



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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Summer 2022

Mr R S Duggan

Summer 2022



Dear parents and carers,  
The summer term ended on 15<sup>th</sup> July, bringing to a close our first year of uninterrupted Anselmian education since 2019. It has been a good year with much to celebrate, as I have tried to convey in my Newsletters and weekly messages. This is the final Instalment for 2021-2!

**Please remember**

Mr David Gorman, Mrs Jill Welsh, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo, Mrs Françoise Wood, Mr Joe Green and Mr Iain Smith who are recovering from ill health. Please pray for old Anselmians Mgr Christopher Lightbound, Simon O'Keefe, Dominic Phillips, Brian Knox and Jim Chapman, and our former Chair of Governors Mrs Eileen Howlett (1980-95) 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. We expect this guidance to continue next term.

**A Level and GCSE results:**

A Level and BTEC results will be available for collection by Y13 students from 8am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August in the Library. GCSE results will be available for collection from 9am on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August. This will also be in the Library, subject to the impact of the Outwood building project, see below.

**Departing Staff:**

Sadly we have now bade goodbye to some accomplished and dedicated staff. Mr Darryl Taylor, Head of PE & Games, leaves us after 25 years loyal and distinguished service, 16 of them as Head of Faculty. The College's strong sporting reputation, especially in athletics, cricket, cross country, hockey and rugby is a tribute to his leadership. Mr Stephen Simpson, PE and Head of Year 11, leaves us after 8 years unstinting dedication at his old school for a Head of PE post. Miss Molly Rose (Science) leaves us to develop her teaching experience. Mrs Alison Powell is retiring after 8 years as a sympathetic and supportive Cover Supervisor and Miss Gill Ashton, Librarian, who has also made a tremendous contribution to drama and performing during the past 12 years, is leaving us early next term for a post outside education. Mr James Allkins, PE Faculty Assistant, is beginning a PGCE and we expect him to develop into an a talented teacher. We wish these exemplary members of staff deserved success and fulfilment in the future. Mrs Amy Murphy (Hill) and Mrs Vicki Reid returned to the College after maternity leaves and we thank Mr Arnold

Waters and Mr David Semans who taught during their absences.

Miss Ailisha Breen Buckley (RE) and Mr Conor Blanshard (MFL) have joined the staff covering the maternity leaves of Ms Brown and Mrs Meadows.

**Congratulations** to former Head Boy Tom Spence who recently graduated with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class degree in Biochemistry from Leeds Beckett.

**Sport:**

**Athletics:**

Our teams performed with distinction at the Finals of the English Schools Cup at Oxford on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, both securing top 10 finishes. The Intermediates finished 8<sup>th</sup> and the Juniors 6<sup>th</sup>. Once again we were the highest ranked school outside the South-East of England! This is a fitting climax to the careers of Mr Taylor and Mr Simpson, both of whom have made a tremendous contribution to College Athletics.



**Rugby:**

Congratulations to the following Y12 players who represented Cheshire Rugby this season:

Cathal Lynch (capt.), Dylan Gray, Jack McCabe and Charles O'Connor.

**Cricket:**

Congratulatio to centurions Charlie Clarke (Y7) and Sean Delaney (Y9) who both scred 103 not out v Wirral GS this season!







**Hockey:**

**Liam Blackburn Y9** recently represented Cheshire West and Wirral in North West Tournaments as their Goalkeeper and been invited to join Neston Men's Hockey Team.

**Shooting:**

**Harry Macmillan Y10** recently won an Army Cadets shooting competition with his team which qualified for a national competition in Bisley representing the North West.

**BMX**

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

**Student Leadership:**

Congratulations to our new teams:

**Executive Prefects:**

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

**The Friday Club Committee:**

**President: Edward McDonnell**  
**Vice-President: Jack McCabe**  
**Alex Gould, Dylan Gray, Josh McAlister, Nick McKenna, Sam Reardon, John Spreag.**  
The Friday Club BBQ on 8<sup>th</sup> July, led by Mr Cubbin and Mr Dillon, was well-attended and greatly enjoyed by members.

**Biology Olympiad:**

**Y12 students Luca Marzin, Charles O'Connor and Thomas Smith, were awarded Bronze certificates, and Joshua Chackada, Callum Jones and Chris Thazhathapuram were highly commended in the Intermediate section of this**

prestigious national competition.



