



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Easter 2023



31st March 2023

**Dear parents and carers,
We have now reached the end of the Easter Term after this short, but intensive 5-week half term. We have packed a great deal into it as you will discover!**

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, and Joan Kinsella, former PA to past Headmasters, 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.

Congratulations:

Executive Prefect Team:

Our new team comprises:

Head Boy: Josh Adesina

Deputy Head Boys: Pdraig Ibrahim and Dylan Rumsby

Assistant Head Boys:

Luke Court, Luke Hyland, Tom Jones and Mark Sestan.

Senior Prefects:

Matthew Adebayo, John Drace-Francis, Reyon Jojo, Jack Pearson and Gladson Vadakkumchery.

They are exemplary Anselmians!



Headmaster's Awards:

Congratulations to these exemplary students:

Joseph Ward 7K, Euan Redmore 8P, Mathias Jimenez-Clague 9G, Michael Williams 10K, Koby Garrity 11E

Poetry:

Patrick Gambles Y12 has performed with Poet Laureate Simon Armitage on his recent Library Tour. Patrick was also a finalist in the Frank Moran Young Writers Award in Liverpool and is currently working on a script for the RSC.

Public Speaking:

Alistair Galliers (Y13) continued our tradition by competing in the Catenians Province 4 Public Speaking Competition at Liverpool Hope University last Friday.

Sport:

Rugby:

Congratulations to our Year 9 Rugby 7s squad who won the Wirral GS Tournament earlier this month, coached by Mr Booth. The Senior 7 and the Under-16s both reached the final of the Birkenhead School and Merchant Taylor's tournaments respectively. The Seniors also reached the

knockout stages of the North of England Schools 7s.

Our Year 8 team continued their excellent season by winning every match in their pool at the Rosslyn Park Sevens Festival. As this was a waterfall tournament there were no knockout stages, which was a great shame!



Alex Kerr (Y11) who has enjoyed an exceptional season in the 1st XV recently played for the Sale Sharks Academy U-16 team in their victory over Newcastle Falcons.

Henry Kellett, Joe Healey, Finlay McGrath and Ed Unsworth have recently represented Cheshire at Under-16 level.

Athletics and Cross Country

Ethan Brady-Jones Y13 became UK National U20 1500m Indoor Champion last month. Ethan also won the Senior Race in the Merseyside Championships.

Congratulations to Ethan and the 5 Anselmians selected to run for Merseyside in the Cross Country Schools County Championships last weekend.



Hockey:

Liam Blackburn Y10 represented West Cheshire and Wirral Under-15s in goal at the North West County





Hockey Tournament, which they won, and now qualify for the North of England Finals.

Benji Sedgwick (Y12) has earned similar selection for the West Cheshire and Wirral Under-17 team.

Both the 1st 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.



Cricket:

Jack Lewis (Y12) has been selected for the Under-19 County and District Festival in July.

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 Exam Results

Both Years have completed their March Mock Exams in preparation for their forthcoming A Level, BTEC and GCSE Exams this summer and the results have been sent home. Year 11 will have MFL Speaking Tests from late April. All boys need to ensure consistent and thorough revision during the Easter holidays.

KEY DATES:

March:

31st – 8th April Ski Trip
31st Term Ends 3.30pm

April:

17th College Re-opens
20th Y10 Careers Interviews
21st St Anselm’s Day, Anselmian Association AGM & meal
27th Y8 parents Evening 5.00pm

May:

4th-12th Y12 Exams
15th GCSE Exams begin
17th A Level/BTECs begin
19th-21st Y10 DofE Expedition
22nd-26th KS3 Exams
26th College Closes 3.30pm

June:

5th 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 year, hopefully by May half-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 to address the increased costs of this project, approx. £120,000. 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.**

Citizenship Education:

Cllr Matthew Edwards (Green Party) from Bradford, who was a student at the College from 1999-2006, returned this week to give our 6th Form and Year 11 students an insight into local government and the work of councillors this week. His address sparked an interesting and perceptive range of questions from his audience.





Bike Safety

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.gov.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. 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. On the school homepage in the 'Students' or 'Parents' drop down menus you will see the option '**Satchel One/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 **new** absence line number **0151 458 7166**, by email to 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

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.

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, 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 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 are monitoring traffic and parking in Egerton Rd this term! We reinforced these messages to students during Road Safety Week in November.

Careers Guidance

Please look out for Ms Hanlon's monthly letters on our social media. Year 10 have mock Careers Interviews on 20th April, and Work Experience in July.

A group of Year 11 students recently attended a workshop in Liverpool hosted by Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, which explained the admissions process and sought to encourage applications.

Staff News

New Staff:

Ms Katie Brown (RE) has now returned following her maternity leave. **Mr Conor Blanshard (MFL)** has left us for a new post and will be replaced by **Mrs Carina Rios Bigalke** until Mrs Meadows re-joins us in June. **Mr Sam Ramos** has joined us as an **ICT Technician** and **Miss Emma Sherlock (Cover Supervisor)**

and Mrs Emily McFerran (Admin) will join the staff after Easter.

Live Lounge 2023

Congratulations to our Year 12 Music students who organised this recent event which was well-attended. Thank you also to the FOSA team who ran the bar.

Lenten Observances:

Year 7 classes have had Form Masses on Fridays during Lent. This week we have focused upon Holy Week during our Key Stage Liturgies, led by Tom Murray, our Lay Chaplain.

Our students have again been enthusiastic fundraisers for charity.

The Senior Cross Country squad completed a metric marathon relay on 29th March for the Disasters Emergency Committee Earthquake Appeal.

Key Stage 4 have raised over £400 and the KS3 Cake sale raised £181 in one breaktime!

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 1st Monday of each month from 6pm. The next session will be on Monday 6th March and will begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Parishes of St John's New Ferry and St Anne's Rock Ferry have been allocated a date of 22nd November 2023 for their Confirmation service.

Interested students from Yrs 9, 10, and above if they have missed out, should contact Mike Daly, Deacon by email to stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com for information on the Preparation Classes.

And finally, I hope that you and your Families will enjoy the Easter Bank Holiday and some time together during the holidays. If your son has fallen behind in his studies this is a good time to catch up. Years 11 and 13 have plenty of revision to occupy them!

Yours in the peace of the Resurrected Christ,

Headmaster

