



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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Easter 2021

Mr R S Duggan

Easter 2021



Dear parents,  
We are now close to the end of an unusual term and the start of the Easter holidays. The boys have made very good use of their time at College during the past 3 weeks and deserve a relaxing Easter break!

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.

Please pray for: Mr Jim Hackett, former Head of Art, Mr Martin Decker, old Anselmian and Mrs Vicky Ford. May they rest in peace.

**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!

We have conducted 3000 Lateral Flow tests on site. The emphasis now shifts to home testing, which the staff are already undertaking. Test kits have been distributed to all Forms. Boys should test every 3-5 days during the Easter holiday with a final test on the evening of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April in order to return safely to College on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Start of Next term**

Normal uniform and appearance standards are required, and we expect long hair to be cut back to collar length. Parents are perfectly capable of doing this if barbers are not yet open! If your son cannot bear to be separated from the creative ministrations of his stylist we expect you to arrange an afternoon or evening appointment from April 12<sup>th</sup> when restrictions on hairdressers are likely to be lifted. This industry desperately needs your custom! Sanctions will be imposed for long or untidy hair from 16<sup>th</sup> April. No hair bands, ties or bobbles are allowed. Most boys already display full compliance with our rules and continue to look very smart!

Last term's routines and protocols, which proved very successful, will remain in force. There will be the same separate entrances and exits, with Y10 & 11 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 in buildings, including during lessons, until the DfE Guidance changes, as well as on school buses and public transport, and rooms will be well-ventilated, in line with guidance.

The latest DfE advice is that it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

“Test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)”

“Report results online as positive, negative or void.”

“Continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays”

“Test before returning to school or College for the summer term.”

Please also report test results to the College via Teams.

**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 or assessments. 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. You already have your sons' reports and they will take further Exams and tests after Easter, which will







generate additional evidence of current achievement. The DfE and Exam Boards will provide more details on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### Parents Evenings

The Y13 and Y11 Parents Evenings were held on School Cloud and proved very successful. If any appointments were missed, eg: owing to staff absence, we have the technology to reschedule them and will contact you accordingly.

### 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.

#### Headmaster's Awards

##### Congratulations to:

Jac Chapman (7K), Thomas Ayers (8E), Patrick Coyne (9E), Tom Jones & Harvey McGrath (both 10K) and Joshua Chackada (11E) who have excelled this half-term. These boys are exemplary Anselmians.

#### Road Runner

Joshua Hale Y12 represented England in the Home Countries virtual 5 mile Road Relay on Saturday, running a personal best of 26 minutes and together with his team mates from Wirral AC ran the fastest time in the open age category. The Wirral team has been selected to represent England en masse!



#### 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 month 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 revolutionise our recycling and waste management!



### Please read if your son is in Year 9 or Year 8

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'. Wirral Community Heath and Care NHS Foundation Trust 0-19 Team.

The HPV injections for Year 8 and the small number of Year 9s who have yet to receive them will be administered on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Please sign and return the Consent Form that has been sent to you.

#### **KEY DATES:**

**March:**

26<sup>th</sup> Easter holidays begin pm

**April:**

12<sup>th</sup> College re-opens

21<sup>st</sup> Y11 Post-16 Interviews

Y11 Assessments begin-28<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> Y12 Parents Evening

**May:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Bank Holiday

4-28<sup>th</sup> Y13 Assessments

5<sup>th</sup> Y8 Immunisations

28<sup>th</sup> End of half-term (3.30pm)

**June:**

7<sup>th</sup> College re-opens

7-11<sup>th</sup> Y7&8 Assessments

Y9 & 10 Exams

11-18<sup>th</sup> Y12 Exams

**July:**

6<sup>th</sup> Y6 New Parents Evening

7<sup>th</sup> Y6 Transition Day

16<sup>th</sup> End of Term/Year pm

#### **Y13 & 11 Assessment**

##### **Exams**

Both Y13 and Y11 will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> set of Exams/Tests after Easter. These will contribute to Teacher

**Assessed Grades for A level and GCSE but will not solely dictate them.** The dates have been sent to parents. Year 13 will run from 4<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May and Year 11 from 21<sup>st</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> May. **Lessons will continue throughout this period in order to support students in their preparation and revision. There will be NO Study leave before June by DfE order. Revision lists are being circulated by Subject Teachers and will be posted on Teams or Show My Homework.**

January BTEC exam results in PE and Science were very good and have provided our students with a strong foundation for their grades this summer.

#### **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 followed this up with a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Options event and **Options Forms are due to returned to Mr Rumsby by 25<sup>th</sup> March.** We will conduct post-16 Interviews for all Year 11 students from 21<sup>st</sup> April and intend to hold further transition events in June, after the Exams have finished.

#### **Exam Certificates 2020**

We still hope to hold our annual Prize Giving this year, 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.

#### **Staffing**

We wish good health and safety to **Ms McKinley** who began her maternity leave on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Her timetable has been taken over by **Mr Andrew Nichols**. **Mrs Vicky Reid goes on Maternity Leave at Easter. Her timetable will be taught by Mr David Semans, former Wirral Schools Music Advisor. Mr Davis, Head of Science, is currently absent and his timetable is being taught by Mr. Steve Allen.**

#### **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 writing to new parents over Easter.**

#### **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!





### **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 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.**

### **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**

The holiday arrangements for boys entitled to Free School Meals are the same as at Christmas and during February Half-term, which worked well. Food packs will be distributed from the Holiday Activity Fund by the Neo Community via The Hive. Please contact Mrs Cubbin if you do not receive your entitlement. We are determined that all our boys receive the support they and their families deserve.

### **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!

### **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!

### **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.

### **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 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 apply 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!

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### 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.**

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### 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)

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### **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)

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### **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)**

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### **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.

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### **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.

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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, 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.**

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### **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.

**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 and the Wirral Food Bank 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.**

**Mr Hyde, Head of Year 9, has foolishly challenged Josh Hale (see above) to a 5k charity race on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. This will be streamed live to classrooms on a subscription basis, with Mr Hyde receiving a 9 minute head start(!). He has been carbohydrate loading this week in preparation!**

**Key Stage 3 (Y7&8) are supporting the Wirral Ark and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form are collecting for Asylum Link Merseyside.**

This week's Non Uniform Days have supported these worthy charities. Thank you for your financial support.

**Chapel Painting**

**Mr Jim Featherstone,** former Chair of Governors, has generously donated a beautiful copy of Leonardo's "The Last Supper of Our Lord" to the College chapel. It was painted by local artist Paul

Critchley. It hangs next to the altar and is a wonderful addition to our liturgical decoration.



**Art Lecture**

Former student **Joe Gronow** is hosting an online lecture at Staffordshire University on their Open Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March, entitled "Breaking Down an Image into 3 Simple Values." Details of tickets are on the College website.

**And finally,**

**Sunday is Palm and Passion Sunday, the beginning of Holy week. We have prepared for this through Reflections and a Mini Retreat for Year 7 and 8 during RE lessons. We wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Easter and the peace and joy of the Resurrection and look forward to an uninterrupted Summer Term!**

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

