



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – November - December 2022

Mr R S Duggan

January 2023



5th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,
The Christmas Term finished on a high with our first Prize Giving Ceremony since 2019 and a festive atmosphere at the College, with much charitable activity. The Easter Term has also started well so today's Feast of the Epiphany seems a good time to report to you.

Please remember

Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo and Mr Joe Green who are recovering from ill health.

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 had 125 boys absent daily during the final week of Christmas Term and the UK Health Security Agency has advised us that Flu and Strep A viruses are still widespread. We emailed their advice to you yesterday.

Prize Giving

We celebrated our first Prize Giving Ceremony for 3 years

at the Church of Our Lady of The Immaculate Conception on 15th December. Our Guest Speaker was Louis Browne KC, an Anselmian Barrister from Exchange Chambers in Liverpool. Louis spoke movingly about the impact of his Anselmian education upon his career. Congratulations to all Prize Winners!

Sport:

Rugby:

Our teams have enjoyed an excellent season with each one winning the majority of their fixtures. The 1st XV reached the last 16 of the Nat West Vase before losing a close match to St. Ambrose College and the Under 13s have only lost 1 match. We enjoyed clean sweeps against Manchester GS and Altrincham GS!

The following 12 students from the U15 squad have been selected for the Sale Developing Player Programme (DPP): **James Arista, Clancey Bryant, Joseph Fletcher, Frazer Hancox, Cameron Harper, Ted Hellier, William Hollis, Freddie Jones, Finlay McDonnell, Luka Mulhall, Daniel Scroxton, Isaac Waldron.**



Congratulations to 1st XV stalwarts Dylan Gray and Cathal Lynch who played for Cheshire Under-18s in their recent victory over Yorkshire Alumni Match

One of the highlights of the Christmas holiday was the old boys' match on December 30th arranged by Mr Mason, Andrew Stenhouse and George

Hassall. The Veterans defeated the Under-23s 39-28 in a terrific contest.



Cross Country

Our Junior and Intermediate Teams performed impressively in the English Schools Cup Final in Leeds last month. The Intermediates finished 6th, just a few points off the podium, and the Juniors 15th nationally. Michael Phelan (Y8) finished 2nd in the individual Junior race.



Cricket

Former pupil **Adam Brown** recently won an ECB national Young Coaches Award for his work in coaching and developing a women's cricket section at Caldycott CC.

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.

Following our involvement at CoP 26 in November 2021, 5 of our students participated in an international CoP 27 Workshop in November. Tom





Jones (Y12) spoke about the impact of Climate Change on the UK.



Headmaster's Awards

The following boys received their certificates and pins from me in December Well done to: **Zain Shewhorak (Y7), Daniel Kerrigan (Y8), Ewan Cartledge (Y9), Niall George (Y10) and Ethan Evans (Y11).**

Year 13 and 11 Reports

Following the Mock Exams reports will be sent out in January. Year 11 will be presented with their Mock Exam Results at their Certificates Evening on 12th January at 6pm in the Hall.

KEY DATES:

January:

- 4th College re-opens
- 11th KS3 Flu Nasal Spray
- 12th Y11 Results Evening
- 19th A Level Taster Day
- 26th Y9 Parents Evening
- 27th A Level Options Deadline
- 29th Battle of the Bands Final

February:

- 9th Y9 GCSE Options Evening
- 10th INSET Day (holiday)
- 13th-17th Y10 Mock Exams
- 16th-20th Senior Rugby Tour
- 17th Half-term Starts 3.30pm
- 27th College re-opens

Parents: Edmund Rice Trust Outwood House

The refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6th Form Centre, is well underway and the instalment of a 3-floor covered stairway will be completed this term. 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 £200,000. The completion of this vital project will transform our 6th 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. If you cannot make a regular contribution, please try to support our fund-raising events this year.**

Bike Safety

It is noticeable that some of our cyclists do not wear helmets and we strongly recommend this safety precaution!

