



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Summer 2023



July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We have now reached the end of the Summer Term, and Academic Year, after a busy but rewarding term. We have packed a great deal into it as you will discover!

Please remember

Mr David Gorman, Mr Tony Charlesworth, Mr Iain Smith, Fr. Anthony Cogliolo and Mr. Mike Redfearn who have suffered from ill health. Please also remember Mrs Angela McDonald and Mrs Theresa Duggan, mothers of prominent Anselmians, and Br. Tom Kelly 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.

Headmaster's Awards:

Congratulations to these exemplary students: **Gabriel Grootveld (7K), Ben A O'Brien (7K), Connor Philips (8M), Adi Sibal (9K) and Jack Hall (10E).**

Poetry:

Congratulations to **Henry Youdan (7K), the Year7 winner of the Wirral Chris Salmon Poetry Competition.** Henry, his parents and Mr Luxemburg attended the Awards Ceremony at, where Henry collected his award from the Lord and Lady

Mayoress of Wirral and read aloud his winning entry.

Biology:

The Biology Olympiad took place recently. Y12 achievements were as follows: **Alasdair Laing – Silver, Mark Sestan – Bronze, and Alfie Chesters, Nathan Gibson and Sonny Groves** all Highly Commended.

Sport:

Rugby:

Alex Kerr (Y11) who has enjoyed an exceptional season in the 1st XV has been selected for the IRFU IQ Tour and will play against Ulster Rugby and Connaught Rugby later this month.

Following in his footsteps are Y10s **Jamie Arista, Joseph Fletcher, Will Hollis and Isaac Waldron** who have been selected for the Sale Sharks Academy U-16 Development Group.

Athletics

Our athletes have enjoyed another outstanding season! Our Junior and Intermediate Teams both qualified for the English Schools' Cup Final in Chelmsford on 8th July as regional champions. They performed magnificently, both finishing 9th as the highest-ranked school in the North West of England, so we retain our status as 1 of the top schools nationally for Athletics! Many athletes achieved personal bests. Michael Phelan (Y8) won the gold medal in the Junior 1500m. Charlie Kerr (Y8) was our highest combined points scorer of the day in the 100m and Long Jump. In the Intermediate competition Obe Kearney (Y10) was our highest individual points scorer, finishing 3rd in the 1500m and Dawid Gawel (Y9) was our highest combined

points scorer in the Discuss and 800m.



We dominated the Merseyside County Athletics Championships winning 11 Gold, 13 Silver and 9 Bronze medals in June. Ethan Brady Jones (1500m, Y13), and Year 9s Charlie Wilson (Long Jump), Jac Chapman and Matthew Wakefield all qualified for the Individual English Schools' Final on 1st July when Jac broke the College record in the 800m and Matthew finished 5th in the Hammer.

Cricket:

Charlie Clarke (Y8) was selected for the third year running to represent the Cheshire County (U13s) this season and has been in excellent form. Charlie scored 61 and took 5 wickets in Cheshire's victory over Yorkshire. He also scored a century in our last-16 defeat to King's Chester last month. **Jack Lewis (Y12)** has been selected for the Under-19 County and District Festival in July.

Golf:

Leo Hirons (Y7) has been chosen to represent Cheshire Boys County Team. Leo won both his matches against Derbyshire in helping the team to victory. He also played against North Wales in June.

BMX Racing

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





Edmund Rice Network

Our Lay Chaplain, Tom Murray, and I attended the Global Congress of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders in Dublin in May. This brought together school leaders from every continent and was a truly inspirational experience.

As a result of our links with the South American schools we received an invitation for a student to attend a **Papal Audience with Pope Francis** on 25th May as a member of the English Schools delegation invited by the Argentinian educational charity "Scholas Occurrentes". **Deputy Head Boy Dylan represented us and had a family rosary blessed by His Holiness.**



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.

Our Year9 team competed in the Wirral Cool Climate Challenge on 24th May, in the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayoress. Their unseen task was to present a plan to return wildlife to Birkenhead. The boys acquitted themselves well, even though they were competing against 6th Formers!

Year 13 and 11 Exam Results

A Level and BTEC Results will be available on Thursday 17th August in Outwood from 8am in the new top floor. GCSE results will be distributed there from 9am on Thursday 24th August.

KEY DATES:

July:

14th College Closes for summer

August:

17th GCE and BTEC Results Day

24th GCSE Results Day

September:

5th Staff INSET Day

6th Y 7, 10, 12 Return to

College

7th All Years in College

22nd Entrance Exam

22nd Staff INSET Day

26th-30th Y 9-12 Spanish Trip

October:

12th College Photographs

20th Half Term Begins, 3.30pm

30th College re-opens 8.35am

Parents: Edmund Rice Trust Outwood House

The refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6th Form Centre has been completed and the instalment of the 3-floor covered stairway will be completed this summer. 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 £220,000. 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.**

Edmund Rice Trust Dinner

The Dinner to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the College's foundation in September in 1933 was held in the Hall on 1st July. It was attended by 200 guests, including many old boys, and was a great success. Our guest Speaker was old Anselmian Mark Palios, former Chief Executive of the FA and current owner of Tranmere Rovers FC, who spoke with passion about the benefits of his Anselmian education in his career. We raised approximately £5,000 for the Outwood Project and had a great time! Particular thanks to FOSA for running the Bar and decorating the Hall, Ms Delaney and Mrs Grice who ran the ERT Bar, and the many members of staff who helped with the organisation of the evening, and those parents and Anselmians who donated auction prizes.





