

Saint Ambrose College



Principal's Weekly Newsletter
Issue 27 / 9.2.17

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents/Guardians

To all the boys I wish you a peaceful half term break. Make sure you use the time wisely and those with upcoming exams set aside time to complete revision.

At this time of lots of media talk about the pressure on school budgets, can I assure parents that as a College we are targeted and effective with the use of our funding and as such are able to maintain our current provision going forward. At all times our first thought in any financial decision is the best interest of our students and this is a principle we are very proud of maintaining.

It is also very important to remember at this key time that we have at our core the belief that the education we deliver develops citizens for whom social justice, concern for others and excellence are their key drivers.

I thank you for your support over the last half term and look forward to the longer, lighter days ahead of us as we move towards spring.

“Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects — because development is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on.”

“If something is true, it is good and beautiful; if it is beautiful; it is good and true; if it is good, it is true and it is beautiful. And together, these elements enable us to grow and help us to love life, even when we are not well, even in the midst of many problems. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life.”

Pope Francis

Notices

General Notices:-

Website: www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Homework Link:-<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1265/info/homework-this-week/>

Speech Night - 27 March 2017 @ 7.00 pm Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Please return ticket seating responses to mrsasullivan@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

SAPA Information

13th May - Summer Ball (information to follow)

Absence Notification/Requests:

Email: attendance@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Tel: 0161 980 2711 (option: 1)

Pastoral concerns email: pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Sport Fixtures/Scores: <http://www.schoolssports.com/School/?id=332>

Twitter: @StAmbroseColl

Rugby Twitter: @StAmbroseRugby

Creative Arts Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Creative-Arts-at-SAC-381192952213268/>

SAPA Twitter: www.twitter.com/StAmbrosePA

SAPA website: <http://www.sapa.org.uk/>

SAPA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/>

Parents' Evenings are between 4.30 pm - 7.00 pm

2nd Year Options Evening: 23/02/2017 (7.00 pm - 8.30 pm)

Information Link: <http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1414/curriculum/2nd-year-options'-evening-2017/>

2nd Year: 28/02/2017

3rd Year: 15/03/2017

1st Year: 20/04/2017

4th Year: 02/05/2017

Dates for your diary

May Ball - 13th May - Full details coming soon!

Next SAPA Meeting

Our next SAPA meeting is on the 20th February at 7pm at the College - please come along and join in!

Keep up with SAPA on:

SAPA Twitter: www.twitter.com/StAmbrosePA

SAPA website: <http://www.sapa.org.uk/>

SAPA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/>



Tomorrow's world is here today St. Ambrose College students discovered when they met MIA, a Miniature Intelligent Android on a robotics roadshow.

The RAF, Royal Navy and BAe Systems demonstration team tour the country inspiring young men and women to take up the STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and there is nothing more appealing than MIA, which has been programmed to mimic human behaviour.

Presenter Matt Oliver said: "MIA is really just a toy but the principles underpinning her computer programming are now being used in a huge range of manufacturing, military and leisure applications, for example keeping an RAF fighter or a Royal Navy vessel balanced in the air or water."

The students got the chance to use MIA's voice activation controls as the robot demonstrated some Tai Chi moves with Matt adding: "Fundamentally all control systems could be voice activated so the change is coming. It is said the pace of technological change doubles every 18 months and we are very much at the heart of a revolution."

The event also saw sections devoted to computer coding and drone technology and had, St. Ambrose Physics Teacher, Dr. Alex Gardener, enthusing about the educational benefits.

"All our boys do computer programming but in a classroom they might not immediately see the practical benefits of developing these mathematical and analytical skills, but when they see MIA and are told the programming they are learning is used in this robot they certainly begin to take notice.

"Britain wants to be involved in high end engineering and design; it is unlikely we will doing too much bulk manufacturing in the future and learning these skills for jobs, which might not even have been invented yet, is essential for their futures."

MIA is pictured with Niall Davies and Elvis Rodrigues both 18 year-old A Level students studying Computer Science, Physics and Mathematics. Elvis said: "I'd love to work in robotics as would many of my generation, " while Niall added: "I've even read recently they are being used in key hole surgery; so the possibilities are endless."

Niall Davis and Elvis Rodrigues are pictured with MIA and roadshow presenters or Niall Davis with MIA



Team of the Week

Sports News Report

N Handy - Director of Sport

Another busy week for College Sports teams as we near Half Term.

College Rugby teams enjoyed six wins out of eight against Queen Ethelburgh's, York. The teams were very impressed with facilities at this newly built school but seemed more impressed with their after match meal.

Our Under 18 Water Polo team finished Fourth in their National Semi Final Group at Bolton School.

