



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – February 2022

Mr R S Duggan

Jan – Feb 2022



Dear parents and carers,
This term has progressed smoothly but staff and students generally feel ready for a half-term break. We are back in normal routines and extra-curricular activities are flourishing, so please read on.

Please remember

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

Please pray for Mr Tony Forshaw, Mr George Watson, Mr Kevin McLoughlin, Mr David Howard, Mr Frank Kane, Mrs Rita Forber and Mrs Pat Hughes who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

New Covid-19 Guidance

Boys who have had a positive LFD test should isolate and test again from the 5th day onwards. Once they test negative 2 days running, including on the morning of the 6th day, they can return to school, or after 10 days if they are no longer ill. We have continued to distribute LFD testing kits to all boys and urge parents to ensure that your sons test twice weekly during the holiday in order to enable us to keep the College safe and open at the start of next half-term.

Student attendance has improved to 96% this week, in line with pre-Covid averages, so we know that our mutual precautions are working!

12-15 Vaccination

The NHS is offering half-term school age vaccination clinics for boys who have yet to receive the 1st or 2nd Covid-19 jab, and DPT, Meningitis ACWY, MMR and HPV vaccinations at Victoria Health Centre, Wallasey, on 22nd February, and at St. Catherine's Health Centre, Birkenhead, on 24th February. If your son has missed any of his school age vaccines and you wish to book into a clinic, please ring 514 2510 to book an appointment (see website).

We expect new Government guidance on 21st February and will keep you informed.

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

Familiar Routines

Hair:

Hair stylists and barbers are keen for your custom so all boys are expected to have hair no longer than collar length when they return to College on 28th February. No tracks, hair bands, ribbons or bobbles are allowed, and nothing shorter than a grade 3. Most boys already display full compliance with our rules and continue to look very smart!

Uniform:

As the weather remains cold and windy I remind parents that boys in Years 7-11 are only allowed to wear grey sweaters under their blazers. Hoodies and body warmers are not allowed and will be confiscated. Boys should wear black or navy coats. Please do not send your son to school in expensive designer items that are not suited to the hurly burly of College life! All boys are expected to wear office-

style shoes. No trainers or similar fashion aberrations are allowed.

Y13 & 11 Mock Exams

Year 13 & 11 Reports were sent home earlier this term. Year 13 have their second set of Mock Exams from 4th March and the Year 11 Mocks begin on 15th March. These will give a very clear indication of your sons' likely achievement this summer. The late Easter means that GCSE Exams begin a fortnight into the Summer Term so the revision clock is ticking!

Year 10 Reports

Year 10 are finishing their Exams this week and their reports will be sent home in March.

Sport

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

Rugby

The 1st XV have won 17 of 20 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 at Mount St. Mary's College. All teams have recorded notable victories, including a rare clean sweep against both Manchester GS and Altrincham GS. The Under-12 A, B & C teams have made an excellent start to their Anselmian careers under the guidance of Mr Cubbin, Mr Saverimutto, Mr Allkins and Mr Wainwright with the A team losing for the only time this season against Calday yesterday. Fortunately, we beat them earlier in the season!





2nd XV P10 W6, L4
U-15s P15 W12 L3
U-14s P 15 W12 D1 L2
U-13s P13 D8 L4
U-12As P15 W13 D1 L1
U-12Bs P16 W10 D1 L5



Cheshire Caps

Congratulations to 1st XV players Jim Cowan, Jack Paziuk, Chim Onyeoji, Tom Whiteley and captain George Hassall who have represented Cheshire Under-18s this season. Will Bell has played for Cheshire Under-16s.



Hockey

Our senior teams made a tremendous start to the season, being undefeated until mid-October. The 1st XI reached the 2nd round of the national cup and play Ampleforth College in the National Vase after half-term.

Cross Country

Our teams have enjoyed another successful season with all 3 reaching the English Schools Cup Finals in Newquay in November as regional champions. The Senior Squad ran well at the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry this month, finishing 4th, including several junior runners. Not surprisingly many

of our runners have been selected to represent Merseyside in the English Schools County Championships in Kent.

Juniors: Oberon Kearney & Samuel Clarke

Intermediate: Jack Talbot

Senior: Joshua Hale, Ethan

Brady Jones, Harry Ross

Hughes and Joshua Longman.



BMX

Congratulations to George Gerrard (Y10) who has been chosen to join the National School of Racing and has been selected to race for GB in his age group at the World Championships in Nantes in July.

Law Prize

Hugh Grealis (Y12) was runner up in the Aqeel H Noorali essay competition and has been awarded a cash prize that will be presented to him at Gough Chambers in London in May.

Cambridge places

Congratulations to Head Boy Obe Callaghan (Theology) and Senior Prefect Daniel Alderson (Archaeology) who have both been offered places at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge.

