

Saint Ambrose College



Principal's Weekly Newsletter
Issue 28 / 24.2.17

Message from the Principal



Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you all survived weather bomb Doris this week without too much impact.

Currently we are having a focus on punctuality in all aspects of the College day and I am aware this had an adverse effect on some yesterday, please lend your support to us by encouraging your children to be punctual to College and prompt when moving around the building.

It seems a very short time ago that we were in the grip of preparations for Christmas and suddenly the days are getting longer and Lent is almost with us.

Next week we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday in the afternoon and all students will take part.

During this term Speech Night takes place on the 27th of March and can I take this opportunity to invite you all along to celebrate with us, the successes of the College year.

For those who attended Options Evening this week and will be attending Year 8 Parents' Evening next week, please may I remind you and the boys of the need to return the choices to College before the 10th of March using the reply form on the Curriculum Section of the College website.

*'If I were to look back at my career, I think my greatest achievement is very simple.
I've been able to make choices where I could glorify God.'*

Roma Downey



Notices

General Notices:-

Website: www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

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

Edmund Rice International Newsletter February 2017:-

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1419/curriculum/edmund-rice-international/edmund-rice-int-newsletter/>

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.schoolsports.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/>

2nd Year Options - Please complete choices by 10 March 2017. Thank you.

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

Parents' Evenings are between 4.30 pm - 7.00 pm

2nd Year: 28/02/2017

3rd Year: 15/03/2017

1st Year: 20/04/2017

4th Year: 02/05/2017

Dates for your diary - 2017 SAPA Ball - 13 May - Tickets on Sale soon

The SAPA May Ball plans are coming together and tickets will be available to purchase in the next few weeks. If you haven't already, please reserve the date for what will be a fantastic event. Full details to follow shortly.

Next SAPA Meeting - Our next SAPA meeting is on the 13 March 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/>

Fashion Show Update - Thank you to all those who attended our fashion show on the 3rd February. With over 100 in attendance, a fantastic night was had by all with lots of bargains on offer as well as some well received refreshments. We managed to raise over £1,300 for the Parents' Association. Thank you to Elaine and her team for putting on a great evening and adding to the SAPA coffers!

We hope you enjoyed the evening and come again next year.



Fund allocation

This week SAPA distributed funds to the College. David Godsmark, SAPA Treasurer handed over a cheque for £4,000-00 to Mr Keulemans. (Pictured Below) A sizeable amount of the funds have already been allocated to projects and facilities for the boys. Further details of what the money is spent on will be announced soon.



Father Tony McGrath - Old Boy

Father Tony McGrath told boys at his old school about his own special journey into the priesthood when he returned to St. Ambrose College. Born and brought up in Sale, Father Tony was at the Catholic grammar school in Hale Barns from 1987 to 1994. A first team rugby player and cricketer he enjoyed history and geography and went on to Sheffield university, enjoying life to the full but always seeking greater purpose:

“I’ve always had that gift of believing in God. I couldn’t believe that the universe was simply a cosmic accident. The universe had to come from somewhere, from something, or from someone. Science to me uncovered the beauty of God’s creation. The big bang was the idea of a Belgium Catholic priest George Lemaitre who wanted to know more about God’s creation; it had a starting point. I believed that life must have a point and a purpose.”

After university he worked for Manchester Airport's second runway conservation project relocating frogs, toads and newts from the ponds around the Bollin woods. Then there was another year living and working in Canada after which he returned to Manchester to work for IBM, but he knew this was not his calling: “Back in Manchester working for IBM, a friend invited me on a youth retreat and eventually I thought why not, it might be okay a chance to meet some new people and have some fun. Fr Tony says:-

“I went to Walsingham for a youth retreat. Walsingham is a beautiful little village in East Anglia and a place of pilgrimage for Catholics. In many ways this retreat was the beginning of some big changes in my life.”

He thought, he read, he volunteered for the Church and in 2005 he made a life changing decision to to apply to seminary spending seven years at the English College in Rome before being ordained priest in 2014. “I am very lucky to have had that opportunity to live in Rome walking past the coliseum each day, often going to St Peter’s,” he recalled.

Of his life now he said: “Celebrating the Sacraments are key to the life of a priest. I spend time with people at the happiest and saddest times of their lives. My days are taking up with baptism of their babies, funerals, weddings, schools, hospitals, prisons, retreats and pilgrimages to Lourdes.”

He added: “You have to be a man, a strong man to take up this challenge. It is not for everyone. Most of you will enjoy the blessing of marriage and bringing up a family, but what ever you do you have a role. To live as a Christian today is a challenge. It means to embrace what is good in our society and culture, but to challenge it where it strays and goes wrong. Today there are many ways in which our culture needs purifying, from how we work for peace, to inequality to how we protect the most vulnerable members of our society such as the unborn and elderly.”