Under 16 rugby players Raphael Quirke and Lorenzo Branchia played for Lancashire against their counterparts from Cheshire, losing a very close fought match.

Swimming and Football sides competed against Sandbach School. The swimming team won a very good gala with Junior swimmers very dominant in their events. Sandbach took their revenge on our 1st X1 with a 4-0 victory.

After Half term we should know who we play in the Under 16 and Under 12 Trafford Basketball semi finals and in that first week back we play our Greater Manchester Under 18 football Quarter final against A.G.S. as well as a Trafford Schools fixture against Sale G.S.

Under 12 cricketers will be offered coaching on Wednesdays between 3.35-4.30 as we look to prepare for Summer sports. This takes place in the Sports Hall and boys should wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

We did ask for donations of bats, pads, gloves and whites for cricket players in our Junior age groups. Please forward these to the PE department if your son has grown out of this kit, thank you.

Well done to all involved.

TEAM OF THE WEEK
v Queen Ethelburga's

- 1 Boyle (u12s)
- 2 Hesketh (u14s)
- 3 D Welch (u12s)
- 4 Barnes (u12s)
- 5 O'Neil (u14s)
- 6 Smyth (u12s)
- 7 E Welch (u14s)
- 8 Garforth (u14s)
- 9 P Duffy (u15s)
- 10 Renison (u12s)
- 11 Morgan (u13s)
- 12 Quah (u15s)
- 13 O'Donnell (u14s)
- 14 Backhouse (u15s)
- 15 Atkinson (u12s)

The graphic shows 15 student portraits arranged in a football pitch formation. The top row has three players: Boyle, Hesketh, and D Welch. The second row has two players: Steele and O'Neil. The third row has three players: Smyth, Garforth, and E Welch. The fourth row has one player: P Duffy. The fifth row has two players: Morgan and Renison. The sixth row has three players: Quah, O'Donnell, and Backhouse. The seventh row has two players: Atkinson and Backhouse. The background is a green football pitch with a blue and red striped banner at the top and a school crest on the right.

Bowdon Festival

Congratulations on the Senior choir gaining second place in the Bowdon Youth Festival Senior Choir of the Year competition. The adjudicator praised the choir on their performances of “At Calvary” and John Legends “All of me”

“ This was an accomplished performance by a very promising choir - keep up the fantastic work”

Mr Phillips

<http://www.bowdonfestival.co.uk/>

James Byrne Lower Sixth

James Byrne from Lower Sixth took part in the Piano Solo Open Class 10 at the Bowdon Festival on Saturday and came first in his class for his piece Sonata in C minor ‘ Grande Sonate Pathetique’ – L.V. Beethoven. Amongst the encouraging feedback by Andrew Dean (Adjudicator) was that James ‘showed understanding of the architecture of the music’. Please see below, a photo of James with Professor Eric Bryan who donated the prize in memory of his wife Jean, a talented pianist and teacher.

Well done James



Hale sharp shooter Ben Harper-Stone finished in a stunning fourth place in the National Schools’ 10 metre air pistol championships using a 40-year-old borrowed gun.

The academically gifted St. Ambrose College Sixth Form student was competing against teams from the nation’s top public schools at the blue ribbon event in Cardiff, but confirmed the potential seen in his second place showing in the Northern qualifier weeks earlier.

He has worked extra shifts at the Fox Restaurant in Hale Barns to co fund with his grandparents the purchase of a new compressed air gun as he aims to step up into the national squad.

Ben, 17, who got one A* and eight As and one B in his GCSEs, and wants to read Law at university has other ambitions as well: “I’d love to represent my country and who knows perhaps the 2020 Olympic Games.” He started learning the sport at 1st Timperley scouts and said: “I can’t thank them enough. I’m an Explorer Scout now and you simply get to do the sort of things you never dreamed possible in the Scouts and it was them who introduced me to the sport.”

He then developed his expertise at the Altrincham Target Sports Centre under county coach Ian Jones and added: “I go down as often as possible to practise, at least two times each week, and again can’t thank them enough for all their support and lending me my gun.”

“However,” he added, “the compressed air gun shoots faster and straighter and should improve my performance hopefully onto another level again.”

Ben scored 172 out of 200 and says the secret is “knowing when to shoot and when not to shoot, often it’s about not pulling the trigger.”

He added: “It’s all about practice, practice and more practice and developing mental and physical control. You need some muscle but not too much as it can weigh you down but you do need to be developed in the right places. However above it’s all about practice and discipline.”

Ben also plays rugby for the St. Ambrose College’s 1st and 2nd XV’s in Hale Barns and Sale RUFC either at Second Row or Prop and is a talented rower with Trafford Rowing Club on the Bridgewater Canal. St. Ambrose College Director Sport Nigel Handy said: “Ben is a cracking lad; hard-working talented and out to make the most of every opportunity.”



