



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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – September/October 2022

Mr R S Duggan

Sept/Oct 2022



Dear parents and carers,  
This half-term seems to have gone quickly, but it has been a momentous one nationally with a new monarch and a couple of new Prime Ministers! Happily life has been more stable at the College, as I will relate!

Please remember Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo and Mr Joe Green who are recovering from ill health. Please pray for our former Head of French and Spanish Mrs Françoise Wood who passed away recently. May she rest in peace.

**New Covid-19 Guidance**

It is no longer recommended that our students are routinely tested for Covid-19. If they do have symptoms they should be tested and if they 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 have had 50 Covid cases this half-term, including 5 staff, so Covid is still out there and we maintain our precautions.

**A Level and GCSE results:**

We enjoyed good exam results this summer.

Our Year 13 students achieved 52% A\*-B and 81% A\*-C, with 100% pass, this summer, demonstrating above-average progress. All students who applied to university were offered a UCAS place. 63% of all BTEC entries achieved Distinction+. Head Boy Obe Callaghan secured his place to read Theology at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge, and Samuel Butterworth and Dylan Adlard (Pilot School) achieved 4 and 3 A\* grades respectively. Josh Hale and Harry Ross Hughes have taken up sporting scholarships at American universities. 10% of all Y13s achieved 2+ A\* grades.



Our GCSE results were also good with an average Progress 8 score of 61 points, our best in an examined year. 98% of boys achieved at least a grade 4 in both English and Maths, 97% achieved at least 5 pass grades (9-4) and 37% of all entries were at the top grades 9-7. John Drace-Francis achieved a perfect 10 grade 9s and Robert Alexander and Inigo Roderick-Waters achieved 10 grade 9 & 8s.



**Sport:**

**Rugby:**

We have made a very good start to the season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV defeated Wirral GS 22-14 to reach the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Nat West Vase and the Under-15s are also through to the next round. The Under-16s defeated King's Macclesfield 12-5 to progress in the Cheshire Cup. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and Under-13 XV are both unbeaten. We defeated respected rivals Manchester GS in every fixture earlier this month.



**Cross Country**

Our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Teams have all reached the regional round of the English Schools Cup after winning the local competitions last week. Michael Phelan and Malachi Harty were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior race and Oberon Kearney and Jac Chapman came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Inter race. Michael Phelan also finished 19<sup>th</sup> out of 300 runners in the London Mini Marathon Year 8 race, representing the North West.

**Golf:**

Congratulations to Leonardo Hirons (Y9) who has been selected for the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs squad for this season.

**Student Leadership:**

Congratulations to our new team:

**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:**

The Friday Club has resumed meetings this term led by President: Edward McDonnell Vice-President: Jack McCabe, Alex Gould, Dylan Gray, Josh McAlister, Nick McKenna, Sam Reardon, John Spreag. Y12 students will become active after half-term.

**Duke of Edinburgh Award**

The Silver practice expedition was completed by boys in Year 12 this term. We must thank Miss Browning and her dedicated team of staff volunteers 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.

The College has been awarded an International Schools Accreditation Award for developing these links.

Tom Jones and Harvey McGrath (Y12) spoke about their environmental activism at this month's Edmund Rice Schools Heads and Chairs Conference.

**Headmaster's Awards**

The following boys received their certificates and pins from me on Friday. Well done to: Charlie Robinson (Y7), John Simpson (Y8), Isaac McNee (Y9), Dominic Raraty (Y10) and Samuel Dulson (Y11).

**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:**

**October:**

31<sup>st</sup> College re-opens 8.30am

**November:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Y 7 Welcome Mass, 6pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Y13 Parents Evening

4<sup>th</sup> Y 8 Careers Day

10<sup>th</sup> Y 11 Parents Evening 5-8pm

16<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Form Art Trip

17<sup>th</sup> Y 7 Parents Evening 5-8pm

23<sup>rd</sup> Y11 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open

Evening 6-8pm

24<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Y13 Mock Exams

**December:**

2<sup>nd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> Y 11 Mock Exams

9<sup>th</sup> FOSA Christmas Party

15<sup>th</sup> Prize Giving 7-9pm

16<sup>th</sup> College closes 1pm

**January:**

4<sup>th</sup> College re-opens

**Parents**

**Outwood House**

The refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, and the instalment of a 3-floor covered stairway has begun. 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. The completion of this vital project will transform our 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision and complete our accommodation requirements for the next decade!

The inevitable increase in the cost of building materials

since the summer means that there is a significant financial shortfall in this project, in particular for the equipping of the new classrooms and facilities. The Trust will be contacting parents and old Boys to seek their aid.

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 is due to be completed by the New Year. 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.**

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### **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.

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### **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!

We also have items of nearly new uniform available for any families struggling with the costs of the current financial crisis.

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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!

### **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)

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

### **6<sup>th</sup> Form Access to the site**

**We have installed a new security system (Inventory) which will initially only affect 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, who can leave the site at lunchtime. They 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.**

### **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.

**Our biometric pre-pay Lunch system will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> November.** Thumbprints have been taken from those students whose parents have provided their consent.

**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 Virgin Money Giving the service in 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 Annual Association Mass of Remembrance for Deceased members, family and friends will be celebrated at 11am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November by Fr. Bernard Forshaw in the College Chapel. All Anselmians are welcome.**

**Charity Outreach:**

**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 were supported by 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, and the Martin Galliers project, as well as the Wirral Food Bank, Caritas and projects in Sierra Leone.**







Thank you for your support and generosity, which will make a difference for local people at this difficult time.



Thank you for your support for our Harvest Festival collection. We have collected a record amount of foodstuffs and toiletries for the Wirral Food Bank this month.

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 and Road Safety

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.

A Year 7 boy was struck by a slow-moving car this month. Happily he was not injured and this was only the second such incident in 20 years. However it does highlight that accidents can happen so we urge parents to park in adjacent roads and avoid Egerton Rd. We have advised the Council and Police of the accident and they will be monitoring traffic and parking in Egerton Rd. We will be reinforcing these messages during Road Safety Week, 14-20<sup>th</sup> November.

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 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.

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.



Mini DASH

Students in Years 8 and 10 represented the College at the Diocesan Schools student meeting this month. Their liturgy focused on the Rosary as October is the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.



**And finally,**

I hope that your sons enjoy a deserved rest this week and that you are able to spend some time with them. It is a tremendous opportunity for students in Years 13 and 11 to prepare for their Mock Exams in November and December and for all boys to catch up any missed work and complete assignments and coursework.

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

