



St. Anselm's College  
*Edmund Rice Academy Trust*



The Headmaster's Newsletter – February 2021

Mr R S Duggan

February 2021



Dear parents,  
We are now finalising preparations for the return on site of all students and staff during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. This has to be managed alongside the DfE's Covid testing requirements, hence our phased return of students next week.

Please remember Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo, Mrs Françoise Wood and Mr Iain Smith who are recovering from ill health and former Governors Mike Redfearn, Mrs Eileen Howlett and Charles Mills who have had health issues.

**Brian John Cummings MBE**

We are sad to announce the death of Mr. Cummings on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Brian joined the College as an 11 year old in 1944 and maintained his association with the College for the rest of his life! He was Chair of Governors from 1995-2013, and a Governor for over 20 years.

Brian appointed me and was a wonderful support and mentor. He was devoted to the College and took a deep interest in an Anselmian education, the virtues of which he embodied. Brian was also previously an elected member of Wirral Council and a past Governor of several local schools.

We offer our condolences to his widow Doreen, daughters Catherine, Helen and Lizzie and grandchildren. May he Rest in Peace.



**Parent Governor Elections**

Congratulations to our newly elected Parent Governors: Mr James Chapman, Mrs Kalna Sibal and Mrs Hazel Lloyd-Green.

**Covid-19 Guidance**

Any pupils, or staff, who have been identified as a close contact of a Confirmed Case must now isolate for 10 days. Please do NOT send your son into College in such circumstances. Boys who have symptoms should have a NHS PCR test at a local testing site, not the College!

Since January we have been testing pupils (sons of key workers) and staff who are regularly on site on a weekly basis, with no positive tests from the 750 we have administered. We have the capacity to test full Year groups when they return.

**Return to School**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form, who are being Covid tested on Friday, and Year 11 will return on site on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March for their normal Week B timetable. Years 10 & 9 will resume on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Years 8 & 7 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. Normal

uniform and appearance standards will be expected, although we recognise that haircuts might have been difficult to procure. We will not tolerate any dyed hair or shaven heads, nor accept any hoodies or trainers. Boys should attend College fully equipped for all lessons. You have been warned!

The 611 & 612 buses will run as normal.

Last term's routines and protocols, which proved very successful, will remain in force. There will be the same separate entrances and exits, with KS4 using Grosvenor Rd, staggered break and lunchtimes, the 1-Way system around the site and a strong hands, face, space regime with sanitising of hands at the start of lessons. Face masks or coverings are to be worn again in buildings but also during lessons, as well as on school buses and public transport, but not outdoors, and rooms will be well-ventilated, in line with DfE guidance. This is to ensure our mutual safety and prevent the need for a further, disruptive, lockdown. We have a collective responsibility to keep each other safe.

**Covid Testing on site**

Students will be tested 3 times for Covid-19, using lateral flow tests, which are quick and easy to administer, during the rest of term. After that the DfE plan is that all students who have had LFD tests will be ready to begin self-testing at home. Those who have not consented to these tests will not be eligible for home testing.

This testing system is designed to break asymptomatic chains of





transmission so the College strongly encourages all students and staff to take these tests. We have a collective responsibility to each other. I am pleased to announce that there has been an overwhelmingly supportive response from parents and 6<sup>th</sup> Formers who have consented to testing.

6<sup>th</sup> Form Testing Rota  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March:  
9.15-11.15 am  
RGH, MDC, AJH & ALH  
11.30-12.30  
AGM, JMM  
1.30-3.30pm  
DSH, JPM, MPD, PJD, CGW

### Remote Learning

Remote Learning is now well-established at the College. Our staff deliver teaching and learning via Microsoft Teams and Show My Homework, including live and video inputs. Remote learning will continue for Y10 & 9 On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March and for Y8 & 7 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> as well. Hopefully we will not need it again! We will continue to incorporate the lessons learned into future teaching and learning.

### Attendance and Engagement

We expect all students to attend lessons on Microsoft teams as timetabled. Staff will report non-attendance and failure to produce homework and assignments and contact parents accordingly. We also recognise excellent commitment to learning and Achievement and have begun to award Achievement Points this week. Already more than 150 have been earned!

### Parental Survey

Many thanks to the 588 parents who completed our

Remote Learning Provision survey. The results showed that 99% of our parents felt that their son was accessing their Remote Curriculum effectively and that we have provided an effective balance of challenging work and live streamed lessons. We must again thank parents for their continued support through this challenging period.

