



St. Anselm's College Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter - July 2020

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15th July 2020

Dear parents,
The Academic Year 2019-20 ended today, the most unusual one of my 32-year career! We are, of course, already preparing for the start of the next one and pray that we can return to normality!

Please remember

Mrs Diane Tod and family, benefactors of the College.

Mr David Gorman, Mr Anthony Whitehead, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo, Mrs Françoise Wood and Mr Iain Smith who are recovering from ill health and **former Governors and Anselmians Mr Brian Cummings and Mike Redfearn and Charles Mills** who have had health problems and **Mr Graham Poole** who is gravely ill.

*Please also pray for the repose of the souls of **Mr Dan Miller, Mr John Forsythe and Mr Colin Duckers.** May they rest in peace.*

Academic Year 2020-1

The DfE intends for schools to open full time to all Year groups in September. We are planning accordingly. Our planning continues to be based around social distancing and hand hygiene. We are updating our Risk Assessment and Action Plan and will consult on them with you in August. We will hold Induction days for staff and students, see below, and will make some minor amendments to the College day and timings of lessons.

There will be no trips and few extra-curricular activities scheduled next term but we will respond promptly to Public Health advice. All

students are expected to attend the College full-time. This information remains provisional for the present. We will write to you in August with an update.

KEY DATES:

July:

13th Virtual Sports Day

14th EREBB Environment Day

15th End of Term, 1pm

August:

13th A Level and BTEC Results Day am

20th GCSE Results Day am

September:

1st SLT Meeting

2nd Staff INSET Day, Y13 UCAS Exams – 4th

3rd Y7, 9, 12 Induction Day

4th Y8, 10 & 11 Induction Day

7th All Year Groups

A Level/BTEC Results Day

Exam Board Results will be communicated to Y13 students on Thursday 13th August. The format of the day will depend upon Public Health advice. We might be able to welcome students on site or communicate remotely. It is likely that parents will NOT be able to join us on site for social distancing reasons.

Mr Diaz & I are writing to you with some more detailed information. We will provide full UCAS support to any student who requires it, either in person or remotely, from 8am on 13th August.

GCSE Results Day

Exam Board grades will be communicated to Y11 students, and 6th Form places

confirmed, on Thursday 20th August. We do not yet know whether this will be done on site or remotely although we hope to welcome our students on site and an appointments system might be in operation. It is unlikely that parents will

be allowed to enter the site for Public Health reasons.

Staff advice will be available for careers and options choices, probably by appointment.

Year 13 UCAS Exams

Year 12 were denied the opportunity to demonstrate their progress because the Covid-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of their exams! **They have Exams scheduled from 2nd-4th September**, in every subject, as a progress measure and to provide clear guidance for our UCAS predictions and reports and their university applications. Miss Baines has sent out the timetable. Please ensure that your son attends. His UCAS prospects will be hampered if he misses this opportunity to confirm his progress. There is plenty of revision time available in August!

HE and Careers

The remote HE and Apprenticeship evenings for Y12 students were well-attended, as was the virtual Y7-9 Careers Morning. Any Y13 student wishing to apply to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge or for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science must contact Dr Cooper and I, as well as the relevant subject teachers for guidance about study during the Summer holiday. You need to use this time to prepare and read widely!

Executive Prefects

The elongated election process has concluded!

Congratulations to our new team:

Head Boy: William Nicholls

Deputy Head Boy: Matthew Ryan



Assistant Head Boys:
James Bladon, Jamie Jinks,
Thomas Hennessy and
Divij Wankhade.

Virtual Sports Day

Mr Taylor's 1st virtual Sports Day was a great success, despite the fact that his performance of "the plank" remains vastly inferior to mine! Thank you for supporting your sons in their athletic endeavours!

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. **There is no parental access to the site until further notice. Any visitors will only be admitted by appointment.**

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

Applications must be made on line. Details are on the College website.

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 likely that students will not have access to lockers when they return in September. They should only bring books and equipment required for the day in question, in a transparent wallet or small bag.

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.

Normal uniform expectations will resume from 2nd September 2020.

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 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 to 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. 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!

. Confiscated items will be destroyed.

Cyber Bullying

The College advises all parents to be vigilant regarding their sons' use of the internet. We have had to deal with some examples of on-line bullying during the past few months. Cyber bullying will be punished in the same way as other breaches of the Code of Conduct. Our sympathy is always with the victim.

Medication

Please ensure that the spare medication, you provide for your sons, **particularly epi pens and inhalers, which are kept in our Medical Room, is still in date, and will still be so in July, or replace them with new ones.**

The College will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a medical practitioner and are in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist. We will not accept medicines that have been taken out of the original container nor make changes to dosages.

Appointments

Please provide prior notice of medical appointments for your sons. We also require a parental letter or copy of the appointment letter for our records. Boys should make their way to Reception to be collected by a parent/carer. This is a safeguarding issue.

Asthma

Many students at the College have been diagnosed with asthma. Please ensure that your son carries his inhaler with him at all times. We are happy to keep a spare inhaler for him in the Medical Room. Please send it into College in a box, marked for the attention of the School Nurse, and

clearly labelled with your son's name and form.

Powers of Search & Confiscation

The law gives powers to schools to search and confiscate items from pupils under the following guidelines. Thankfully, the College rarely has to exercise this power, but I feel it is important that parents and pupils are aware of it. 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

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:

Thank you for supporting our Mandela-themed Environmental Volunteering Day on Tuesday. It is not too late for your son to make a contribution if he has not already done so, particularly if a neighbour or grandparents requires assistance!. Please see Mr Mcloughlin's booklet and the website for details.



Sierra Leone February 2020

Our Immersion Retreat, led by Mr Hale, proved to be an unforgettable experience.

There was 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. Congratulations to all boys and staff who supported the Makeni Walk Challenge this month, comfortably exceeding the 13,329km round trip from the College to Makeni.

FOSA News

We have a dedicated Committee but would welcome some new volunteers and suggestions for events!

Reports: Y7-8 and Y13

Y9 Reports were sent home in early July and Y7 and 8 Report cards are being posted this week.

Y13 final Reports are being sent home with an enclosed surprise.

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).

From the start of September the DfE expects all boys to attend College on a daily basis, unless Public Health guidance changes. This is not optional.

Staffing

We bid farewell to "Mr Mathematics" Anthony Haimes after 15 years distinguished service. The strength of the Maths Faculty, especially in the 6th Form is a tribute to his leadership and teaching prowess.

Mrs Sarah Martin will be Head of Maths next year and **Mr Adam Bennett** joins the Maths staff, along with part-time Business & Economics teacher **Mr Mark Woolford**. **Congratulations to loyal College staff Mrs Jean Murphy (Head of English) and Mr Joe Brammall (Caretaker) who have completed 40 years continuous service at the College.**

And finally,

This has been the strangest of the 96 terms of my teaching career!

Congratulations to all students who have pursued their studies remotely, especially those in Years 7-9

who have not had the opportunity to return on site. Well done to parents and family who have supported remote learning at home! Thank you to staff volunteers who have enabled us to remain open to the children of key workers, who have demonstrated remarkable stamina by attending so consistently. Thank you for your support this term and a personal thank you to the amazing people and staff in the NHS, Care Homes, shops, transport, logistics, the emergency and public services and all those unsung heroes who have kept the country going during this unprecedented crisis.

I wish you and your families a good and healthy summer and hope that you might enjoy some form of holiday.

Yours in Christ,



Headmaster