

Saint Ambrose College



Principal's Weekly Newsletter
Issue 29 / 3.3.17

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents

As we begin the Lenten season, it is important to look at what we can change in ourselves and our lives. It may be that the change that we choose just impacts ourselves or indeed that it has a wider reach and affects those around us. As Goethe says 'Everything is hard before it is easy'. So it is with change and it is our commitment to change that brings the fruits of success and can act like the ripples on a pond as the example we give can spread out from us.

Lent is a good time to commit to making improvements and focus on the tasks ahead, particularly as the exam season is less than 10 school weeks ahead of us.

*'As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe'
Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart.
What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor.
He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.'*

St Teresa of Calcutta



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/>

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

3rd Year: 15/03/2017

1st Year: 20/04/2017

4th Year: 02/05/2017

Dates for your diary - 2017 SAPA Ball - 13 May 2017

Tickets on Sale next week and further information to follow.

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/>



A message for any interested parents of St Ambrose College boys from Mrs Lochery at the Edmund Rice Office at Woodeaves:-

The next Edmund Rice Network Gathering Day will be Saturday 25th March - 10.00 am until 4.00 pm at Woodeaves, Hale Barns.

It will be presented by Br. Eamonn O'Brien from Liverpool. Eamonn is a very popular presenter and has visited over a number of years and has a good following of Edmund Rice Network members in England. The subject this time will be 'Be the Change'. Eamonn writes,

"Too often we talk about making changes, yet nothing seems to happen. We make resolutions for better health, greater abundance and more intimate, deeper relationships. And still nothing seems to happen. We seem unable to turn our resolutions and intentions into reality. During this time together we will seek to understand why we fail to be the very change we seek and desire. We will look at the tools we have, and other tools we will learn today, to create a practice that will help us initiate and establish the change we so desire".

Please come and bring a friend, I can guarantee you will not be disappointed but will go home refreshed and uplifted with more energy than when you arrived. Drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Any questions about the day can be directed to Shelagh Lochery at ero.cfc@virgin.net



The St Ambrose College History Society

The History Society continues to meet on a Thursday Lunchtime at 1pm in Room 2403.

The Russian Revolution, the Wild West, a History of the Philippines, Counter Terrorism and Scientology have been the topics covered so far this term.

The History Society is an opportunity not only for you to develop your knowledge, enthusiasm and understanding of History but an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as analysing and presenting an argument, debating, and presentation skills.

Everyone is very welcome from every year group. Please come along and find out. It is worth noting that next week, March 8th is International Women's Day. In 1917, the women of St Petersburg demonstrated on the streets of that city due to shortages of bread during World War One. The demonstration had consequences which resulted in the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and the establishment of a Communist Government led by Vladimir Lenin.

March 2017: The centenary of the abdication of Nicholas II

Mrs Scott
Head of Humanities



Politics Trip February 2017

Regardless of whether you particularly care about politics or not, it is still a fascinating experience to visit the hub of power which controls the UK – otherwise known as the Houses of Parliament – which is exactly what our lower sixth politics class did on the 8th February.

After an early start, train, tube and airport-like security at the premises, we proceeded into the houses and received a guided tour of the area, which included entering the chamber of the House of Lords. This gave great insight into a place which has decided the course of our country's future for centuries as well as the grand scale of the place's interior.

Later, the arguable highlight of the trip was a question and answer session with no other than Altrincham's own Member of Parliament, Graham Brady. Brady expressed opinions on a variety of issues, ranging from John Bercow's comments on Donald Trump to how to become a politician. This rare opportunity enabled us to consider potentially different points of view to our own and converse with a man of significant political influence.

Then, we viewed some of the debate in the House of Commons chamber itself over the Brexit bill, which featured Green Party co-leader Caroline Lucas and legendary Labour MP Dennis Skinner, giving us a window into what the MPs, who we the people elect, are doing in Westminster and how they behave during intense arguments.

The trip made us aware of numerous things. First, the relentless schedule of MPs, who move from meetings to debates and so on without respite. Second, how unusual it feels to be surrounded by people with huge power as you traverse the place, and, finally, whether each of us truly has a passion for politics itself.

Mr Lindsay (Politics/History)



Teachers set the example on the World Book Day at St. Ambrose College as they told boys about their current literary loves.

