

Saint Ambrose College Newsletter

31st March 2017



Message from the Principal

Easter break is upon us and I wish you all a peaceful and blessed holiday. Thank you to all involved in and all who attended Speech Night, it was a pleasure to reflect in the successes of the individuals that make up the College and I pass on my congratulations to participants and prize winners.

Please can you support your sons over the break to focus on any work set and in the case of those coming towards examination, revision. College is open over the break for revision sessions and these have been booked in advance.

If you have the opportunity over the Easter holiday, please could I ask you to take a moment to complete the Parent view survey for the college.

Year 12 students are on study leave the first week back for their internal examinations and will return to timetabled lessons Wednesday 19th April.

For those of you interested in the current machinations of education policy; see below
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-grading-justine-greenings-letter>

Thanks for all the support you have given to your children, the College and our Lenten charity appeals this term.

"If you want to be happy, do not dwell in the past, do not worry about the future, focus on living fully in the present."

"We must never stop dreaming,

never stop believing,

never give up,

never stop trying, and

never stop learning."

R T Bennett

J. Keulemans

Saint Ambrose Annual Speech Night

We were thrilled to welcome Mr. Rugby Ray French as our special guest speaker on Monday for our annual Speech Night at the Bridgewater Hall.

He addressed 2,000 parents and students and told the young men:

"Enjoy school, enjoy it both in the classroom and out of the classroom. Give your best for the school because as a teacher of some 35 years' experience I can tell you school is giving its best for you."

The veteran BBC commentator and raconteur, now 78, added: "It doesn't matter how good you are at rugby or drama, football or the choir do something with your life; do something for the school. Enjoy yourself and make friends, this is the time you will develop passions that will last a life time."

Although a lifelong St Helens fan, particularly as a boy, Ray played rugby union at Cowley Grammar school, St. Helens, a team we are proud to still play against today, alternating between the two codes as both a professional and an amateur.

He said: "For me it was rugby but that wasn't the only passion I developed at school. It might seem odd to some but as a grizzled old second row I still love my Shakespeare. I go to the theatre as much as possible and read avidly and like my rugby, I might not have developed such a passion without my teachers."

Ray, who is Chairman of Liverpool St. Helens Rugby Union Club, also gave the nod to Owen Farrell to captain the Lions: "He's a very impressive young man, like his father was and although they might think he's too young, for me he's the one."

During the evening prizes were awarded across a range of academic, sporting, cultural and community activities to both present and former pupils with Principal Mr Keulemans, himself a former Dutch international rugby player, saying, "Listening to Ray French is manor from heaven to an old rugby player like me, but Ray can't be categorised. He's a polymath with a fabulous range of skills including being one of sport's most celebrated commentators and the ease with which he captured the audience was a lesson to us all."

S. Carter



Pictured from left to right;

Shane Fox, Chair of Governors Dr. Peter Goodwin, Ray French, Principal Mr Keulemans, Headboy Joseph Ronan and John McDonald

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

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

Dates for the diary

20th April — 1st Year Parents' Evening

27th April — Golf day

2nd May — 4th Year Parents' Evening

13th May — SAPA Ball

Duke of Edinburgh Greek Island Sailing Trip



Duke of Edinburgh Award students are participating a skills test with a difference as 19 sailors fly out to the Greek Islands for a week's sailing in the sun.

Over 300 students are currently enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh programme and this year to make it even more exciting we have recruited four Royal Yachting Association qualified skippers to take four staff and 19 boys on four specially chartered 50 foot yachts for a week's sailing in open waters around the Saronic Gulf.

Mr Leisk, who runs the College's Duke of Edinburgh programme, but has never been sailing himself has completed with the boys a 12 week course on health and safety, navigation, basic sailing skills and rules of the water but expects quite a steep learning curve.

Mr Leisk said, before departing for the week's sailing on 2nd April: "I expect the first couple of days to be quite tough. It's not a holiday and the boys will have to learn on board discipline, team-work and sailing skills quickly but by the end of the week we will be sailing between the islands and enjoying the open water."

Mr Leisk has already completed a reconnaissance trip with all anchorage stops planned and booked in advance as they will stop off at Aegina, Spetses, Hydra and Poros on their once in a life time tour.

Mr Leisk added: "The aim is to qualify the boys for their RYA Day Skipper Licence and give them a skill and passion for sailing to last a life time."

The boats will travel around 50 miles on the open water, with the skippers, staff and boys all sleeping on board.

Mr Leisk and fellow teacher Miss Cockcroft are pictured with our young sailors on a boat they are currently refurbishing at the College.

Mr Leisk added: "Our patron and founder The Duke of Edinburgh wanted to challenge young people in a way normal education cannot reach and I hope he feels this fulfils his mission." S. Carter



If you would like to support Luke to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust, please visit his 'justgiving' page. Your support would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Luke-Stone3>



Sensational Season for under 15s rugby squad

Our high flying St. Ambrose College under-15s rugby squad have won a sensational hat trick of regional titles as they have out-classed all comers in a series of top tournaments on the Northern circuit.

The end of season sevens celebrations are designed specifically to develop all round rugby skills with forwards and back inter-changing in a test of different skills sets and it was our U15's team who dominated three blue ribbon events.

First they won the King's Macclesfield event with 16 teams travelling up to 120 miles to take part. Skipper and muscular centre John Bailey opened the scoring with a powerful burst from the ranks before live wire fly half Josh Durkin broke through for the second, followed by clever Marco Lavorini's trade mark kick and chase from the scrum half berth. They then took apart a host of local sides in the Audenshaw Sevens, beating Wilmslow 21 - 14 in the final courtesy of a strong swerving run from speed merchant Kellan Conway Smith and two tries from the clinical Josh Durkin using both brains and brawn to outwit the defence.

The final win in the Cheshire Sevens was something of a rout as they took apart King's Macclesfield in a one sided final 35 - 5. Powerhouse centre Conor Quah opened the scoring with a timely interception, with Lavorini adding through kick and run ball.

Versatile Benny Crane playing Prop and Wing added the third with a scything run down the flank, before Harry Brioche took a superb pass from Edward Melhuish to score the fourth with captain fantastic Bailey adding the coup de gras with another break through the cover. John Bailey said: "We play hard, we always play fair and we enjoy the game win or lose; team spirit is so important because you build up an understanding which is paramount in sevens rugby." S. Carter



Brotherly Love

Congratulations to Luke Stone who has raised money for Teenage Cancer trust by shaving his head, normally this style of hair cut is not permitted at school but special consideration was granted by Mr Keulemans as Luke not only wanted to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust, but to surprise and support his brother Callum who is currently undergoing cancer treatment in America and due to return home shortly. Luke was encouraged and supported by his House Tutor Miss Winterbottom and all members of his form to collect and raise funds for the cause. V. Winterbottom



Lent Charity Appeals Update



We have had a fabulous response to our Lent Charity appeals this year with some of the activities really inspiring the efforts of the boys. In their Tutor Groups our boys were given a choice of what to do and which Charity to raise funds for. In the end across St Ambrose College, 10 charities were selected and a wide range of activities have been completed. Some of these involved the whole house together, others were for a particular Tutor Group and there were also individual challenges.

The money is still being collected in and counted with just a few activities to be completed in the first week of next term but to date we have raised in excess of £4000.

Ignatius House have continued with their "Pignatious" appeal, each Tutor Group raised funds to purchase pigs for a farm in Africa which then breed piglets to give to families to raise. They may have raised enough to purchase a whole farm.



Inspired by Luke and Callum Stone both Aquinas and Newman Houses raised money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Aquinas held a House Challenge where they all paid to watch a film together and raised over £1000 in the process. Augustine and Newman House Tutors have completed a range of activities within their Tutor Groups raising a similar amount.

All the boys and staff are to be commended for their efforts. As a community we have had Cake Sales, Sporting Challenges (Rowing, Dodge Ball, Triathlon, Table Tennis), Easter Egg Hunts and Raffles, Paper Plane and Fifa Contests, Car Washes and a Sponsored Silence. One 6th form group purchased a Goat and Chicken, and one group had a "Sponsored Mobile Phone Fast" which raised a spectacular £400+ in sponsorship. By far and away the most impressive single action was Luke's Stone's head shave which the boys were able to pay to watch!

Once we have all the donations counted we will give you an update.
S. Alford

Golf-Day: Ashton on Mersey Golf Club

Friday 9th June

£200 per team. Sponsorship options also available

For more information please contact

Mark Graham - markgrhm2@gmail.com

Please join our prayer



A ten year old Altar Server named Jude, in the parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Urmston, is particularly poorly at the moment. At the request of his mother, Helen, and their parish priest, Father David, we started a Novena (nine day prayer) on Wednesday. If any parents would like to join us in this Novena, the prayer is as follows:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee; Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him; and St Bernadette pray for him.

D. Krause

Fundraising for the Sierra Leone Immersion

The 6th form boys kick-started their fundraising for Sierra Leone with a meal at Piccolinos, Hale on Tuesday night. The event was a huge success with attendance of 65 people which included family, friends and teachers. A big thank you to Piccolinos for hosting the event which raised £733.



During Wednesday lunch the 6th form basketball team took on a group of teachers in an enthralling basketball match which saw the teachers snatch a narrow victory winning 18-17. The match was supported by over 200 boys, with a significant support for Mr Lindsay.

£215 was raised for the Sierra Leone immersion Programme

S. McCrory

New Christian Brothers'

Spirituality Website

A new website has just been produced which is an initiative of the Christian Brothers' European Province Spirituality Group and contains a wide range of excellent resources. Thanks especially to Br Fer-gus Reilly who compiled it. The link is below:

PSG @ Edmund Rice – A response to being "Draw by Mystery, Destined for Life."

