

Saint Ambrose College Newsletter

20th October 2017



1st Year Parents' Evening
Thursday 2nd November
4.30—7pm

Please help!

If you are available to help with refreshments during Saturday home fixtures, please e-mail: mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Message from the Principal

It has been a busy half term and students have adapted well to being back in school after the summer break. We are delighted with the efforts our new students have made to become members of the Saint Ambrose community. They have embraced the opportunity to engage with the multiple extra curriculum activities and are thriving in the class room. Students from all year groups have joined new clubs and societies to support their learning and enrich their school life.

Our 5th year and sixth form students are working hard to prepare for their GCSE and A Level examinations, which admittedly feels like quite a distance away, however the more time dedicated to study now will hopefully reduce their pressure next year.

We hope you have an enjoyable half-term.

'Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.' Helen Keller

J M Keulemans

Dates for the diary

20th October

Break up at 3.35pm for half term holiday

30th October

Return to School

2nd November

1st Year Parents' Evening

11th November

Old Boys' Dinner

12th November

Remembrance Sunday

16th November

6th Form only—Drive safe training

26th November

Christmas Fair 

W/C 27th November

5th Year Mock Examinations

5th December

L6th Parents' Evening

7th December

Feast of Saint Ambrose

8th December

12.30pm closure to celebrate Feast of Saint Ambrose 

18th December

Carol Service at Holy Angels

20th December

End of Term—12.30pm closure

Thursday 4th January 2018

Return to School

Hale Barris
Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form
OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 21st November

7.00pm – 9.00pm

0161 980 2711

www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Elf the Musical

Gifted young actor James Allen says working with a professional cast makes him feel 10 foot tall, even though as one of the stars of Elf the Musical, that is definitely not what is needed.

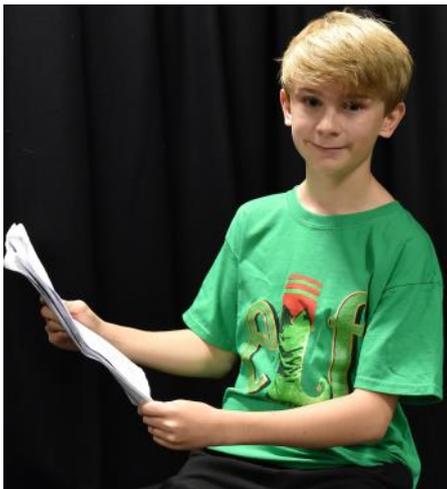
The hugely popular 12-year-old student has just landed the part of Michael Hobbs in Elf the Musical, which will run at the Lowry through December and into the New Year.

James has previously appeared alongside Maxine Peake in 'Hamlet' at the Royal Exchange and had a principal role as Benji in the touring production of 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' alongside Jason Donovan with another lead role in the National Theatre's 'Husbands and Sons' at the Royal Exchange. Elf is his biggest part yet, with many lines to master.

James is one of four young actors rotating the part and is learning his craft at the Television Workshop in Salford. He said: "I have really enjoyed all my roles so far. You are made to feel just like any other member of the cast and part of one big team. There really is a strong community in the theatre."

James, whose brother Matthew is also an emerging talent, will begin the production's run in Plymouth in November and said: "I will miss quite a lot of school time, but we will be getting special tutors to make sure we won't miss any work." He added: "The secret is just to try hard and enjoy every second. My friends at school all think it's pretty cool and I know most of them will be coming to see the show when we reach Manchester."

Elf is based on the 2003 Will Ferrell film and as a musical gives James a chance to test his singing skills, "I love singing and I am delighted that I will get an opportunity to sing in the show but I wouldn't say I was going to be the next Harry Styles! My ambition is to work in the theatre. I really admire Benedict Cumberbatch because he seems to play such a wide variety of parts and all with such ease." James' drama teacher Mrs Bull said: "James is a natural talent and it will be wonderful to work with him as he progresses through the school and I know we will all learn much from all his experience on the professional stage."



Student Council

Congratulations to the 14 students who have been successful in our first ever School Council elections. The School Council provides an excellent opportunity for students to discuss issues that are important to them, have a positive impact on the life of the school and have their voice heard.

In our first meeting we looked at Praise and Rewards with Miss McCrory. Students discussed current ideas that they find helpful as well as some new ideas to ensure that we celebrate success both in and outside of school. In addition we talked about how these can be best communicated with parents, students and teachers.

The School Council plays a very important role in the life of the college. It is the voice of the students. We are proud of the enthusiasm and maturity of our students in making their voice count.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with our work this year!

School Council 2017-2018 Members

Hannan Sarwar – Chair
James Byrne – Vice Chair
Marcus Doohan – Vice Chair
Niall Devlin – 5th Year
Thomas Diffley – 5th Year
Matthew Doyle – 5th Year
Abhishek Alex – 5th Year
Edan Welch – 4th Year
Joseph Lalley – 3rd Year
Matyas Price-Jones – 3rd Year
William Scott – 2nd Year
Mele Gadzama – 2nd Year
Oliver Cosh- 1st Year
Daniel Enohumah – 1st Year



James Byrne
Hannah Sarwar
Marcus Doohan



2017—2018 student council members

New Student E-mail System

Please note we have a new email system for students to use. Below is the link to the new system:
<https://login.microsoftonline.com/en>

The Username is your son's school email address and the same password they use to access school computers

In addition, students have the option to download an app to their mobile phones.



