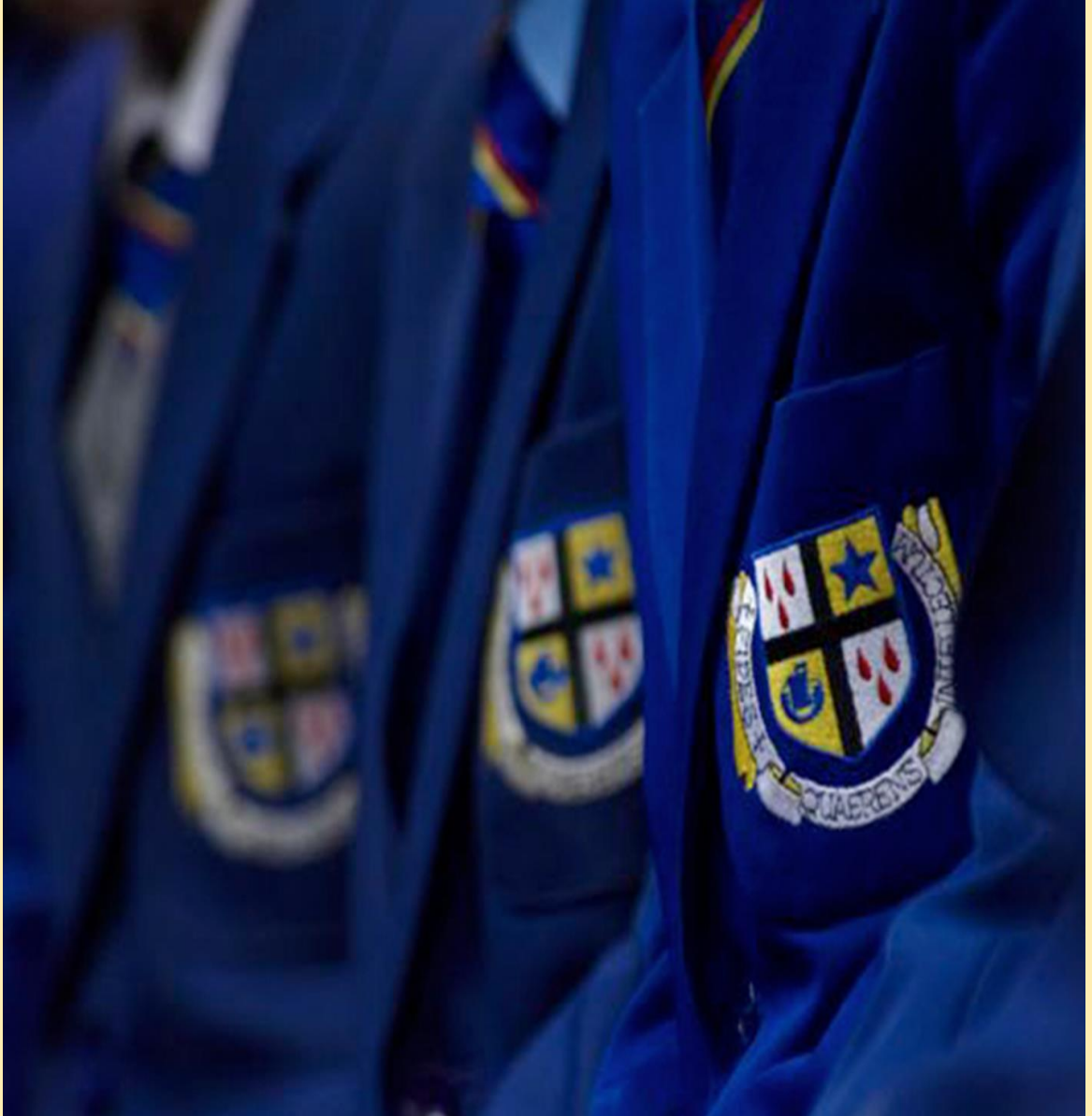




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St. Anselm's College  
*Edmund Rice Academy Trust*



The Headmaster's Newsletter – Christmas 2023





**December 2023**

Dear parents and carers,  
We have now reached the end of the Christmas Term, and calendar 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 Dr John Delaney who have suffered from ill health. Please also remember former Governors **Mike Redfearn, Charles Mills and Br. Ignatius Cincotta** 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 until feeling better, as with any other virus. 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:  
**October: Joseph Dennis (Y11), George Goulding (Y10), Michael Provis (Y9), Harry Roberts (Y8) and Oliver Kendall (Y7).**  
**December: James Jones (Y11), Isaac Baker (Y10), Ajay Krishna Moorthy (Y9), Henry Laws and Charlie Robinson (Y8) and Harry Malam (Y7).** Harry Hartford (Y7) also receives the Award after assisting a member of the public who had collapsed.