D. Krause

Sports News

Rugby

As the 2016-2017 Rugby season draws to an end I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the 1st team for a wonderful season. I wish them the very best of luck with any sport they may continue in the future.

I will look forward to welcoming them all back as 'Old Boys'.

N. Handy
Director of Sport

Sevens Rugby

On Wednesday our Under 14 Seven competed in the County Sevens. Despite losing in their group to eventual winners Wirral G.S the side did progress to the Plate knock out stages and went unbeaten winning this tournament for the first time.

On Thursday our Under 13 Seven competed in their County Tournament and similar to our Under 14s won the Plate Championship. This was despite going through the league stages unbeaten. Bridgewater went through in the Main Cup by scoring more tries. This did work in our favour in the final as we too won because of most tries scored in the championship. Congratulations to all involved.

Trafford Rugby League Championships

Our Under 15 side continued their winning ways defeating all other Trafford Schools in the competition. This now promotes them as Trafford champions to play in the Greater Manchester Cup Finals held later in the year.

As the term comes to a close we have now won 9 rugby tournaments entered, an outstanding achievement. Well done to all concerned.

Old Boys football match

The annual fixture was held on our all weather on Wednesday with our current 1st X1 showing their elders the benefits of early nights and regular exercise. It was also very pleasing to see current V1 Formers, Freddie Gent Tom Cassidy and Kenneth Alford officiating. Hopefully their efforts to keep fair play was not lost on the players in this fixture?



N. Handy
Director of Sport



Rugby Twitter
@StAmbroseRugby



Thank you to all parents who have contributed Sainsburys vouchers for Sport. A collection box is available outside the PE reception.

Sports Fixtures/Results
www.schoolssport.comschool?id=332

Cricket fixtures Wednesday 19th April

The Schools 1st X1 Under 14 , 13 and 12 X1s are all involved in their first competitive fixtures starting on the first day back after the Easter break. Please make sure you attend practise on Tuesday 18th April to confirm selection. We are still accepting unwanted helmets, bats, gloves and cricket whites if any parents wish to donate them for use this season. Thank you for your support in this.

There is a six a side football tournament scheduled in the summer term along with Tennis, Athletics and Cricket fixtures. All details can be found on the Schools Sports Website.

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

For St. Ambrose current vacancies please visit <http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1126/info/vacancies/>



Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

2017

May Ball



Saturday May 13th 7.00pm

Drinks Reception - Fine Dining - Live Music and DJ

£45 per person
tables seat 8, 10 or 12 people

For full details and booking, visit sapa.org.uk

GILLAN EDGAR MUSIC
Top Table

Uniform and Sports Kit Donations

Help: Urgent call for unwanted uniform! Do you have any unwanted sports kit in good condition that your son has outgrown? Please drop it off at the College office as soon as you can, and SAPA will sell it to raise funds for the College.

Donation Request

With the Annual May Ball less than 2 months away we are putting out a call for donations for the auction on the night. We're looking for 'premium' items for this auction with a retail value of over £100. In previous years we've auctioned many amazing items including sports memorabilia, weekend holiday cottages, cases of wine and vouchers for business services. If you can offer us something to auction we would be overjoyed with your donation. In return for business donations we will mention your business on the night, in the auction program and list your business on the SAPA website as a 'friend of SAPA' and offer information about your business and a link to your business website. If you can help us please email chair@sapa.org.uk. Thank You!

May Ball - 13th May

It's less than 2 months until this year's event. The May Ball is held in the atrium of the College and this year we have delicious catering from Top Table and entertainment from the amazing Gillan Edgar (please visit <http://www.sapa.org.uk/may-ball-2017/> for full information and a short video of the entertainment). On the website you can also make your booking, or if you prefer, download a booking form and hand in to reception - booking forms are also available separately from reception.

Tables are being snapped up for the May Ball, so please do get your friends together and book your tickets soon! They are £45 per person with tables of 8, 10 and 12 available. The event will run from 7pm until 12.30am and the dress code is black tie.

W. Bonning

SAPA Twitter

[Twitter.com/
StAmbrosePA](https://twitter.com/StAmbrosePA)

SAPA website:
www.sapa.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

- Thank you to all those who came to our last SAPA meeting on the 13th March - some excellent ideas for more events in the SAPA calendar - More on this to come soon - stand by!
- Our next meeting will be on the 24th April at 7pm in the College - please come along and join in!
 - Our full calendar of meetings and events is available to view on our website.

Facebook / Twitter

All SAPA's latest news appears first on our social media channels, so please do follow us on Facebook or twitter to see what we're up to!

Thank You!

Thank you to all the parents, carers, staff and boys who contribute to SAPA on a regular basis. We couldn't do it without you.

SAPA Facebook

[www.facebook.
com/SAPAnews/](https://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/)

We wish you a very Happy Easter!