The app is called **Microsoft Outlook**. Any questions please email:

mrs1haynes@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

English Literature Society
first meeting

on

Monday 6th November

at

1pm

in

Room 2503



Saint Ambrose Old Boys Association Annual Dinner

11th November 2017
at
St Ambrose College

The evening is open to all Old Boys, parents of Old Boys and parents of current students. If you would like to attend then please visit the following link and follow the site's instructions; <http://www.saoba.org/events/old-boys-dinners/2017-dinner>.

If you are purchasing multiple tickets then please also send an email to committee@saoba.org with the names of all the people in your party.

History Society

As part of the Centenary commemorations of the Great War, a small group of students attended an event at Bramhall High School. There were a number of schools in attendance who learnt about the new technological developments of the War and the injuries sustained by a range of weapons such as gas, the Lee Enfield rifle and shrapnel. Students then took part in a discussion led by a TV historian and academics from a range of universities on the extent to which medicine and surgery developed as a result of the injuries sustained during the First World War. One of our students (pictures above) was brave enough to try on a gas mask during the event which was one of the artefacts which were on display in the Hall.



G. Scott

SAPA News

Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

We are delighted to be making preparations for the Christmas Fair, which will take place at the college on Sunday 26th November.

There is something for everyone! Santa's grotto, toys and games, game zone, school uniform stall, prizes, house stalls, Christmas drinks, tombola, Christmas lunch, presents, book stall, department stalls, raffle, games, sweets, Christmas puddings, Christmas music and performances. Please come and enjoy a few hours with us to celebrate this magical time of year. ALL proceeds are shared between the College and Preparatory school.

Can you help us?

As we prepare for this special event, we invite you to get involved. There are a number of ways to contribute to the Christmas Fair.

- **Donate!** Do you have items you no longer need? We welcome donations of toys, games, books, PC and console games, housewares, sweets, chocolates, and bottles of wine and spirits. Donations will be collected in the College reception... and in the Preparatory school car park between Monday 20th and Friday 24th November at school pick up and drop off times – look out for the car with the signs and boot up!
- **Sponsor or Sell!** Advertise your business! Do you have a business that you'd like to advertise? Donations to our raffle give you a free mention in the Christmas Fair guide and again during the raffle draw. A limited number of stalls are also available to parents for promoting and selling items.
- **Volunteer!** A few hours will go a long way! During the run up to and throughout the event we need your help. If you can spare a few hours, we would be very grateful. We need people to help with sorting donations and decorating the College (Friday 24 November 1.45pm onwards), manning stalls (Sunday 26 November) and tidying up afterwards. For ALL enquiries, please contact chair18@sapa.org.uk <<mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk>>

Keep up with SAPA on:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/StAmbrosePA>

Website - www.sapa.org.uk

start here...

Careers Advice Clinic

All students are invited to drop into see Mrs Woods in the careers room from 1pm every Tuesday. Mrs Woods is available to answer student queries with careers and support with CV writing.

...go anywhere

Saint Ambrose Parents' Association
proudly presents:
The Saint Ambrose Christmas Fair
on
Sunday 26th November 2017
11am—2pm



Second-hand uniform sale

Your next chance to buy second-hand uniform will be:
Monday 13th November
from 6.30pm until 7.00pm
in the College

Sports News

Indoor Athletics Friday 13th October

Our 4th & 5th year athletics team competed in the Greater Manchester Schools' Indoor Athletics competition at Sport City last Friday and performed to a really high standard against the Boroughs' top athletes. The team of Finn Macfarlane, Harry Brioche, Kellan Conaway-Smith, Kevin Jose, Joseph Steele, Tom Gray, Will Holbrook and Oliver Lee returned with 6 medals gaining podium places against over 20 schools. This placed the team 3rd overall which was a great achievement.



The winner of the U16 Long Jump recorded a distance of 6 metres 89cm which is an indoor meet record for that age group.

Swimmers reach National Finals for 1st time

Congratulations to Oliver and Joseph Mortlock, Jack Johnson, Matthew Ho and James Goodwin who have reached the English Schools' Final for the first time in the school's history. The side competed in free and medley relays and qualified to compete on November 18th in the olympic pool in Stratford. The boys will be travelling on Friday evening with Mrs Chandler and Mr Evans. We wish them every success.



Water Polo Success

Ehi Itua and Malachy Byrne were both part of the City of Manchester Squads at Under 15 age group who were awarded the National title last weekend. Ehi represented the A team and Malachy in goal for the B team. Both boys have been regularly involved at the centre through links we have established with our own squad, training with the City's water polo coach.