**Annual Prize Giving**

This was the final college event of the term and very well attended at the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Birkenhead, beginning with a musical recital. **Our Guest Speaker was Anselmian professor Simon McGrath (1976-83)** who spoke warmly of his experiences of the College and gave a fascinating insight into his teaching experiences in Africa and educational research as Professor at the University of Glasgow School of Education, and provided some pithy insights into how our society ought to judge quality of education.



**European Youth Foundation:**

Ben Barrett-Jones Y12 was a youth delegate at an international conference on Anti-Racism and Young people peace and climate change in Spain in September.

**Chess:**

**Sviatoslav Bazakutsa (Y10)** is the U-14 European Champion in Classical and Rapid Chess and well on his way to becoming an International Master. This term he has been competing in tournaments across Europe beating International Grandmasters in the process!

**Sport:**

**Rugby:**

**The highlight of a very successful term was the victory of the Under-16 squad in the Cheshire Cup final**

against St. Ambrose College last month. The boys won 11-5 at Chester RFC after an outstanding team performance with half-backs Frazer Hancox and Jamie Arista scoring our points.



The 1<sup>st</sup> XV have had a very good term, winning 9 of 13 matches and losing only 1 Saturday fixture. They reached the semi-final of the Cheshire Cup and the last 16 of the National Vase. **Jack Wilson played for Cheshire U-18 in their victory over Lancashire this weeknd** and Alex Kerr remains a member of the Sale Sharks elite player squad.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV have only lost to Altrincham GS 1<sup>st</sup> XV and the Under-14s reached the quarter final of the National Vase Following in their footsteps are **Year 10s Ethan Chan, Archie Knapman, Oliver Timson, Matthew Wakefield and George Wood** who have been selected for the Sale Sharks Academy Development Programme. **Frazer Hancox (Y11)** has been offered a place at the Ultimate Rugby Sevens National Sevens Academy for the 2024-5 season.





**Cross Country:**

Our Intermediate Team, from Years 10 & 9, maintained the College's proud tradition by finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the English School Cup Final in distant Woodbridge, Suffolk, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Michael Phelan was our first runner home, followed by Jac Chapman (captain), Matthew Merriman, Malachi Harty, George Goulding, Chris Jamieson and Toby Price. Congratulations to Mr Allkins, Dr Cooper and the squad upon a fantastic performance and end to the term. We are confident of further success for this young squad in the next couple of years.



**Golf:**

Leo Hirons (Y8) has been chosen to represent Cheshire Boys County Team. He also spent the summer travelling to compete in tournaments and won the U-15 Gold medal at the Royal Liverpool Club Championship.

Leo and Callum Miller (Y8) were selected to represent Royal Liverpool Golf Club against North Berwick in September.

**Football:**

Congratulations to Lucas Hagan (Y11) who has been offered a 2-year professional apprenticeship contact by Wigan Athletic from September.

**Edmund Rice Education**

We were delighted to welcome 16-year old Rhys Jenkins, from St. Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane to the College a fortnight ago in the company of his cousin George Fleming Y11. Rhys followed George's timetable and also attended a range of College events, including our Advent Service and the FOSA Christmas Showcase. Rhys also visited Goodison Park, alas!



In October we were visited by representatives of 2 human rights organisations who encourage young people to become change-makers. **Justice Desk Africa**, based in Cape Town with branches across the continent, spoke to Year 8 about their campaign against inequality and gender-based violence. Its founder, Jess Dewhurst, is a former Edmund Rice school student and has close links with the English schools network. **PRATYeK** is based in New Delhi and works with 100 NGOs and 300 schools in India, encouraging young people to take responsibility for transforming their lives, rather than waiting for politicians to do so! Founder Br. Steve Rocha spoke to Year 10 about their current campaigns for children's rights in India.



**Year 13 and 11 Mock Exam Results**

These have now been communicated to students and grades will be confirmed and reports published in January. Year 11 will have a Mock Certificates Evening on 16<sup>th</sup> January in the Hall.

**KEY DATES:**

**December:**

- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Prize Giving
- 15<sup>th</sup> End of Term, 1.00pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Staff INSET Day

**January:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Staff INSET Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> College re-opens
- 16<sup>th</sup> Y11 Mock Exam Certificate Evening
- 17<sup>th</sup> Y11 6<sup>th</sup> Form Taster Morning
- 21<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Bands Final
- 25<sup>th</sup> Y9 GCSE Options Evening
- 30<sup>th</sup> Y 10&11 English Trip

**February:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Y10 Parents Evening
- 16<sup>th</sup> Half Term Begins, 3.30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> College Re-opens
- 29<sup>th</sup> Y7 Parents Evening

**March:**

- 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Y13 Mock Exams
- 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Y11 Mock Exams
- 27<sup>th</sup> Y8 English Trip
- 28<sup>th</sup> End of Term 3.30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

**Parents: Edmund Rice Trust Outwood House**

The refurbishment of the top floor of Outwood House, our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, has been completed and the 3-floor covered stairway (64 steps) is fully operational. You will not be surprised to learn that the







funding for school projects is tight in the current climate and this project was only 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 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 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.**

#### **College Awards:**

**In September we were awarded the Anti-Bullying Alliance Bronze Award in recognition of our commitment to make St. Anselm's a bullying-free school. Congratulations to Mrs Cubbin, Miss Monk and our student Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who led our campaign, including assemblies for fellow students. In December we were awarded the Martin Gallier**

**Project Award** for "outstanding commitment to creating a Safer Suicide Community."

**As you can see the mental health and well-being of our students is our ultimate priority.**

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#### **Bike Safety**

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

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#### **Mobile Phones**

A reminder of the College Policy! Boys SHOULD NOT bring these expensive items to College as we cannot guarantee their security. If a boy in Y7-11 openly brandishes one it is liable to confiscation. Any boy bringing a mobile phone to College does so at his own risk. Confiscated items will only be returned on Fridays after school. To reclaim an item, a pupil must bring a letter from a parent.

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#### **No Chewing Gum please!**

**Chewing gum is banned** on this site, so please discourage your sons from bringing any to school. It causes mess and damage. Those failing to observe College rules will be deployed cleaning it off the yard and removing it from underneath desks.

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#### **E-Safety Update – Mobile Phone Use**

Can your child gain access to inappropriate material on **their mobile?**

It is a wise parent that sets up restrictions on what their children can access on the internet at home. Notwithstanding natural teen curiosity, it is possible for a young person to be inadvertently exposed to inappropriate, unsuitable and

highly disturbing material. Many young people now have 'Smartphones,' that give the user internet access through 5G networks. Even some of the simplest mobile phones can provide access through a web browser. Many parents do not realise that this can be 'unfiltered access.' Students can be exposed to exactly the same dangers on their phone that they might face from unrestricted and unmonitored access at home. It is therefore very important to make sure that the 'Parental Control Services' offered free by all mobile phone providers are switched on. This is not always automatically the case. If you are unsure, contact your provider and ask. If the controls are not in place, then you can request that they are switched on for a particular number. The link below will take you to an Ofcom website giving more advice and contact details for all the mobile phone companies:

**<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2009/10/parental-controls-for-mobile-phones/>**  
**We provide our students with regular and clear messages, on such issues. Guidance is available on the College website.**

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#### **Sweet and Drink Selling**

Any boy found doing this on the College site, or buses, will be excluded and his stock and ill-gotten gains will be confiscated and given to charity.

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#### **16-19 Bursary Fund**

The Bursary is available to students in disadvantaged circumstances or from families on low incomes, comparable with qualification for Free School Meals. If you feel that your son might be eligible he





should collect an application form from Mr Morgan. Students who break the terms of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Learning agreement, including through poor attendance, lose their eligibility for Bursary payments. Tax payers' money must be spent wisely!

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### **Lost Property**

If your son has lost uniform, kit, a coat or bag etc. please do not immediately assume that it has been stolen or is lost forever! We have collections of lost property at the College & at the Games Fields. Please feel free to come & check. Parents can do their bit by ensuring that your sons' property is labelled or marked. Most of our collection is anonymous of course! We also have items of nearly new uniform available for any families struggling with the costs of the current financial crisis.

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### **GDPR**

Along with all public bodies and companies we are obliged to observe the new European Data Protection Regulation. We have appointed Judicium as our (corporate) Data Protection Officer. Please see our website for further details.

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### **Pupil Premium**

**We have explained how we use the Pupil Premium on our website.** If you believe your son is entitled to any of the additional support outlined there, please contact me at the College. This is broadly based on eligibility for Free School Meals. **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.**

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### **College Sanctions**

Let me make it abundantly clear that College sanctions are not negotiable! **Parents and students do not have the right to pick and choose whether to co-operate with the College sanctions system, including the dates of detentions.** We will always listen to polite representations, but the simple truth is that such parents have almost always been misled.