Father Tony is now the Assistant Priest at St. Christopher's in Romiley and next year will take up a role at Shrewsbury cathedral. His talk impressed the young men at St. Ambrose. Callum Newman said: “He certainly made me feel proud to be Catholic and more determined to make a positive contribution to society.”

St. Ambrose College Senior Teacher, Mr Krause said: “We were delighted to welcome Father Tony back to his old school and learn about his life leading up to his calling and the decisions he felt he had to make. Whatever path our boys choose in the future, we hope they will show the same conviction and grace.”

Pictured from left to right are: Father Tony McGrath, John Bailey, Callum Newman, Kelechi Nwaiwu and Mr Krause.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Any boys interested in designing one of the 14 'Stations of the Cross' that we are going to be making in the D&T department this Lent should see Mr Krause.



On Thursday morning our chaplain Father Martin Onuhoa offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honour of St Polycarp whose feast day fell on the Thursday.

A total of 46 teachers and pupils joined Father Martin in our chapel; Joshua Jorritsma once again served the altar perfectly and Mr David's form read beautifully.

In his homily at the Mass, Father Martin spoke about the life of St Polycarp and challenged the boys to not feel awkward about attending Sunday Mass and giving witness to the faith.

Father Martin also mentioned his plan for a 'Day of Eucharistic Adoration' during Lent where each boy in the school will have the opportunity to attend Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel.

Thank you, Father Martin.



Arts Day Success!

Arts Day 2017 on Wednesday 8th February was an ambitious and exciting day of live performances, guest speakers and taster sessions.

The programme of events aimed to explore the careers available within the creative industry. The day was punctuated with short videos and talks on the variety of options available, plus details on past pupils and their achievement in the creative arts.



This year, the day began with a focus on music with talks and performances from guest speakers Andy Dallimore - professional trumpet player who has toured the world with productions such as Les Miserable and professional orchestras such as the BBC Philharmonic- and Ben P Williams (pictured) – guitarist and singer-songwriter that wowed the students with songs from his latest album.



In addition, 5th year pupils Matthew Bancroft and Marcus Doohan performed live and talked about life as musicians and how they made their recent music video. Plus actors from Ares Productions John Tueart ('Old Boy') and Harry Burke performed a hilarious tale of love and conflict.

In the middle of the day, second year students who have shown an interest in studying the Creative Arts at GCSE experienced taster sessions; drumming in Music, devising in Drama and a guest session with artist Gideon Conn (pictured) in Art.

The day culminated with a performance about Hitler's rise to power by Top Box Productions and finally, guest speakers Amanda Williams – novelist and writer for the BBC, plus 'Old Boy' George David Leigh – set, costume and lighting designer currently working for Opera North in Leeds.

The feedback from students has been fantastic; they clearly felt the day was not only useful and worthwhile, but inspiring and engaging. Thank you to all our guests involved in the day.



Lord of the Flies production, Manchester by Dominic Cooper, Portrait of Gemma by Tim Scopes, musician Rory Wynn, and The Trial by Jonah Rzeskiewicz

Sports News

A quiet week for Sports teams with only our Under 16 basketball team in action. The side unfortunately lost their Semi Final of the Trafford basketball Cup but have the satisfaction of knowing over half the team will be eligible to play in next years competition.

The Training at lunchtime has started to move towards summer sports with Indoor cricket now available in 3 lunchtimes for all squads and Wednesday evening after School for 1st year players. Rugby teams are focusing on Sevens with many tournaments coming up starting on Wednesday 1st March with Under 18 and 15 sevens at Ampleforth, Under 18 Bs at Birkenhead and Under 12s at Audenshaw on Thursday and Manchester G.S on Saturday 4th March for two tournaments. On the same Saturday we have 5 age group teams playing their penultimate 15-a-side game of the season.

1000km charity bike ride in memory of old boy Mike Smythe

On 4th March a team of fundraisers, including former pupils Matt Smythe and Kieran Tames are setting out on a 1000km cycle challenge in memory of Mike Smythe, Matt's dad, and himself an old Ambrosian.

Mike sadly died in 2015 from prostate cancer.

The ride is inspired by Mike's rugby career and will take in the school and all of his clubs - Broughton Park and Sale in Manchester, Richmond in south west London, and finally Poitiers, France. The aim is to finish on the 11th in time for Poitier's fixture that weekend. This will involve the team covering up to 140km (85miles) per day.

You can read more about the ride and make a donation at their website:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/ptp1000

And follow their progress on social media:

Facebook @ptp1000

Twitter @pedal1000

Players involved in rugby fixtures on Saturday 4th March will be invited to wave the cyclists off from the College Car Park at 9.15 a.m.

Sainsburys Vouchers for Sport.

Thank you to parents who have already contributed vouchers. A box is available for collection of the Sports Vouchers outside the PE reception.

N Handy

Director of Sport