Political Education:

Steve Rotheram, Mayor of Liverpool City Region, visited the 6th Form in June to discuss developments in the regional economy and the benefits of political devolution. As ever, Steve was willing to engage in debate about contemporary political issues and our students asked some searching questions!



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.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.

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. We want our database to be fully accurate for September!

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.

Charity Outreach:

We raised over £3,000 for our Lenten charities! Thank you for your encouragement of your sons and generous support.

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. The Br. Kerrigan Walk on 1st July was a great success despite the damp weather.** Boys in Years 7-10 were impeccably behaved during the walk from Leasowe Lighthouse to Seacombe and clearly enjoyed our afternoon party!
Please ensure that your sons pay their sponsorship money! If this has not yet been done parents can pay via our Parent Pay system. We are optimistic of beating last year's record total of £7,500 which was donated to local charities like the Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund, SVP and Martin Gallier Project and international charities in Ukraine and Sierra Leone.



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. Never stop or park on the zig zag lines!

Careers Guidance

Year 12 students have recently attended Open Days at the Universities of Bangor and Cambridge and Intromed medical courses. Our Apprenticeship Evening for Year 11 and 6th Form students last month was well attended. On 19th June our Y10 team competed in the Tranmere Rovers FC E-Sports Challenge. The results are yet to be announced.

Staff News

New Staff:

Good luck to PE teachers Mr. Syd Roberts and Ethan Dunne who leave us this week after teaching at the College this year, and contributing to Hockey, Cricket, Cross Country and Athletics. **Miss Lily Duggan** leaves us for her new post after teaching Modern Languages this half-term.
Congratulations to Mr. James Allkins who has qualified as a teacher and has joined the PE & Games Faculty.

Eco Garden

At St Anselm's College the Christian stewardship of our local environment is very important to us. Last year we launched a project to establish a sustainable wild-life garden.

This has seen our Year 12 and Year 7 Biologists work together to learn new horticulture techniques and come up with ideas for how to reduce waste. The garden is a calming space that promotes our connection with our faith. It is host to a variety of local wildlife, insects and pollinators, including a bee hotel and pond-life. Students (pictured?) have given their lunch-times to plant, repot and erect trellises for growing climbing plants we can study. We have developed a link with the kitchen staff to divert kitchen scraps to produce compost for the garden, and plan to provide vegetables next growing season for those in need. We are striving for excellence and, in collaboration with Liverpool John Moore's University, involve ourselves in local conservation projects using technology to monitor the local visiting fauna. We have erected a greenhouse on-site and have already re-wilded other areas to extend our studies of the plant life.

Parish News:

Confirmation classes

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 Y9, 10, and above if they have missed out previously, should contact Mike Daly, Deacon by email at stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com for information on the Preparation Classes.

Congratulations to Anselmian Canon Liam Dodd who was ordained priest in the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in April and celebrated his first Mass on 13th May at the





shrine of St. Peter, Paul and Philomena in New Brighton



Apostolic Life:

Fr. Michael celebrated Mass for Years 8, 10 and 12 in the Hall on the feast of St. Peter and Paul on the 29th June. He then celebrated an End of Year Mass for Key Stage 3 on Tuesday 11th July. His generous support has enabled us to revive the regular celebration of Mass at the College.



Year 7 greatly enjoyed their Retreat to both Liverpool Cathedrals last week, which provided an interesting liturgical contrast. The boys were impressive ambassadors for the College.



Governor Vacancies

Some distinguished and experienced Governors are coming to the end of their terms, and perhaps their tethers(!), during the next 12 months. The Congregation of Christian Brothers, our Trustees, will be seeking to appoint their replacements. Foundation Governors are expected to be practising Catholics. We would particularly value professional expertise in HR, QA and the law, but the most important criteria are a willingness to give of one's time to support the many responsibilities of governance, including financial planning and management, quality assurance, legal compliance and strategic planning. Anyone interested is contributing welcome to contact me at headmaster@st-anselms.com in full confidence.

And finally, I hope that you and your Families will enjoy the summer break. I hope that the boys will have a good rest but will also continue to read and research and satisfy their intellectual curiosity. It has been a busy, but successful year at the College. We currently have a record roll of 996, demonstrating the College's popularity, and the completion of the Outwood House top floor project will satisfy our accommodation needs. We are optimistic about this summer's exam results and wish all those leaving our community future success and fulfilment.

Yours in the peace of Christ,

Headmaster

