



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



The Headmaster's Christmas Newsletter – December 2021

Mr R S Duggan

Nov - Dec 2021



Dear parents,  
We now come to the end of as long, but generally uninterrupted, term which has enabled us to re-establish continuity of teaching and learning and school routines. Our students have been well-behaved and good-natured and seem to be enjoying their education!

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 Denis Clark, Mike Redfearn, Mrs Eileen Howlett and Charles Mills who have had health issues.

Please pray for old boys Mr David Chapman, barrister and media legal expert Mr Mike McParland, Mr Michael Forman, and Mrs Becky Aspinall who passed away recently.  
May they rest in peace.

### New Covid-19 Guidance

Daily LFT testing for 7 days for all close contacts who are under-18 or fully vaccinated. They should isolate immediately if they test positive, or develop symptoms, and order a confirmatory PCR test. Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated or exempt must isolate for 10 days after contact. (see website details) We will be using LFD tests to identify students with Covid in January. Along with other Wirral schools we will be implementing a staggered start to the Easter Term with Y7, 8, 11 & 13(10.50am) in College on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January and all years present

on 5<sup>th</sup> January. We have continued to distribute LFD testing kits to all boys and urge parents to ensure that your sons test twice weekly during the holidays in order to enable us to keep the College safe and open at the start of next term.

We had a surge of Covid cases earlier this month, which has now relented, 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 vaccinations in November to boys aged 12-15 whose parents had registered their e-consent. **The NHS is offering a clinic for boys who did not receive this 1<sup>st</sup> jab at St. Catherine's Health Centre, Birkenhead, on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December.**

A second jab will be administered by the Schools Immunisation Team in the New Year.

Unfortunately a flu epidemic is also a possibility this winter!

More information is available at [www.wirral.gov.uk/test](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/test).

### Familiar Routines

Hair stylists and barbers are still open so all boys are expected to have hair no longer than collar length when they return in January. 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.

### Face Coverings:

Students are again required to wear masks in all buildings and on public transport and the 611 & 612 buses unless they have a medical exemption. Please ensure that your son brings a face covering to school on a daily basis in January.

### Y13 & 11 Reports

Following their Mock Exams, during which our students displayed exemplary conduct, Reports will be sent home in mid-January for Y13 and later in the month for Y11.

### Sport

Congratulations to our sports teams who have enjoyed an excellent term in all 3 major winter sports!

### Rugby

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV have won 14 of 17 matches, including defeating Wirral GS, Lymm HS, Manchester GS and Merchant's Taylors Crosby. They reached the quarter final of the national Nat West Vase as regional winners before losing 36-10 at Mount St. Mary's College last week. All teams have recorded notable victories, including a rare clean sweep against both Manchester GS and Altrincham 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 made a tremendous start to the season, being undefeated until mid-October. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI defeated Manchester GS in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the national Cup this week.







**Cross Country**

Our teams have enjoyed another successful season with each one qualifying for the English Schools Cup Finals In Newquay earlier this month as regional champions. Each team performed creditably with the **Seniors finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, the Intermediates 14<sup>th</sup> and the juniors 8<sup>th</sup>. Josh Hale, Y13, finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the Senior race.**



**Swimming**

**Congratulations to Vadim Bosc (Y11) who recently swam in the English National Winter Championships finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m Breaststroke and 5<sup>th</sup>**

and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200 and 400m Individual Medleys.

**Technology**

**Congratulations to Alfred Wilson (Y12) who has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship to support his future studies in Technology.**

**Performing Arts**

**The College Panto “The Tooth Fairy” on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**December was a roaring success with many distinguished performances, including from a Dinosaur called “Dowsey”.**

Our musicians performed in our Winter Concert on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, then some played and sang at the Winter Wonderland celebration for Mrs. Aspinall. The staff ensemble played Christmas Carols at Anselmians RFC last Friday.

**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, led by the Edmund Rice global network, and Gabriel Ford (Y12), represented the Edmund Rice Schools Team at CoP 26, the UN Climate Conference, in Glasgow in November and**

**then addressed Key Stage Assemblies about their experiences.**



**Computer Donations**

**We thank Stellantis, parent company of Vauxhall Motors for their generous donation of 34 re-conditioned pcs from their Ellesmere Port warehouse. These are being used to support learning in Science and the Library.**

**KEY DATES:**

**December**

**16<sup>th</sup> SVP Christmas Jumper Day**

**17<sup>th</sup> End of Term 1.00pm**

**January:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Y13 (10.50), 11, 8 & 7 return 8.35am**

**5<sup>th</sup> Whole School returns 8.35, Y12 (10.50am)**

**13<sup>th</sup> Y11 Certificates Evening**

**14<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Bands**

**Staff News**

**Mr Richard Gott** leaves the College this week, after 2 spells of distinguished service, to become Head of Physics at St. Mary’s College, Crosby. He will be greatly missed in Science and Duke of Edinburgh Award circles and is succeeded by **Mr. Michael A Smith** who did his teaching training here (a few years ago!) **Mrs. Sally Padmore-Jones** has joined the staff as a Science Technician and **Mr Elliott O’Callaghan** has replaced Mr Reece Holland as ICT Technician.

Congratulations to Mr Henry Luxemburg and his spouse Jenny on the birth of Sophia.





### **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.**

### **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 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!

### **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 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.

### 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.

### 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 will be introducing a new system linked to SIMs in the new Year and will provide you with advance warning and guidance.**

### 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.

### 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)

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 - Ineqe 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](http://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. 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](mailto:clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

Many thanks,  
Clare Williams  
Parish Youth Minister

**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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

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

Thank you for your support!

**Advent charities**

Key Stage 3 have raised £380 plus donations of food for the Wirral Food Bank, in addition to 125 Christmas Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Y9-11 have raised £1000 for the Wirral Ark and Claire House and our 6<sup>th</sup> Form are supporting the Charles Thompson Mission and the staff a local refugee family.



**Anselmian Association**

Our annual Mass for Deceased Members was celebrated by Fr Forshaw in the College Chapel on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. We remembered those Anselmians who died in the service of our country during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century at our Remembrance Ceremony in the Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Our annual Dinner will be held at the College in April and details will be on the College website in the New Year.

**Headmaster's Awards**

**Congratulations to the following boys for their exemplary efforts this half-term:**

- Ned Herdman (7P)
- Jemil Joby (8G)
- Joel Manuval (8E)
- Regan O'Brien (9E)
- Toby Anderson (10H)
- Callum Lee (11G)

And finally, Although at times it has been a challenging term we have managed to resume most College routines and extra-curricular activities for the enrichment of your sons' educations. I wish you and your families and friends a Happy, Holy and Healthy Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