### Year 10 & 12 Grades

Grades will be sent home next week. For obvious reasons they Y10 grades will focus upon engagement with remote learning rather than specifically upon academic progress. The Y12 ones will be based upon academic progress.

### Centre Assessed Grades

Following the cancellation of this year's GCSE, A-level and BTEC Exams the DfE and Ofqual have published outline plans for grade awards this summer. We await the specific details but know that your sons' grades will be based on some form of Teacher/Centre Assessed Grades, as in 2020, based on the progress of students by May/June. They will be moderated by Exam Boards and must be rooted in hard evidence, not based on "potential". Mock Exam results and coursework/NEAs will contribute to these judgements, as will homework, term-time assessments and general progress, but none will carry disproportionate weighting. The best thing our students can do is to produce work to the best of their ability,

including during tests and Mock Exams.

We will keep parents and students fully informed of Exam Board criteria when published. We cannot provide estimated grades or predictions, given the above criteria, and will not do so at Parents Evenings. You already have your sons' reports and they will take a 2<sup>nd</sup> Mock Exam after Easter, which will generate further evidence of current achievement.

### Parents Evenings

The Y8 and Y7 pastoral Parents Evenings were held on School Cloud and proved very successful. We will adopt the same system for Y13 & Y11 Parents Evenings in March, see dates. Instructions will be sent home by Mr Hawsworth. Parents will be able to make 5-minute appointments with subject teachers and pastoral staff. Senior staff such as Miss Baines, Mr Dowse and I will also be available.

### Congratulations to:

#### BFL Grades

Y7 students Aleix Ackroyd Garcia, Toby Price, Alexander Godby, Harrison Jones, Jac Chapman, Harry Hilton, Bliss Ayalloor, Aron Shaji, Alvin Joseph & Jobe O'Connor have all worked at a consistently high standard throughout lockdown and all achieved at least 8 Outstanding BFL grades and the remaining grades being Good.

#### Motor Racing

Thomas Ikin Y13 will be racing in Formula4 next year.

#### Football Apprenticeship

Jack Reilly Y11 has been offered a 2-year Sporting





Excellence Professional Apprenticeship as a full-time professional footballer with Wigan Athletic.

**University News**

Congratulations to the following Y13 students who have recently received prestigious offers: **Michael Hughes (Modern History) from the University of Oxford (Balliol College), Divij Wankhade (Engineering) from Imperial College (University of London), Head Boy Will Nicholls (Medicine) from Keele University and Oliver McDonald (Dental Surgery) from the University of Plymouth. 98 students have applied to university this year.**

**Connecting Classrooms**

We are members of the "Edmund Rice Schools Against Waste" Connecting Classrooms Project in conjunction with the British Council. Our partners include CBC St. John's Cape Town, St. Vincent's Technical and High School India, St. Aidan's College Sunderland and St. Joseph's Prep School Stoke. We had a videoconference launch last week when the schools exchanged strategies and targets and we heard from Christian Brother global experts in this field, including Br. Kevin Cawley from Edmund Rice International in New York. Year 10 students Harvey McGrath and Tom Jones represented us with aplomb, supported by Miss Baines, Mrs Booth and Mrs Ebbrell. Our presentation is on the College website. Watch out for forthcoming developments as we seek to rationalise our recycling and waste management!



**Mini DASH 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils Ollie Brennan, Alfie Freaney, Josh Pugh and Anthony Smith who represented the College at the recent online meeting of Shrewsbury Diocesan students. The boys joined a workshop whose goal was to explore Pope Francis' recent Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" (We are all Brothers & sisters) and interpret this in the context of life at the College and in society.



**Please read if your son is in Year 9 or Year 10**

Immunisations Notice from Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust 0-19 Team

*'Following the routine immunisation schedule for the UK your son is due to have the HPV (Human papillomavirus) vaccine. Some children may have had 1 dose of the vaccine and are due a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. – We can check which is due. Also they will be due to have the Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio (DTP) booster vaccine and the MenACWY Vaccine – this*

*protects against 4 strains of meningococcal bacteria which cause Meningitis. As you know we would usually offer these in school. Due to current restrictions, we are offering their immunisations in a community clinic setting instead. We will be writing to all parents/carers in due course, to invite them to contact the Immunisation Team to make an appointment for the outstanding vaccines. For further details please contact 0151 514 2510'.*

*The 3 Community Clinics are located at The Hive, Birkenhead, Bromborough Children's Centre and Seacombe Children's Centre. Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust 0-19 Team.*