**Celebrating Young People**  
**Congratulations to Y11 students Thomas Jones and Harvey McGrath who were presented with the Barbara Ward/Million Minutes Award in recognition of their efforts as climate change ambassadors by Cardinal Nicholls at these national awards in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Thomas and Harvey represented Edmund Rice Schools at CoP 26 in Glasgow in November.**



**Duke of Edinburgh Award**  
**Silver and Bronze practices and Expeditions have been completed by boys in Years 10-12 this term. We must thank Miss Browning and her dedicated team of staff volunteers for enabling the backlog to be cleared and the programme will be fully restored next term.**

**Poetry Success:**

**Dexter Doyle (Y7) won the Chris Salmon Wirral Poetry Competition and Patrick Shaw was highly commended in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form section.**

**Summer Showcase**

**Thank you for your support for Miss Ashton's final**

**Summer Showcase on 8<sup>th</sup> July.**

Once again we have discovered new talented performers, a fitting legacy for her 12 years efforts in support of the artistic life of the College.

**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 in July. Well done to: William Hughes (7P), Joshua Britten (8P), Michael Clarke (9E) and Isaac Smith (10P).**

**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:**

- August:
- 18<sup>th</sup> A Level Results Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> GCSE Results Day
- September:
- 5<sup>th</sup> Staff INSET Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> Staff INSET Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Years 7, 10, 12 return to College
- 8<sup>th</sup> All students return
- 15<sup>th</sup> Open Evening 5.00pm – 8.00pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Entrance Exam





October:

11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Spanish Trip

24<sup>th</sup> Half term begins 3.30pm

31<sup>st</sup> College re-opens

**Reports:**

Year 7 and 8 Reports were sent home during the final week of term. Please contact Mr Rumsby if you have not received your son's one!

**Outwood House**

I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant for the refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, and the instalkment fo a 3-floor covered stairway. You will not be surprised to learn that the funding for school projects is tight in the current climate and this project can only be completed with the support of the Edmund Rice Trust, which has guaranteed a contribution of £120,000. This will ensure the completion of this vital project which will transform our 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision and complete our accommodation requirements for the next decade!

Parental support for the Edmund Rice Trust is vital!. 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 project will begin in August and will be completed by Easter. If you cannot make a regular contribution, please try to support our fund-raising events this year.

**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!

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### 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 sons' property is labelled or marked. Most of our collection is anonymous of course!

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### 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.**

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### 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.**

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### 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.

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### 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!

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### 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.

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### 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)

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

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**6<sup>th</sup> Form Access to the site** During half-term we are installing a new security system which will initially only affect 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 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! Our students raised £500 for St. Joseph's this term.

**Anselmian Association**

The Association Golf Day was held at Wirral Golf Club on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. It was well-attended and a great success, although questions were raised regarding the

handicaps presented by Mr O'Keefe's winning team, who appear to be members of Mexico City Golf Club!! Please remember our Chairman Joe Green, who is undergoing surgery, in your prayers.

**Summer Fundraising:**

The Br. Kerrigan Sponsored Walk in July, our first for 3 years, was a tremendous success. Our students were impeccably behaved and we have raised a record £7,650 for local charities including the Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund, whose camps will be supported by 6<sup>th</sup> Formers in August, and the Martin Gallier project, as well as the Wirral Food Bank and Caritas. Thank you for your support and generosity, which will make a difference for local people at this difficult time.



**Concert for Ukraine**

Congratulations to our musicians, led by Mr Harris, Mr O'Callaghan and Mr Watson, who raised £600 for humanitarian charities from our charity concerts on 14<sup>th</sup> July.



We also received a message from the Office of President Zelensky thanking us for our support! (see website)

A special mention also for our musicians who performed so well at the Birkenhead park 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and in the Birkenhead Jazz Band, both in our local park.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Confirmations:**

The following parishes have asked us to advise you of their Confirmation programmes, which have previously been disrupted by the pandemic. The Birkenhead parishes of Holy Cross and Our Lady and St Paul invite students in Year 8 and above to join their Youth Group which began in July.

The parishes of St Ann's (Rock Ferry) and St John's (New





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Ferry) are holding their Confirmations at 7pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Rev. Michael Daly asks families interested in their sons in Years 7-11 being confirmed to contact him at the St John's email address.

acquaintance with you from September.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

### Holy Orders

I am delighted to advise you of the progress of Anselmian clerics Deacon Liam Dodd, recently ordained to the Deaconate, and Abbe Matthew Bird, who has received the tonsure, at the Institute of Christ The King Sovereign Priest.



### Schools Mass

Students in Years 7 and 9 represented the College at the annual Diocesan Schools Mass, celebrated by Bishop Brian, at St Columba's Chester on 8<sup>th</sup> July.



And finally,  
I wish you all an enjoyable summer. I hope that you are able to enjoy the unseasonal warm weather and spend some quality time with your sons. We look forward to renewing

