



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – June 2021

Mr R S Duggan

June 2021



Dear parents,
We now enter the final half-term of this unusual Academic Year. Our focus is increasingly influenced by the necessity of academic assessment. Staff continue to determine Teacher Assessed Grades for Years 13 and 11, who have completed their A level, BTEC and GCSE studies. We now focus upon exams for Years 9, 10 and 12, all of which will provide guidance for their future academic prospects and upon the monitoring of the progress of boys in Key Stage 3.

Please remember

Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo, Mrs Françoise Wood, Mr Peter Reynolds 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 old Anselmian Mike Maxwell, Deacon Philip White and Mrs Jacqueline Whiteley who passed away recently.

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 7 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!

The emphasis has now shifted to home testing, which the staff are already undertaking. Test kits have been

distributed to all Forms. Boys should test every 3-5 days. All Wirral households can now access twice-weekly rapid symptom-free tests. Residents have a choice of attending centres in New Brighton, Greasby, Eastham, Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall, or collecting kits to use at home. They can also be ordered online or through 119. More information is available at www.wirral.gov.uk/test.

COVID-19 testing over May half-term

As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing.

Please continue to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to College after the holiday. Please remember to log your result with NHS and with College via the TEAMS area – Covid Test Result.

Contact tracing over May half-term

If you test positive having developed symptoms within two days of being in College, please inform us immediately via [the covid-info@st-anselms.com](mailto:the_covid-info@st-anselms.com) email. You will be asked to assist in identifying close contacts as you may have been infectious whilst in College.

If you have any concerns or questions please email me at scubbin@st-anselms.com

Familiar Routines

Hair stylists and barbers are now open so all boys are expected to have hair no longer than collar length. No hair bands, ribbons 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, remain in force. We retain 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 Coverings:

Since 17th May we have been following the updated DfE Guidance. Face masks or coverings are still to be worn in buildings in corridors and crowded communal areas, as well as on school buses and public transport, but are no longer compulsory in classrooms. Rooms will be well-ventilated, in line with guidance. All boys will continue to need to bring face masks to College, but will not need to use them so often!

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

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

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

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 plans for grade awards this summer. GCSE and A level grades will be based on a range of Teacher/Centre Assessed Grades, as in 2020, based on the progress of students by May half-term. These 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. We have advised parents and students of the assessments have been used, giving students and parents the opportunity to identify if any student has missed vital learning, as a result of which a similar assessment will be used instead. There are very strict criteria regarding any such exemptions which will also be published to students and parents. We cannot provide parents with estimated grades or predictions, given the above criteria. You already have your sons' reports and this month's assessments will generate additional evidence of current achievement. During the next fortnight we are moderating these grades. The DfE have given us no extra time, nor resources, for this important and momentous task, hence the need for recent INSET Days.

Year 9 Parents Evening

This has been arranged for Thursday 24th June, 5-8pm, and will be conducted on School Cloud like the recent Year 10 and 12 ones.

Congratulations to:

Headmaster's Awards

Headmaster's Awards for this half-term have been given to: **Nathanael James Y7, Liam Blackburn Y8, Gabriel Roberts Y9, Jack Wilson Y10, Jack Hanson-Hughes Y11**, all of whom have displayed exemplary qualities.

Maths

Simon Shackleton Y13 won a Certificate of Merit in the Liverpool Mathematical Society Open Challenge '21.

Road Runner

Joshua Hale Y12 represented England in the Home Countries virtual 5 mile Road Relay last month, 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 has begun racing in Formula4 this month, winning the "Best Rookie" award in his first drive for Arden Racing.

Cricket

The 1st XI defeated St. Mary's Crosby last month, winning on the final delivery!
Will Clayton (Y12) has been selected for Cheshire County Under-18s.

Oliver Griffiths (Y11) scored a century for New Brighton Men's 3rd XI and is also a member of the Lancashire Academy squad.

Gabriel Francis (Y10) has represented the North of England for the England Cricket Association for the Deaf.

Rugby:

Every age group has had at least 1 fixture, and tasted victory, this term. The Seniors played impressively in defeating Birkenhead School recently and our Year 7-10 teams have won matches against such opponents as St. Edward's College, St. Mary's College, Wirral Grammar School and Woodchurch HS. Overall we have played 24 matches, winning 19 and losing only 3. The final fixture of the term saw the U-14s defeat Liverpool College 69-18.

The climax of the season came with 3 hard fought fixtures against Wirral GS. The Under-17 team drew 12-12 in foul conditions and both 1st and Under-16 XVs were unlucky to lose 21-19 to late scores in epic contests. We bid a fond farewell to many distinguished members of Year 13 who have made a tremendous contribution to College rugby under the leadership of 1st XV Captain **Sam Croft**.



