



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



The Headmaster's Newsletter – January - February 2023

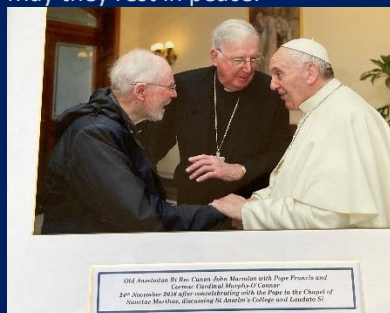
Mr R S Duggan

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023



Dear parents and carers,  
We are now on the final day of a long half-term which has taken us through the winter. Spring is in the air and there is much happening at the College. Please read on and pay attention to my outline of the College's arrangements on NEU Strike Days below.

Please remember Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Fr Anthony Cogliolo and Mr Joe Green who are recovering from ill health. Please also remember former Anselmians Canon John Marmion, Vin Roper and Daphne Cassidy, Grandmother of Zachary Martin who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.



### 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. Very few boys, and staff, have tested positive this term but many boys were absent with viral symptoms during January, so we must remain vigilant.

### NEU Industrial Action:

As you will be aware from the media the NEU, one of the teacher professional associations, is taking industrial action in their dispute with the DfE. Schools are caught in the middle of this!

We managed to keep the College fully open on 1<sup>st</sup> February. However, the timetable will not enable us to do so on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, the next strike day. A significant minority of our teachers are NEU members so we can only partially open. The College will be open as normal for 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Year 11 and Year 7, although there will be some disruption to timetable. Y13 and Y11 should bring revision materials from across the curriculum with them.

The College will be CLOSED for boys in Years 8, 9 and 10. Their lessons will be delivered remotely by staff who are not on strike or absent, according to the normal timetable. Details of how to access these online lessons, which all Y8-10 students are required to join, will be sent out by Mr Rumsby next week.

Further strike days are planned on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will send out information about partial closure closer to the time, but will rotate the attendance of Year groups to ensure that no students are disproportionately affected.

### **Sport:**

#### Rugby:

Our teams have enjoyed an excellent season with each Year winning the majority of their fixtures. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2 matches. We enjoyed clean sweeps against Manchester GS, Altrincham GS and Bolton School.



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> XV stalwarts Dylan Gray and Cathal Lynch who played regularly for Cheshire Under-18s this season. Cathal also trained with the North of England squad. The Senior Squad has departed for their Tour of Barcelona with a tough additional fixture in Perpignan. The Year 8s have a tour to Northampton in March and will also play in the Rosslyn Park Sevens. The Rugby Sevens season begins after Half-term and we hope to emulate last year's success by winning some tournaments!

#### Athletics and Cross Country

Ethan Brady-Jones Y13 became UK National U20 1500m Indoor Champion last weekend. Ethan also ran the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest individual lap in the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in January. Our young team finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> with Michael Phelan (Y8) becoming our youngest-ever senior runner.

Former student and Cross Country Captain Joe Wigfield





has been selected to represent Team GB and NI in the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Australia this month.

**Congratulations to the 6 Anselmians selected to run for Merseyside in the cross Country County Championships.**



**Hockey:**

**Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and Under-16s played in the North West Hockey Finals this term. The Seniors played particularly well, winning 2 and drawing 2 group matches and losing only to Sedbergh, the eventual winners.**



**BMX Racing**

**George Gerrard (Y11)** has qualified to represent Great Britain Under-16 at the World Championships in Nantes in July.

**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.

While the boys were relaxing on the INSET day last Friday our staff attended an Edmund Rice Schools Staff Conference in Stoke where we made Earth Pledges to create environmentally responsible Edmund Rice schools and communities.

Watch this space!

**Year 13 and 11 Mock**

**Exams**

**Both Years have March Mock Exams in preparation for their forthcoming A Level, BTEC and GCSE Exams this summer.**

Year 11 are currently taking MFL Speaking Tests and begin written exams on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The Year 13 Exams begin on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Your sons should be revising during half-term.

Year 11 monitoring grades for January are being sent out today.