Global Vision for Edmund Rice Network

The Edmund Rice Foundation's New Director of Schools for England former Headteacher Roisin Maguire wants to help inspire a global movement 'to give the voiceless their voice.' Roisin retired as Headteacher of the flagship Catholic secondary school St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent at Christmas but has immediately been appointed in a new role overseeing the ethical mission of the 12 Edmund Rice schools nationwide.

Speaking from the Edmund Rice House Woodeaves in Hale Barns, adjacent to another of their schools St. Ambrose College, Roisin said: "At the heart of the Edmund Rice mission is a desire to reach out to the marginalised, to promote social awareness in our young people so they can have the authority and confidence to make the necessary changes in the world." Ms Maguire added: "With the recent political changes across the world I feel it is more incumbent than ever on the individual to help the less fortunate because it now appears some governments no longer see it as a priority or, what is worse, even their duty." Ms Maguire said: "Edmund Rice schools have a wonderful record of helping the marginalised not just in Britain and Ireland, but across the globe and I want us to be part of an international movement covering the many thousands of pupils in some 200 schools worldwide."

As a Headteacher Roisin played a lead role in coordinating the English network of Edmund Rice schools to inspire their pupils through their actions outside the classroom on a local, national and international basis. St. Joseph's like St. Ambrose and many others up and down the country have assisted refugees primarily from the Middle East but also other developing world countries to integrate, have encouraged their pupils to volunteer across their own communities in local charity shops, hospitals and places of worship and have helped to establish and support stronger educational centres in Sierra Leone and Kolkatta, in the face of extreme poverty and political negligence. She said: "We want to develop global citizens who are not content to sit back on their success in the First World but want to be advocates for those who are less fortunate, who want to reach out and help those struggling in the Developing World."

Her first mission is to continue inspire the Edmund Rice teachers in England and St. Ambrose is to hold a special one day conference with all the teachers from the national network invited to learn more about what is already being done and what more could be done. She also wants to continue the work of the Edmund Rice 'Education Beyond Boundaries' movement which saw many hundreds of delegates meet in South Africa last year to discuss a world wide plan. She is pictured with St. Ambrose College Sixth Form students Aldon Braganca and Daniel Kovcuniak who are both active members in the Edmund Rice International Society and have met and talked to many displaced Syrian families about their needs and St. Ambrose Headteacher James Keulemans, who said: "One of the great values of being a part of the Edmund Rice group of schools is that we share wonderful values and crucially have a support system which upholds the ground breaking vision and methods that the blessed Edmund Rice inspired in his schools in the early 19th Century in Ireland."



Photography

From the doom laden storm clouds of Mississippi to a shabby rail terminus in central Manchester St. Ambrose College photographers have represented the world around them with all its beauty and banality in their most popular photography competition ever. With Photography becoming an ever more popular choice at GCSE and with photographic options now incorporated into some A Level courses what was often seen as a Cinderella option is now viewed as a gateway qualification for Britain's world class creative sector.

This year the St. Ambrose College competition attracted a stunning 400 entries from pupils, staff and even some parents, though those among the parental ranks who happen to be professional photographers were disqualified. The overall winner was Joseph Wall, 14, from Sale who took a picture of the front wheel of his push bike on the M60 bridge at junction 8 near Sale Water Park. Joseph, who wants to be a filmmaker and whose father works for top international news agency Reuters as a photographer, said: "I have been taking pictures since, well I can remember. This was an abstract; an enigmatic shot with a low aperture on a Canon 20D to keep the wheel in focus but the background receding into the distance."

John Mosuela, 18, from Wythenshawe won the upper school category for his black and white shot of Oxford Road railway station with his legs visible while hanging over the ledge. He said: "I take pictures on my phone all the time and just wanted to capture the urban reality of a decaying city scene that for all the modern world's new technology probably hasn't changed much in 50 years."

Joseph Noble, 14, from Hale won the lower school, category with his seascape of a North Wales beach near Aber-soch, taken on a disappointing summer's day. He said: "I'd certainly like to think it was Turner-esque. I just hope I have captured something of the mood of the day and majesty of the mix of land and sea."

Sue Whittle, a Languages and English teacher at the Hale Barns Catholic grammar school, captured the storm clouds looming over a giant metal bridge in Mississippi. She said: "I have been caught in a storm in the Southern states before and wanted to catch what was to come and I can tell you, come it did with vengeance."

Simon Roderick, St. Ambrose College Head of Art, said: "These are an exceptional set of photographs that would stand up in a professional gallery. We have more and more entries every year and the top 100 have been selected for a special catalogue."

Pictured from left to right are John Mosuela, Joseph Wall and Jamie Noble with Sue Whittle in the background.