Hockey

Over 40 boys in Years 7 & 8 represented the College in





friendly matches against Calday during May. The 1st XI has been playing in a combined Old Boys League and recently drew 2-2 with Bebington HC. Jack Dodd scored both goals, assisted by fine performances from Jake Raynor and Will Fiddaman.

Tennis

Regan O'Brien Y8 represented Cheshire at 14s County Tennis Cup recently in Wrexham. Cheshire lost out to Lancashire in the final but Regan enjoyed a successful day.

Football

Y8s Joseph Barton, Lucas Hagan, Alfie Parsley and Luka Salvatore have all been selected to play for Wirral Schoolboys Under 13s.

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 and Daniel Lyon (Medicine) from Keele and Lancaster universities, 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.

Year 10 students Harvey McGrath and Tom Jones have 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!

End of Year Exams and Years 7-10 and Year 12 have tests during the next fortnight in what has been an interrupted educational year. Reports will be sent home in July advising you of your sons' progress. Year 7 and 8 have assessments in class from 8th-11th June and will be on their normal timetables. Year 9 and 10 both have an Exam week from 8th-11th June (-14th for Y10) and will sit their Exams in the Hall and Gym under controlled conditions. Year 12 Exams run from 11-18th June and will contribute to UCAS grade predictions. During that week Year 12 students are only required to attend College when they have exams.

KEY DATES:

- June:
- 7th INSET Day
- 8th College re-opens
- Y12 HE Evening 6pm (Teams)
- 8-11th Y7&8 Assessments
- Y9 & 10 (-14th) Exams
- 10th & 11th Y11 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 11-18th Y12 Exams
- 23rd Virtual Apprenticeship Information Evening
- 24th Year 9 Parents Evening
- 25th Y13 Leavers' Celebration
- 4pm-
- July:
- 2nd Y6 Transition Day
- 11th Battle of the Bands

16th End of Term/Year pm

Y13 & 11 Study Leave

Both Y13 and Y11 completed their Assessments by the end of May and are now officially on Study Leave and able to enjoy a well-earned break! 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.

We will be holding university and 6th Form transition events, and Leavers' celebrations, including Colours Awards, for both Year groups from 8th June, with the Y13 Event on 25th June, as well as a Duke of Edinburgh Award week for Y11 participants from 8th June. We have sent home Careers information to assist students with possible choices this summer. Do not book a holiday for these boys before late June!

Year 11: 6th Form entry

We have commissioned a series of videos about 6th 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 6th Form Options event and post-16 Interviews for all Year 11 students on 21st April. Letters offering 6th Form places, or acknowledging those boys who intend to transfer elsewhere, have been sent home. We intend to hold further transition events in June, after the Teacher Assessed Grades have been completed, along with a Celebration Assembly.

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 certificates they are welcome to contact Mr Diaz to arrange collection. These documents are too important to be posted.

Staffing

Congratulations to Dr & Mrs Cooper on the birth of their daughter Sophie Marie. **Mr Andrew Nichols is teaching her English timetable. Mrs Vicky Reid is on Maternity Leave. Her timetable is being taught by Mr David Semans. Mr Davis, Head of Science, has returned to teach alongside Mr. Steve Allen, who covered his timetable after Easter.**

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 wrote 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!

Mobile 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.

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 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!

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. Dyed or highlighted hair is not allowed.** These rules 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 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.

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. 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. 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 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

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/>.

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

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> and www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Drug Abuse

We would like to make parents aware of a current concern regarding the use of **Snapchat to order illegal drugs.**

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 equipment etc. 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) fundraised for Alder Hey Hospital and the Wirral Food Bank. We are supporting the efforts of Joe Scroton, Y11, and his Mum Ailish, whose story is on the website. Mr Formela also shaved his head to prime the pump for donations, and his hair has grown back well, unlike Mr Hyde's, who adopted a streamlined approach having bravely challenged Josh Hale (see above) to a 5k charity race on Friday 26th March. This was streamed live to classrooms on a subscription basis, with Mr Hyde receiving a 9 minute head start(!). Josh won a close race in the final strait! **Key Stage 3 (Y7&8) supported the Wirral Ark and the 6th Form collected for Asylum Link Merseyside. These collective efforts have raised an impressive £2,000!**

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, painted by local artist Paul Critchley, along with a framed colour print of "Our Lady of Perpetual

Succour". They constitute a wonderful addition to our liturgical decoration.



And finally, I hope that you and your sons enjoyed some time together during the recent half-term, including the INSET Days which have provided time for revision. As the Public Health situation improves both locally and nationally we give thanks for our good fortune and the perseverance and dedication of so many members of our community and remain vigilant as we await the forthcoming government response to recent health data.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