A group of Year 9 students completed Bikeright training in December. The College was visited by Merseyside PCC Emily Spurrell during the course.



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 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.

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. **Please note the Free School Meal allowance has increased to £2.80 per day.**

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/>

Reporting Pupil Absence

The College should be notified on **each** day of absence before 9.00am by phoning the absence line 0151 651 3576, by email to reception@st-anselms.com or via the SIMS INTouch app. This should be supported by an email or letter to the Form Teacher **immediately upon return**. **Permission for foreseeable absences should be requested, in writing, to the Headmaster, well in advance.** **A copy of the Request for Student Absence Form is**

located on the College website.

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.

Our biometric pre-pay Lunch system went live on 1st November and is working well.

Anselmian Association

The Annual Association Mass of Remembrance for Deceased members, family and friends was celebrated at 11am on Saturday 5th November by Fr. Bernard Forshaw in a packed College Chapel.

Charity Outreach:

We have already raised nearly £2,000 for our Advent charities!

Thank you for your encouragement of your sons and generous support. Highlights included the Staff football match and Christmas Jumper Day, as well as Non-Uniform Days and cake sales. Key Stage 3 collected 125 Christmas Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These were sent to Children in Eastern Europe displaced by the war in Ukraine.



Thank you for your support for our Harvest Festival collection. The SVP collected a record amount of foodstuffs and toiletries for the Wirral Food Bank last term.



Year 7 Welcome Mass

Fr. Louis and Deacon Tony from Christ The King parish celebrated Mass in the Hall on 2nd November. There was a tremendous attendance and we encourage parents to maintain similar enthusiasm throughout your sons' time at the College. It was a lovely Anselmian occasion!

Remembrance Ceremony

On 11th November we commemorated those Anselmians who died in the service of our country during World War II and the Korean War. The Ceremony can be streamed from the website.

GCSE Certificates 2020-2

GCSE Certificates for 2020, 2021 and 2022 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 2021 or 2022 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.

We received a couple of complaints from neighbours last term, so please ensure that you avoid Egerton Rd and park responsibly in adjacent roads. Never stop or park on the zig zag lines!

The Council and Police will be monitoring traffic and parking in Egerton Rd this term! We reinforced these messages to students during Road Safety Week in November.

Careers Guidance

In November we were delighted to welcome back former student James Donnelly from Airbus who spoke to our students about the Airbus Apprenticeship Programme and related career opportunities. Last month we hosted a presentation by the Head of the Maths Programme and LJMU Data Science research Centre for Year 11 and 6th Form students about careers for Maths graduates.



FOSA

Christmas Showcase

The first FOSA event of the year on 9th December was a great success! The Hall was nearly full and there was a festive atmosphere on a cold night. Mrs Cubbin's Quiz was a hard-fought contest! Thank you to the FOSA Committee for an enjoyable evening and to all those parents who supported us and congratulations to the raffle winners.



SVP Christmas Party

This December saw the return of the SVP Christmas Party. On Wednesday 14th December the Senior SVP hosted guests from local nursing homes, SVP conferences and grandparents of students. Guests were entertained by bingo, musical acts and raffles. It was a fantastic occasion and wonderful to see it's return after a 3 year break.



Staff News

Mrs Amy Murphy (Hill), Head of Humanities, has left the College to spend more time with her family. We congratulate her upon the birth of her son Cillian last month. Mr Elliott O'Callaghan, Mr Arnold Waters and Mr Tony Long have also left us, and we thank them for their dedicated and loyal service. We welcome our new teachers Mrs Marie Butterworth (Head of Geography) and Mr Darrell Minshull (Biology and Science) to the Anselmian community.

**And finally,
We begin Easter Term sustained by the glorious message of Hope brought by the Epiphany and remembering the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in our prayers.
I wish you and your families happiness and fulfilment in 2023.**

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

