y 11&12 Cracow Trip
14th U 12 Hockey Tournament
14th Half-Term Begins 3.30 pm
24th College Re-opens 8.35 am
24th-25th Y9 Immunisations
27th-28th Y10 Science Trip
27th National Theatre Drama Production

March:

2nd-6th Y13 Mock Exams
2nd-4th Y7&8 RE Retreat
5th Y12 Parents Evening
5th Y13 Photographs
11th-17th Y11 Mock Exams
12th ER Schools Student Council Conference
18th Y13 English Lectures
18th Y13 Geography Workshop
19th Y9 Parents Evening
19th-20th Psychology Conference
19th Y9-11 Maths Challenge
25th Y8 Theatre Trip
26th Full Governing Body Meeting
27th-28th U12 Rugby Trip
31st Y10 Warhammer Competition

April:

2nd Y8-12 Drama Trip
3rd Ski Trip departs. Easter Holidays Begin 3.30pm
20th College Re-opens

Outwood House

Parental support for the Edmund Rice Trust is most welcome. The Trust purchased Outwood and is entirely reliant



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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!

Please do not drive into the College to drop your son off in the morning unless he is injured and unable to walk. It is potentially dangerous, especially when some road hogs drive the wrong way around the circuit! We keep the gates closed in the afternoon for this reason, but cannot do so in the morning. Your assistance is essential and greatly appreciated

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 online.

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



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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.

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. Coats are not to be worn in buildings and will be confiscated from persistent offenders. No hoodies are allowed under blazers.

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.



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You can access this system through an app called MyEd. The parental mobile number is then linked to your son and information regarding College events, key dates, educational visits and attendance can be accessed. This will also allow you and us to send and receive free messages to and from school. We are in the process of updating the College interface on this system and ask that all parents, who have smart phones, download the app. **It is also very important that we have up to date mobile numbers for parents and ask you inform us if you have changed your number recently.**

Keep Track of your son's Homework and Deadlines!

The College provides an online service for parents to keep track of your child's school homework and deadlines. The service is free to access and available via the Internet and any Smart Phone. Simply visit the College website by typing in www.st-anselms.com. On the school homepage in the 'Students' or 'Parents' drop-down menus you will see the option '**Show My Homework**'. Click on this to display a calendar-view, showing the dates when your son received homework from his subject teachers and when it is due for collection. If you have any questions regarding this service please contact the ICT team at ict@st-anselms.com

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.



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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. 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 identified in them as an item which may be searched for. Banned items are listed in the College's Behaviour Management Policy. 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 we have reasonable grounds to do so. We may also erase data and files.

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 say this.

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. Please see the website for payment details.

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

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders:

We hosted the annual Edmund Rice Schools Staff Conference on the INSET Day on 7th February. The organising theme was the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and we explored how to better support them at the College. 2 of our strategic targets this year are to reduce our plastic use, especially of single-use plastics, and to develop our outreach activities in support of local homeless people. We are moving away from the use of plastic bottles in the Dining Room, including at Parents' Evenings. Aluminium cans, fully recyclable, are replacing them and we are looking to do away with single-use plates and cutlery. Parents and boys can assist us by not bringing in plastic bottles and using sustainable drinks carriers, including cans, and food containers. We will continue to support local homeless charities, like the Charles



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Thompson Mission, through our fundraising and collections.

Sierra Leone February 2020

Our next Immersion Retreat, led by Mr Hale, departs on Tuesday 11th February returning on 21st. There has been a tremendous effort by students and staff and we have now raised the £12,000 required for the Mabureh Well project that will ensure a piped water supply to the village and school. Thank you to our many donors and sponsors for your generous support.

Holocaust Memorial

Mr Dowse and Miss Baines led our Holocaust Memorial Assemblies at which student representatives made public pledges on behalf of the Anselmian community. Mr Dowse and 65 Y10 pupils participated in the Wirral Commemoration at the Floral Pavilion.

FOSA News

The Christmas Quiz was great fun and well-attended despite the December virus plague! Thank you for your support. Our AGM was held on 4th February. **We have a dedicated Committee but would welcome some new volunteers and suggestions for events!**

Mock Exams and Reports

The Y11 Reports for all boys have been posted home. Please contact the College Office if you have not received your son's Report! Both Y11 & Y13 have another round of Mock Exams in March, and we will be expecting to see progress since December!

China Trip

Sadly we have had to postpone the Exchange Visit to Taicang on FCO advice. We are seeking a full refund from our insurers who are linked to the Academies' scheme. We hope to run a similar trip in the future, when safe to do so. Boys who had places on the Taicang Trip will receive priority.

Sunday Times Guide

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.

Absence from school

This is a national problem!

Although our overall attendance is above the national average at 96% we do have boys who have a poor attendance record. Not all of them suffer from ill health!

There is a direct correlation between high attendance and high achievement! Both the College and Wirral Local Authority wish to support parents and we fully understand absence on medical grounds or owing to exceptional circumstances, which I will authorise.

However, when pupils are persistently late, have unauthorised absence or go on holiday during term-time a legal process can be pursued. This is a last resort but some Wirral parents have been fined or required to appear in court this year. It is a legal requirement for all children to attend school and attendance is required every day of the school year. Recent research has confirmed that 17 days school absence per year

results in 1 GCSE grade lower in Year 11. I am sure that you will support us in maintaining high expectations and attempting to improve school attendance across Wirral. (Mr P Smith, LA Attendance Officer).

And finally, Lent begins on 26th February. Ashes will be distributed in the Hall and we will adopt our official Lenten charities. I hope you and your sons enjoy half-term. I cordially remind Y11 & Y13 parents that their sons ought to be doing some revision, and catching up missed work, ahead of the March Mock Exams!

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster