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### **Homework and Academic Expectations**

We aspire to provide a Grammar School education for all our students, irrespective of background and circumstances. The key to this is high expectations, not only from staff but from parents and families as well. We expect parents to monitor their son's learning, including homework, and to require him to spend sufficient time on it and to take pride and care in its presentation and completion. We seek to establish a culture where it is cool to achieve! Most of our students do very well and flourish at the College. Our ambition is that all of them do so and we need your support to achieve this!

**We also expect students to arrive at College fully equipped and ready to learn. 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!

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### **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 menu 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.

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### **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/>

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### **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](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.**

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### 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 NSPCC 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.**

### Nut Allergies

We have a number of students in College with severe nut allergies. We ask that you are mindful of this when making

your child's packed lunch and aim to avoid food products containing nuts.

### 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.

**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 collected a record 354kg of preserved food and toiletries for the Wirral food bank during our Harvest Festival appeal in October. Our Advent charities are: KS3 – Caritas and Save the Children, KS4 – Claire House and Friends of the Holy Land, KS5 – Wirral Food Bank. So far we have raised a remarkable £2,000 in a fortnight of Advent at the end of term, including £500 collected for the Wirral food bank at Prize Giving.**

**The FOSA Christmas Showcase was well attended and has raised £3,000 for college activities.**

**The SVP hosted their annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on 6<sup>th</sup> December which was a great success and much enjoyed by our guests.**



**Thank you for your support and generosity and well done boys!**

**Advent liturgies:**

**Our other Advent focus was upon spiritual preparation to celebrate the joy of Our Lord's Nativity. We began with our Carol Service, and a performance from the Year 7 Choir, on 5<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a Year 7 and 8 Service of Reconciliation and the Key Stage 4 Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael.**

**GCSE Certificates 2020-3**

GCSE Certificates for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 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 between 2021 and 2023 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!

**Remembrance:**

**On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November Fr. Bernard Forshaw celebrated the annual Anselmian Association Mass of Remembrance for deceased members and families in a full college chapel.**



**On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual Remembrance Ceremony, commemorating the 12 Anselmians who died in the service of our country during the conflicts of the past century and all victims of war. The ceremony concluded with the hanging of the wreath on the memorial plaque in the Hall.**



**Staff News**

**New Staff:**

**A warm welcome to our new teachers Mrs Edite Woolham (Chemistry) and Miss Stephanie Halpin (Geography) who join us in January Good luck to Mrs Vicky Ebbrell (Geography) who leaves us after nearly 11 years**







loyal and distinguished service for a post at St. Edward's College. Congratulations to Miss Rachel Monk (RE) who has successfully completed her National Professional Qualification in Subject Leadership.

### 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. Students 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 to divert kitchen 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, are involved in local conservation projects using technology to monitor the local visiting fauna. We have erected a greenhouse on-site and have already rewilded other areas to extend our studies of the plant life.

As a result, in September we received the Eco Schools Green Flag Award and the flag flies proudly in the front car park.



### Parish News:

Confirmation classes for boys living in the parishes of St. Werburgh's, Our Lady & St. Paul and Holy Cross are invited to join the programme which began in November and continues in the New Year, with fortnightly classes into March and a Retreat Day at Our Lady's Birkenhead on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Please email

[youth@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org](mailto:youth@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org) for further details.

### Governor Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies for Parent Governors at present and will be organising an election next term. All current parents are eligible to stand and vote. 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 in standing is welcome to contact me at [headmaster@st-anselms.com](mailto:headmaster@st-anselms.com) in full confidence.**

### Student appearance:

Some students were beginning to sport long hair and attempting to wear non-uniform hoodies and trainers towards the end of last term. **Please ensure that your son satisfies our appearance expectations, which are on the website, at the start of next term on 8<sup>th</sup> January, or accept the consequences. You have plenty of time to sort him out!**

### **And finally,**

Your sons are enjoying an unusually long Christmas holiday this year, owing to the way the dates have fallen, our desire to comply with other schools on the return date in January, time for essential staff training and the desire of the leadership of the College to give our families time to prepare for Christmas and enjoy the full richness of our Advent celebrations. They should ensure that they have completed all schoolwork to date, including any missed during absence, and enjoy their good fortune!

**On behalf of the staff and governors I wish you and your families and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.**

**Yours in the peace of Christ,**

Headmaster