**KEY DATES:**

**February:**

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Y10 Mock Exams

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Senior Rugby Tour

17<sup>th</sup> Half-term Starts 3.30pm

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

**March:**

3<sup>rd</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> Y11 Mock Exams

5<sup>th</sup> North of England Schoolboy

7s Tournament (Under-18)

10<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> Y13 Mock Exams

16<sup>th</sup> Y7 Music Trip

16<sup>th</sup> Y11 English Trip

16<sup>th</sup> Y12 Parents Evening

5-8pm

24<sup>th</sup> Y11 Geography Trip

30<sup>th</sup> FGB Meeting 5.00pm

31<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April Ski Trip

**Parents: Edmund Rice Trust Outwood House**

The refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, is well underway and the instalment of a 3-floor covered stairway will be completed this year,

hopefully by Easter. 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 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. If you cannot make a regular contribution, please try to support our fund-raising events this year.**

**PSHE:**

**On 8<sup>th</sup> February the 6<sup>th</sup> Form And Year 11 received a presentation from Barclays Bank Fraud Department. This focused upon financial security and online awareness and included live input from Barclays HQ in London. This outstanding presentation was an eye opener for most adults present!**

My thanks to Mr Hyde, Miguel and Paul for this excellent





contribution to our students' education.



### 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.

### Holocaust Memorial

During the week leading up to 27<sup>th</sup> January we observed a series of commemorations on the theme of "Ordinary People". Our students made a series of Statements of Commitment, including that we would continue to observe Holocaust Memorial Day. All Year groups were involved.

### Mental Health

We observed Children's Mental Health Awareness week last week with a series of assemblies and presentations for our students, focusing upon their wellbeing.

### 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!

### 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. The number of parents dropping off homework, equipment, lunches etc. throughout the day has increased recently.** 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.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 [absence@st-anselms.com](mailto:absence@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](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

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### **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. Some vapers have set off fire alarms in the past, disrupting college routines.

### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Parent Pay**

This is our parental payment system which is used instead of cash and cheques to pay for trips, lunches, Music lessons and equipment etc. 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 in November and is working well.**

**Charity Outreach:**

We raised nearly £2,000 for our Advent charities! Thank you for your encouragement of your sons and generous support.

**Our Lenten fundraising begins immediately after half-term.**

**Our charities are:**

**KS3 – DEC Earthquake Appeal and Martin Gallier Project, KS4 – Friends of the Holy Land and Caritas Good Shepherd Appeal, KS5 – DEC Earthquake Appeal.**

**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 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 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 are monitoring traffic and parking in Egerton Rd this term!

We reinforced these messages to students during Road Safety Week in November.

**Careers Guidance**

**We marked National Apprenticeship Week** earlier this month with a series of events on the theme of “Skills for Life.” This included presentations and online talks from employers such as Unilever and Magnox and contributions from rail, defence and digital technology industries. Please see Ms Hanlon’s article on our website for further details.

**Staff News**

**New Staff:**

In January we welcomed our new teachers **Mrs Marie Butterworth (Head of Geography)** and **Mr Darrell Minshull (Biology and Science)** to the Anselmian community.

**Ms Katie Brown (RE)** has now returned following her maternity leave. **Miss Ailisha Breen-Buckley** leaves us on Friday for a new post in Chester. We wish her deserved success.

**Battle of The Bands 2023**

Our final at the Future Yard, Birkenhead, on 29<sup>th</sup> January, was a great success. This impressive venue was packed with more than 250 people and there was a series of outstanding performances from our students and their 7 bands in a convivial atmosphere. Performers included the Manor Hill Jazz Band, TnH, Gabriel Roberts, The Painted Ceilings and DJ and the Bass Player. All finalists received awards ranging from rehearsal time, recording sessions and performance opportunities.

Their recordings will be released later this year.



**Friday Club Committee:**

**Congratulations to our new Year 12 team: Josh Adesina (President), Matthew Adebayo, Padraig Ibrahim, Jerry Shijo, Mark Sestan, Scott Jones, Inigo Roderick Waters, Dylan Rumsby, Ollie Brown and Tom Jones.** They follow in the distinguished footsteps of Ed McDonnell and his Y13 team.

**Confirmation classes**

The parishes of Our Lady’s Birkenhead invite local pupils, especially, but not exclusively, teenagers who attended Our Lady & St. Edward’s and Holy Cross primary schools to join them for “Pizza and Prayer” on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month from 6pm. The next session will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March and will begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

**And finally, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday during half-term. When your sons return to the College on 27<sup>th</sup> February we will guide them through our Lenten journey with opportunities for prayer, charity and contemplation. We pray for peace in the world.**

Yours in Christ,

Headmaster

