



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September - October 2021

Mr R S Duggan

Sept – Oct 2021



Dear parents,
We have now completed 6 weeks of term and the half-term break looms on the horizon. I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to return to normal routines and your sons' education has not been interrupted by the pandemic. However the local Covid rate is increasing, especially among the 10-19 age group, so we must remain vigilant.

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 Anselmians Fr Denis Keating, Callum Lowes Allan and Jordan Pearson, and Mr Michael Forman, father of Max and step-father of Edward and Mrs Pauline Formela, 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 NO LONGER needs to isolate but must take daily LFD tests and is strongly advised to take a PCR test. Boys who have symptoms should have a NHS PCR test at a local testing site. 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.

We continue to distribute LFD testing kits to all boys and urge parents to ensure that your sons test twice weekly in order to enable us to keep the College safe and open.

We have only had a handful of Covid cases this term but other schools have been severely affected and we know the virus is spreading among young people in Wirral.

12-15 Vaccination

As in other secondary schools the Schools Immunisation Administration Team (SIAS) delivered 240 vaccinations last week to boys aged 12-15 whose parents had registered their e-consent. A letter from them has been emailed to parents, and is on the College website, advising parents of further opportunities for Covid vaccination and the government's plans for Influenza vaccination.

Unfortunately a flu epidemic is a possibility this winter!

More information is available at www.wirral.gov.uk/test.

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!

Uniform:

As the weather grows colder I remind parents that boys in Years 7-11 are only allowed to wear grey sweaters under their blazers. Hoodies and

fleeces are not allowed and will be confiscated.

Covid protocols:

Last term's routines and protocols, which proved very successful, mostly remain in force. We have retained the same separate entrances and exits, with Y10 & 11 using Grosvenor Rd, staggered break times, the 1-Way system around the site and sanitising of hands at the start of lessons.

Face Coverings:

Students are still required to wear masks on public transport and the 611 & 612 buses unless they have a medical exemption. If your son travels on a bus or train to College please ensure that he brings a face mask or covering daily.

Academic Achievements:

Centre Assessed Grades

The hard work of our students and staff was vindicated by the grades awarded by the Exam Boards in August.

Year 13:

74% of all A levels were graded at A*-B, 49% A*/A. 75% of all BTEC grades were Distinction+. 89 students have already begun university with another 11 starting degree apprenticeships. 51% of all places are at Russell Group universities and medical schools.

Thomas Hennessy and Divij Wankhade were both awarded 4A* grades. Head Boy Will Nicholls, Deputy Head Boy Matthew Ryan and Daniel Lyon have all secured places at medical school and Oliver Macdonald has a place to study Dentistry. Michael Hughes is reading Modern History at Balliol College, University of Oxford.





Year 11 GCSE

43% of all entries this summer were awarded grades 7-9 by the Exam Boards and 97% of our Year 11 students achieved at least 5 GCSE pass grades including English and Maths. **Luca Marzin was awarded 11 GCSE grade 9s, Josh McAllister 10 top grades and Charles O'Connor 9 such grades**, a reflection of their outstanding commitment to their studies and the overwhelmingly majority of our students received the grades they deserved!

Very few grades were appealed which confirms the faith of our students and parents in our procedures and the professional judgement of our staff. Our students are now well prepared for the next stage of their education.

First Class Honours:

Congratulations to the following recent Anselmians who have been awarded 1st Class Degrees:

Elijah Ferrante BA (Modern History, Balliol College, University of Oxford)

George McDonald MSc (Mechanical Engineering, University of Newcastle)

Max Wilkinson BSc (Economics, Finance & International Business Oxford Brookes University).

Sport

Congratulations to our sports teams who have made an excellent start to the season with the resumption of fixtures.

Rugby

The 1st XV have won 9 of 11 matches, including defeating Haberdasher's Aske's Newport and St. Joseph's College, Stoke (55-0!), to reach the 3rd round of the Nat West Vase. The Under-15

XV defeated Rydal in the same competition. All teams have recorded notable victories, including a rare clean sweep against Manchester GS, and the Under-12 A, B & C teams have made an excellent start to their Anselmian careers under the guidance of Mr Cubbin, Mr Saverimutto and Mr Wainwright.



Hockey

Our senior teams have made a tremendous start to the season, winning every match. Both 1st & 2nd XIs have recorded victories against such formidable opponents as Bolton School, King's School Macclesfield and Birkenhead School. Congratulations to Mr Edwards and Mr Steepe, who has made an impressive debut!

Cross Country

We competed in the Merseyside North West Counties Selection Race last week, our first competition for 18 months! The Year 7 team won their competition, with Malachi Harty (2nd) and Stanley Dodd (3rd) making impressive debuts, as did the Senior Team who dominated their race with Josh Hale, Harry Ross Hughes and Josh Longman finishing 1st, 2nd & 3rd respectively! Hot off the press! This good form continued today with our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Teams all winning the Merseyside heats of the English Schools Cup. Ethan Brady-Jones (Y12) won the individual Senior race. We

now look forward to the Northern Finals in November.



Technology:

Congratulations to Alfred Wilson (Y12) who has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship to support his future studies in Technology. Alfred was 1 of 654 candidates interviewed and continues a distinguished Anselmian tradition of Arkwright scholars.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to the 60 6th Form students who successfully completed their Silver practice expedition in Snowdonia last weekend. My thanks to Mr Gott, leading his final expedition, and his intrepid team of staff including Miss Browning, Miss Brown, Ms Meakins, Mr O'Callaghan, Mr Davis and Mr Waters.