These renaissance men are also stalwarts of the Hockey 1st XI!

Performing Arts:

Music

Battle of The Bands

This was held at Future Yard in Birkenhead in January and was

a great success. All 6 bands were awarded prizes.

Gabriel Roberts, Tom Jones and Harry Dennis were awarded recording sessions at the SAE institute in Liverpool. **Mattia Casaletto, Joe Earle and Dylan Rumsby** were awarded a live recording session at Glyndwr University. **Jack Pearson and “The Painted Ceilings”** have a public support slot at Future Yard. **Gabriel Roberts Y10** now has some of his songs, which he wrote and produced himself, available on Spotify.



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.

Headmaster’s Awards

The following boys received their certificates and pins from me this week. Well done to: John Chan (7E), Alfie Aspinall (8P), Max Done (9H), Anthony Whitehead (10K) and Jack Wilson (11P).

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:

February:

16th Y11 6th Form Taster Day
18th Half Term begins 3.30pm
28th College re-opens 8.30am

March:

2nd Y 10, 11, 12 Careers Trip
4th Y13 Mock Exams begin
11th – 12th U14 Rugby Trip
15th Y11 Mock Exams begin
24th Y9 Parents Eve (School Cloud)

30th Y11 post-16 Interviews

April:

6th Y11 Mock Career interviews
7th FGB Meeting
8th Easter Holidays begin 3.30pm
25th College re-opens 8.30am

Staff News

Mr. Michael A Smith (Physics) has joined the Science Faculty along with **Mrs. Sally Padmore-Jones** (Technician) and **Mr Elliott O'Callaghan** is our new ICT Technician.

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 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!

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.

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. 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

For further advice and guidance on safeguarding related concerns please go to <https://www.wirral Safeguarding.co.uk/parents-and-carers/>

6th Form Access to the site
During half-term we are installing a new security system which will initially only





affect 6th Formers, who can leave the site at lunchtime. They will need a security card as the system will log their entry and exit from the site, thereby enabling us to track attendance and ensure wellbeing. 6th Formers will be able to scan their card at reception or the Library on arrival and departure. The card will cost £5 and requires parental consent. It can be paid for on Parent Pay. Miss Baines has written to 6th Form parents outlining our system in more detail. I suspect that the boys will be keen to avail themselves of this facility!

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

Vaping

In recent years, e-cigs or vapes have become very popular with young people in the UK. The legal age to buy vapes in the UK is 18 years old. This includes related products such as vape devices, vape juice or heated tobacco products. It is

also illegal for adults to buy- or be found attempting to buy – tobacco or vaping products for anyone under the age of 18. Vaping puts nicotine into the body. Nicotine is highly addictive and can: slow brain development in teens and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention and mood. It can increase the risk of other types of addiction later in life. It can also exacerbate the symptoms and behaviours of depression, anxiety and hyperactivity.

Please be vigilant and talk to your child about the dangers of vaping. Please do contact Mrs Cubbin if you have any concerns or questions. Further information can be found at <https://www.zillowirral.co.uk/drugs>

Any student who is caught vaping or in the close vicinity of another who is vaping will receive a serious sanction.

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.

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 Many thanks,

Clare Williams
Parish Youth Minister

Recent anniversaries

During this term we have observed Holocaust Memorial Day, Mental Health Week and Special Days of Prayer for Peace Sunday, the Victims of Slavery and Human Trafficking and Racial Justice. Our students made pledges to continue to hold Holocaust Commemoration events and attended assemblies and workshops, including ones delivered by our 6th Form Mental Health Ambassadors.



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 have enrolled with JUST GIVING who are well known and reliable and provide a similar service. Thank you for your support!

Anselmian Association

Our annual Dinner will be held at the College on 22nd April and details are on the Association page of the College website. The Dinner is mixed and tickets are available from the Association priced

£30pp. Our Guest Speaker is Anselmian soldier and author Tony Shaw.

GCSE Certificates 2020/21 GCSE Certificates for 2020 and 2021 are available for collection from Mr Diaz and the Office by students currently in the 6th Form. These are official documents and have to be signed for. If your son took A levels and/or BTEC in 2020 or 2021 his certificates are also available for collection. They cannot be posted.

Egerton Road traffic

Traffic is moving well past the entrance to the College, even at closing time! Thank you for your assistance! Please be aware of the recent changes to the Highway Code that now give priority to pedestrians already crossing the road, or waiting to do so. Please also park away from the College gates. It will not do your son any harm to stretch his legs and will ensure continued traffic flow, precluding the onset of road rage!

And finally, We wish you and your sons a safe, healthy and relaxing half-term and hope that you enjoy some quality time together, even if it is only during the weekends. It is essential that Year 13 and Year 11 boys take the opportunity to have a rest, clear their minds, but also undertake some focused revision next week.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