Head of English Maxine Hill said: "Reading stimulates the imagination and creativity, developing empathy and improving writing skills and it's also great fun. Sometimes we forget that World Book Day is about getting people excited about reading, creating a buzz. At St Ambrose we've been giving 'extreme reading' a go. Staff and pupils have been taking pictures of themselves reading in some unusual places: the gym, the all-weather pitch and even the swimming pool. It's got us all talking about what we're reading at the moment and given us some great ideas about what to read next."

Pictured with Maxine on the left are science teachers Amy Brogan, Paul Allen and Victoria Winterbottom, with their favourite linguistic night time treats.

Victoria said: "Because we are scientists doesn't mean we don't enjoy the written word; a love of the literature is essential for all subjects not just the arts and humanities and it's important our science students appreciate that just as much as those studying English."

Mrs Hill Head of English



Hale airline pilot Matt Smythe is embarking on a 1000km cycle ride in memory of his rugby loving father Mike who died from prostate cancer 18 months ago.

Both father and son are former Sr. Ambrose College rugby players and the Catholic grammar school in Hale Barns was one of the stop off points before the main drag down to Richmond and then Poitiers in centre west of France, where the combative three quarter was a hugely popular character and player.

The journey started at Broughton Park, where he played in his youth and then took in Sale where he was a regular in the Seventies after his French adventure.

Son Matt, 34, who has three friends cycling alongside with a support team of three further enthusiasts travelling behind, is aiming to raise as much money as possible for Prostate Cancer and Macmillan Nurses but as importantly raise awareness of the disease and the need for prompt and professional assessment and diagnosis.

Matt said: "My dad wanted to live and had gone to seek medical advice, but was only given the rectal digital examination, without a blood test. Initially he was told the pain in his back was a slipped disc but it was only when he went to Trafford General for an X Ray that they discovered his cancer had spread. 71-years-old was far too young for a man with such a zest for life."

Matt said: "I feel men should demand the same level of attention as women. Women have regular screenings for breast and cervical cancer but men have to ask for help and then it seems, certainly in the case of my father, that the service is not as comprehensive as it might be."

"I want to raise money for dad and I want to see the places that he enjoyed so much in his life, especially Poitiers where from all accounts he was something of a celebrity, but I also want to make men aware of the need for regular testing and the medical profession realise that men deserve a full service too."

Both Mike in the sixties and then Matt in the nineties represented St. Ambrose with distinction on the rugby field with Matt saying: "This is where I made my life long friends and how most of us ended up playing together for Ashton on Mersey Rugby Club and I know dad loved the school too."

St. Ambrose College Director of Sport Nigel Handy said: "I coached Matt but Mike was before my time, but if he had anything of Matt's drive and ambition he would have been a very good player. Everyone at the College fully endorses his campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer which remains one of society's taboo subjects, but quiet killers."

To contribute the website is www.virginmoneygiving.com/ptp1000. They are also on social media Facebook @ptp1000 and Twitter @pedal1000.

The team are planning to complete the trip in just seven days, cycling around 100 miles per day.

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.



Ash Wednesday Service

Just as Pope Francis bowed his own forehead to receive a dab of ashes in Rome, the boys and staff of St Ambrose College received their own ashes, during a moving Ash Wednesday service led by our chaplain Father Martin Onuhoa.

Ash Wednesday begins the Catholic Church's annual Lenten period of reflection in preparation for Easter – the daubing of ashes on the foreheads of the faithful is meant as a reminder of our mortality. The ashes were the burnt remains of palms from Palm Sunday last year and were reverentially mixed with Holy Water at dinnertime by 4th Year boys Kelechi Nwaiwu, Rory Fagan-McNulty and Oliver Higson. Father Martin was assisted in the dispensation of the ashes during the service by a group of Extraordinary Ministers made up of both staff and Sixth Form boys.

In his homily at the service Father Martin encouraged boys and staff to rise to the three main challenges of Lent: Prayer, Almsgiving and Fasting. This was the fourth of five Ash Wednesday services that Father Martin was conducting in the parish that day and on top of the weekly morning Mass that he offered in school this week, assisted by Miss McPartland and her form. We are very grateful for Father Martin's tireless service to us and the local Catholic community.

**Lent 2017 begins on
Wednesday, March 1**

**and ends on
Thursday, April 13**