**KEY DATES:**

- March:**
- 8<sup>th</sup> College Re-opens Y11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form
- 9<sup>th</sup> Y10 & 9 return
- 10<sup>th</sup> Y 8 & 7 return on site
- 17<sup>th</sup> Y12 online Careers Afternoon
- 18<sup>th</sup> Y13 Parents Evening 5pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Y11 Parents Evening 5pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> Easter holidays begin (3.30pm)
- April:**
- 12<sup>th</sup> College re-opens

**Y13 & 11 Mock Exams**

Both Y13 and Y11 will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> set of Mock Exams after Easter. The dates will be confirmed when we have received further guidance from the Examination Boards, who award the grades.





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### **Year 11: 6<sup>th</sup> Form entry**

We have commissioned a series of videos about 6<sup>th</sup> Form studies and life which can be accessed from the website under Virtual Open Evening. I hope you will find them interesting.

We will follow this up with a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Options event and hopefully more Taster lessons later this term, before asking Y11 for their Options choices.

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### **Exam Certificates 2020**

We still hope to hold our annual Prize Giving this term, to recognise the achievements of 2020. We traditionally distribute GCSE and A-level & BTEC certificates then.

If a former student urgently requires their certificate they are welcome to contact Mr Diaz to arrange their collection. These documents are too important to be posted.

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### **Staffing**

We wish good health and safety to **Ms McKinley** who begins maternity leave on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Her timetable will be taken over by **Mr Andrew Nichols**, a very experienced senior teacher.

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### **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. All your sons will benefit from this wonderful facility. The Trustees will be**

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### **writing to new parents in February.**

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#### **Bike Safety**

One of the more welcome results of the pandemic has been an increase in the number of boys cycling to school. The Bike Shed is full each day but we do have another bike rack by the Food Hub. Please be aware that the College accepts no liability in the event of an unsecured bike being stolen!

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#### **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.

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#### **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.

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#### **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 5G 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 provide our students with regular and clear messages, on such issues. Guidance is available on the College website.**

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#### **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.

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#### **Free School Meals**

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





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### **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.

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!

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### **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!

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### **No Lockers alas!**

**Students do not currently** have access to lockers as we endeavour to ensure social distancing. They should only bring books and equipment required for the day in question, in a transparent wallet or small bag. Large sports bags will not be allowed in lessons.

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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.**

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### **Hair Styles & Appearance**

**The College Policy is clear and unchanged.** 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.**

**Please ensure that your son's hair conforms with these expectations at the start of next term. Some boys require an immediate haircut, either at home or from a barber which will help the economy! Dyed or highlighted hair is not allowed.** These rules 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.

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### **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 and no hoodies are to be worn on site. 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 a proportional sanction.

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### **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.**

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### **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.

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### **Homework and Academic Expectations**

We aspire to provide a Grammar School education for all our students, irrespective of background and circumstances. 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 learning, 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 Supervised Study time at lunchtime for all boys in years 7-11 to support them academically. This system is working well. Please ensure that your son completes corrections in all subjects and catches up any work missed through absence etc. College holidays are also 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](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 have an appointment and sign in at Reception** The National Online Safety website provides useful advice to parents on related matters at [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

### **Online Safety**

It can be difficult to know how to talk to your child about online safety. From setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps, the NSPPC can help you to understand the risks and keep your child safe. For more advice and guidance please follow this link <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>.

We have had an alert from the safeguarding hub about a harmful and distressing film on Tik Tok shared on You Tube. It has already had over 4 million views. The film '*Megan is Missing*' has made a revival on TikTok and is appearing on people's '*For You Pages*'. It depicts the online grooming and subsequent abduction, sexual assault and rape of what is represented as a 14-year-old high school student. Our advice is to continue to check and talk to your son about what he is viewing online. Please ensure that

your son knows who they can talk to if they come across something that upsets or distresses them online.

**Further advice and guidance is available from [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)**

### **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, 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.**

**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.

**Parent Pay**

This is our parental payment system which is 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 help.

**Lenten Charities**

**Years 9,10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) are fundraising for Alder Hey hospital this month. We are supporting the efforts of Joe Scroton, Y11, and his Mum Ailish, whose story is on the website. Mr Formela has also shaved his head to prime the pump for donations.**

**And finally, Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, during half-term. We will be exploring our Lenten journey to Easter through Assemblies and Form Time reflections from next week. The Easter message of Hope certainly coincides with our optimism as we look forward to resuming teaching and learning in person!**

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