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. Watch out for forthcoming developments as we seek to revolutionise our recycling and waste management.

CoP 26

Year 11 students Tom Jones and Harvey McGrath, having represented the College at the ERth Summit, facilitated by the Edmund Rice global network, have been invited to represent the Edmund Rice Schools Team at CoP 26, the UN Climate Conference, in Glasgow in November.



Tom and Harvey also represented the College at Mini-DASH, the student meeting of Diocesan schools, where the theme was "a home for all" in preparation for World Homelessness Day on 10th October. The College remains committed to supporting local homelessness projects such as The Wirral Ark and The Charles Thompson Mission.



Y7&8 Science Days

Our Key Stage 3 Science Days proved to be very popular! Boys participated in such diverse activities as Bridge building and engineering solutions, slime creation(!), CPR training and had access to a range of exotic creatures

including snakes, giant snails and a fur-free rat!



Edmund Rice Schools:

Our Year 7 boys have begun their online induction into the ER Schools Network with online classes exploring the ethos and identity of our schools.

Progress Grades

These have been sent home for 6th Form students this month and Year 11 and Year 10 grades will be sent to parents next week and after half-term respectively.

KEY DATES:

October:

- 20th 7E,G&K History Trip
- Governing Body meeting
- Y8-13 Cross Country Trip-23rd
- 22nd 7M&P History Trip
- Half Term 3.30pm
- 30th Anselmian Association
- Mass 11am

November

- 1st College re-opens
- 3rd & 4th Y7-11 Flu Nasal Spray
- 4th Y13 Parents Evening
- 10th Senior Maths Challenge
- 11th Remembrance Ceremony
- Y11 Parents Evening 5pm
- 16th Y11 6th Form Open Evening
- 23rd Music Concert
- 25th Y7 Parents Evening
- 25th Y13 Mock Exams-3rd**

December

7-14th Y11 Mock Exams

Staff News

We have welcomed new staff to the College this term. **Miss Bethan Jones is Head of**

English, Dr Khush Bakht, Head of Biology, Mr David Steepe, Head of Business, and Mrs Ana Roslin has joined the Biology Department. Mr Arnold Waters is covering Mrs Murphy(nee Hill)'s maternity leave and timetable this year. Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Reid on the birth of Maximus and the Murphy family on the birth of Mary.

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! **It is noticeable that some of our cyclists do not wear helmets and we strongly recommend this safety precaution!**

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

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. This policy has proved very successful and we will continue it next year.

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 in September.

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 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

We have had an **urgent** safeguarding alert from the Wirral Hub about an online platform called **Monkey Web**. Please take time to use the information that they have provided on their website before talking to your children, it is important that we don't incite their curiosity further.

Safeguarding ALERT - Monkey Web - Inege Safeguarding Group

Re: Gacha Heat

We have been made aware of several cases where groups of primary school aged children have been exposed to **highly inappropriate, violent, and sexualised content** made within a popular game called 'Gacha Life'. '**Gacha Heat**' uses the characters and backgrounds from this popular roleplaying game and





its content currently **presents a serious risk to children and young people.** Gacha Life is a roleplaying and story board creation game. Users can create storyboard scenes, add text bubbles, props, and backgrounds on Gacha Studio. Gacha life has a rating of 9+ on the Apple App Store and 'E' for Everyone on Google Play.

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.

Confirmation Preparation

Our Confirmation Preparation will be beginning soon and I was wondering if you could add the following to a school newsletter or let parents/students know. Confirmation 2022 Confirmation Preparation will be beginning soon for those currently in Year 8 and above. Please email Clare Williams (Parish Youth Minister at St. Philip Neri) with your child's name, year group and parish if they wish to be confirmed. Thank you. clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Many thanks,
Clare Williams
Parish Youth Minister
St. Maximilian Kolbe, Runcorn

St. Philip Neri, Birkenhead

Friends of St Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired - Message

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED by all our supporters who donate to Friends of St Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired using VIRGIN MONEY GIVING!

After ten years of using Virgin Money Giving as our main platform for donations we find that Virgin Money Giving is shutting the service as from 30th November 2021.

We are very worried that we will lose donors who donate regularly using Virgin Money Giving, and the school, staff and students will end up suffering.

We have enrolled with JUST GIVING who are well known and reliable and provide a similar service.

If you are one of our wonderful supporters who use Virgin Money Giving to donate please find a moment to transfer your donations to JUST GIVING by using the link below.

Thank you for your support!

Harvest Festival

The College SVP are continuing to collect tinned, dried and non-perishable foodstuffs and groceries for the Wirral Food Bank as we reach out to our disadvantaged neighbours. It is not too late to make a donation!

Anselmian Association

Our annual Mass for deceased members will be celebrated by Fr Forshaw in the College Chapel at 11am on Saturday 30th October. All Anselmians are welcome! Sadly we are remembering many such

members this year including our late Chair of Governors Mr Brian Cummings. We always endeavour to invite the families of deceased Anselmians to our Mass so please email me if you have not heard from the Association. And finally, It is wonderful to see the boys thriving in College with access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We wish this to continue after half-term but need parental and family support, including through LFD and PCR testing and prompt notification of cases, in order to ensure that the College remains open and Covid does not spread here.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

