



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Spring 2022

Mr R S Duggan

Spring 2022



Dear parents and carers,
An untimely bout of Covid delayed my Easter Newsletter so I now provide it with updates from the start of this term.

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 recently.

Please pray for Mr Jim Chapman, old Anselmian, Mr Tony Forshaw, and Mr John Robertson, our neighbour at The Ridings, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

New Covid-19 Guidance

It is no longer recommended that our students are routinely tested for Covid-19. If they do test positive they should remain at home for 3 days after the day of testing. They can then return to school if they are well enough and do not have a high temperature.

Pupils with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough can continue to attend school. Students who are unwell and have a high temperature must remain at home and avoid contact with others. They can return when they are well and no longer have a temperature.

GCSE and GCE Exams:

Parents and students will inevitably be concerned about the impact of Covid during the Exam season. We await the final JCQ Guidance but we do know the following:

Exam candidates will not be given free Covid tests.

Candidates who test positive should not attend school and exams for 3 days. If they have a high temperature and feel unwell they should not attend until they feel better.

Candidates must attend at least 1 exam in each subject in order to be eligible to be awarded a grade.

Documentation will have to be submitted to support such special consideration on the grounds of ill-health absence.

The Exams have been scheduled so that anyone who is absent will have more than a week to recover before another exam in the same subject.

Past absence, and staff absence, owing to Covid-19 does not constitute grounds for Special Consideration.

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

Sport:

Rugby:

The Rugby 7s season proved to be our most successful one this century!

Our Year 11 squad won the Merchant Taylor's U-16 Cup, Year 8 won the Cheshire 7s and the Year 7 squad won both the MGS and Wirral GS Tournaments.



Cross Country:

Congratulations to our runners
Juniors: Oberon Kearney & Samuel Clarke
Intermediate: Jack Talbot
Senior: Joshua Hale, Ethan Brady Jones, Harry Ross Hughes and Joshua Longman, all of whom were selected to represent Merseyside in the recent English County Championships



Cricket:

Will Clayton (U-18) and Charlie Clarke (U-12) have been selected to represent Cheshire this season. Charlie scored 103 not out against Wirral GS in his College debut last week, the first Year 7 boy to do so this century! Our Y7 and Y10 XIs have progressed to the 2nd round of the Cheshire Cup following victories over Wirral GS and Tarporley HS respectively.

Tennis:

Regan O'Brien (Y9), a member of the Cheshire U-14 County Team will be playing in the national Finals next weekend following Cheshire's regional victory.

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





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age group at the World Championships in Nantes in July.

Football

Congratulations to **Will Finlay, Taylor Houghton** and **Jayden Redmond** who played for Wirral Boys U-12 in their 4-0 victory over West Kent in the ESFA Final yesterday.

Charlie Scott (Y10) has been selected for the Wirral U-15 Schools Football squad.

Student Leadership:

Congratulations to our new teams:

Executive Prefects:

Head Boy: Charles O'Connor
Deputy HB: Gabriel Ford
Asst. HBs: Aidan Capper, Macenzy Guy, Josh McAlister, Asher Martin and Thomas Roberts.

The new Friday Club Committee:

President: Edward McDonnell
Vice-President: Jack McCabe
Alex Gould, Dylan Gray, Josh McAlister, Nick McKenna, Sam Reardon, John Spreag.

Biology Olympiad:

18 of our 6th Form Biologists competed in this national competition in March. **Thomas Motley won a Silver Award and Alfie Whisker Bronze. Jonathan Light and Gen Ward were Highly Commended for their efforts.**



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.

Feast Day:

We celebrated the Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice on Thursday 5th May, in conjunction with Edmund Rice Schools around the world. Year 12 prefects Aidan Capper and Jack McCabe joined me in an online global symposium on the approach to social justice in our schools, along with students from Ireland and South Africa.

Headmaster's Awards

The following boys received their certificates and pins from me before Easter. 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 a further 60 re-conditioned pcs from their Ellesmere Port warehouse. These are being used to support learning in ICT and Computer Science.

KEY DATES:

May: 3rd Y11 MFL Speaking tests begin
6th Y12 UCAS Exams begin
6th-8th DofE Bronze practice expedition
11th PE A Level Moderation
16th Written GCSE Exams begin
Y 8 & 10 English Schools' Cup, Athletics round 1
23rd Written A Level Exams begin
27th Half term ends 3.30pm

June:

6th INSET Day
7th College Re-opens
7th Y 7 & 8 Exams begin
29th Open Evening

July:

1st Br Kerrigan Sponsored Walk
6th Y6/7 Induction day
8th Summer Showcase
15th End of Term 1pm

Reports:

Year 9 and Year 12 Reports will be posted to parents in May and June respectively.

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!

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.

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 at the College on 22nd April was well-attended, nearly 190 diners, and a great success.

Our Guest Speaker, Anselmian soldier and author Tony Shaw, spoke about his military experiences during the Falklands War and signed copies of his book which is available at Lingham's bookshop. We thank FOSA, especially the Lloyd Green family, for running the Bar.





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Our next event is the Association AGM online on 17th May, then the Year 13 Leavers' BBQ on 27th May. The Association Golf Day will be held at Wirral Golf Club on Friday 24th June. Please see website for details.

Lenten Fundraising:

Our charitable efforts focused upon humanitarian relief in Ukraine last term. An extensive series of activities, including non-uniform days, cake sales, football and penalty competitions and the Staff Bleep Test raised over £2,000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal. The Sponsored Run, led by Dr Cooper and Mr Simpson has raised over £1,200 for the Samaritan's Purse charity in Ukraine. Thank you for your support. The College has continued to support local families with food donations.



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 are now approaching
the public examination
season. Please remember
our Year 11 and Year 13
students in your prayers.**

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