Cross Country

On Saturday at John Leigh Park, a good turnout was made possible by several rugby players joining the squad in their free weekend. The 1st year team and 2nd and 3rd year combined team were both successful in their races. Daniel Green won the 1st year race with Ben Hooker 4th, Ben Isaacs 7th and Gabriel Kennedy 14th. James Kelly was second in the 2nd and 3rd year race with Tom Amanuel 6th, Joe Isaacs and Felix Blakemore the next two counters to ensure victory.



Rugby

This weekend saw our Seniors back to winning ways in the National Schools' Plate competition against Altrincham Grammar School. In a very tough game, Altrincham established a 13-12 lead just after half time. The team played together and the return from injury of England players Ciaran Booth and Raphael Quirke helped to calm nerves. The side scored a penalty try and a breakout score from Ciaran enabled the team to reach the last 16 of the competition. Special mention must go to the 5th year players who have really stepped up in the absence of older students. John Bailey, Edward Melhuish, Connor Quah and Benjamin Carne all made significant contributions to the victory. In fixtures against St Peters York, a somewhat depleted U16 team lost 0-12 in a closely fought game. The U15's A and B competed at the away fixture and didn't return until 7 pm following two defeats. The 2.30pm kick off time affected team selection but some new faces debuted playing for the B team and are now realising that they can compete at this level of sport. The U14A team lost another close game with the U14B team winning their fixture against a tough opponent. On Wednesday the U14s did have something to celebrate - defeating Wilmslow High School 81-0. The team has been failing to convert chances in recent weeks but this 11 try victory will give the side greater confidence when they return after half term.

Football

Our 2nd XI were the only team in action this week losing a close match against Bury Grammar School 1-2. Fortunately the match was a friendly fixture and the practice will benefit the team. The U16 side played Edmund Arrowsmith in the English Schools' on Thursday afternoon in their first involvement in the national competition.

Hockey

Our U16 hockey team played their first fixture of the year against Wilmslow High School on Thursday at Timperley Hockey Club. The links we have established with Timperley are extended with 2 coaches now taking sessions in 3rd and 5th year games as well as coaching other year groups on Mondays and Fridays.

Sports Committee

The Sports Committee have been raising funds for school sports in many different ways and recent purchases have been made for football and basketball kits as well as hockey goals, table tennis tables and the payment for hockey and badminton coaches. The 200 club has its largest membership now since its inception, new members are always welcome. We now have 3 monthly winners of £250 each as well as two 6 monthly prizes which amounted to nearly £3000 last year. The money raised goes to a variety of sports played, and every boy in the school has an opportunity to benefit from the extra money the funds raised provide. Please return the Direct Debit mandate available on the school's website if you would like to join the club.

N Handy
Director of Sport

Helpful links:

School office: office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk
Pastoral concerns e-mail: Pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk
Twitter: [@StAmbroseColl](https://twitter.com/StAmbroseColl)



Charities update

Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal

Each year, an organisation called The Samaritans Purse encourage schools to pack shoe boxes full of gifts to send to those in other parts of the world who are less fortunate or who won't receive any presents.

We aim to send a minimum of 150 shoeboxes this year. That means that each form needs to aim to complete 4 boxes each.

This initiative will be coordinated by the Edmund Rice international group within school and we encourage all boys to contribute.

Reverse advent calendar

To focus our minds this year the college is operating a 'reverse advent calendar'. This means that for the 25 school days *preceding* Advent each form will donate one item of food, reversing the normal reception of chocolate or similar with the more 'traditional' consumerist advent calendars for December. The 25 school days start on Monday 30th October and finish on Friday 1st December. Forms will also have a weekly prayer and reflection resource in form time to support the initiative and help to remind students of the issues.

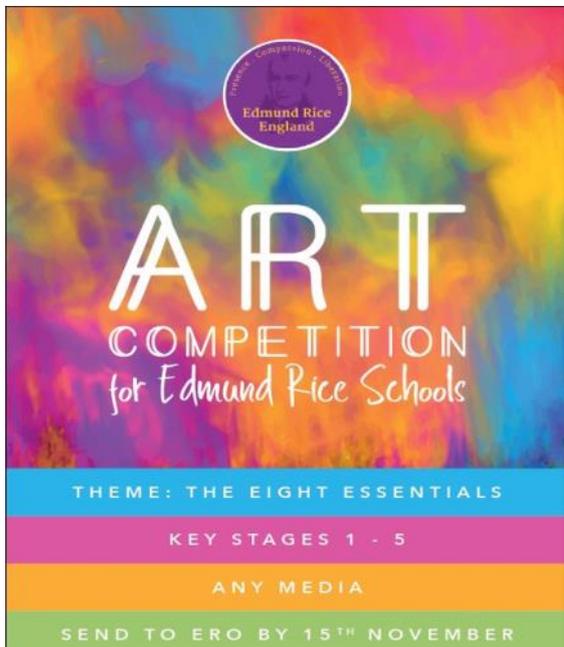
A parentmail has been issued with more information.

Members of the justice and peace society who help at the Fairtrade stall within school.

They sell all things chocolate and try to inform students of the benefits and importance of fair trade.

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



**Thank you
for supporting our
charitable
fundraising events!**