

Saint Ambrose College



Principal's Weekly Newsletter
Issue 30 / 13.3.17

Message from the Principal



Dear Parents

As we move towards Easter it's great to enjoy the longer days and the sounds of birds singing in the mornings. We have even been blessed with sunshine on a number of occasions.

Father Martin has been in College on Thursday mornings for Mass and confession has been offered during period 1 to those who wish. Can I ask you to encourage your children to attend Mass on Thursday during form time as it is open to all and we look forward to filling the Chapel to the rafters!

J M Keulemans
Principal

'Confession is something we will never outgrow, even if we become the Saints God made us to be.'

'Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa of Calcutta were revered even during their lifetime; but both made frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.'

Donald Wuerl



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 to be distributed via House Tutors in due course.

Careers Convention: 21 March 2017 Years 8 - 11 at the College 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

SAPA Information

13th May - Summer Ball - TICKETS NOW ON SALE

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1131/associations/st-ambrose-parents'-assoc/>

Easter Revision Sessions (5th Year and Sixth Form)

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1422/curriculum/easter-revision-2017/>

Vacancies: Vice Principal and P/T School Secretary

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1126/info/vacancies/>

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

3rd Year: 15/03/2017

1st Year: 20/04/2017

4th Year: 02/05/2017

SAPA Information

13th May - Summer Ball - TICKETS NOW ON SALE

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1131/associations/st-ambrose-parents'-assoc/>

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/>



Note for any 3rd year or older student who live in the following parishes:

- St Chad's, Cheadle ,
- Christ Church Heald Green
- St Anne's Cheadle Hulme

If you wish to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please speak to Mr Roche as soon as possible. Thank you.



The last fortnight has seen many successes for College teams.

In Sevens the College Senior Seven won the Ampleforth Plate defeating Austin Friars in a very close final. Victories against hosts Ampleforth and Bradford G.S in the knockout stages helped prepare the side for the County Under 18 Sevens.

Once again we hosted this tournament attended by 16 of Cheshires strongest schools and the 1st V11 won their group in convincing fashion. They just ran out of steam in the semi- final against eventual winners Stockport G.S who scored with the last play of the game, to win 19-14. At Under 16 the side entered a very strong Rydal Penrhos tournament at the weekend and despite losing an earlier group match went on to stay unbeaten, winning a Plate Final against a local North Wales club side. Victory over Stonyhurst in the semi- final provided the confidence needed and despite being without 3 key players a great team performance was achieved. At the Audenshaw Sevens the Under 12 side lost in their group matches to Stockport who went on to win the trophy. Despite lacking the physical presence of many of their opponents, the team arguably produced the best display of sevens in the whole competition. This was certainly the case for our Under 15 side who won their tournament comfortably. Victories against St Mary's , West Hill and Audenshaw set up a semi final against Manchester G.S and an even bigger margin saw victory in a final against Wilmslow H.S. The side will be looking to avenge their defeat in the final of the Ampleforth Sevens by Sedbergh when the teams compete in the Kings Macclesfield Myles Marshall tournament this Saturday.

Our penultimate 15 a side rugby match saw a clean sweep of wins against Bolton School and this Saturday's last fixture against Newcastle Under Lyme will give sides the opportunity to match last year's 70 per cent win ratio at all age groups.



Basketball

In the final basketball fixtures our Under 12 side booked their place in the final with victory over Ashton on Mersey. The team will play Sale G.S on Tuesday 21st March hoping to be crowned Trafford Champions.

Swimming

On the same day our swimming and water polo teams will be representing Trafford in the Greater Manchester Schools Games held at the Aquatic Centre, Manchester.

College under 15's recently finished third in the National Championships held at Northampton Boys G.S.

Our last 2 swimming galas of the year ended in comfortable victories over Audenshaw and Cheadle Hulme School.

This has been achieved through the dedication and efforts of Mrs Chandler who continues to get the very best out of a large number of players and swimmers.

This has been evident with the number of 2nd year boys now completing distance awards when at entry to the College they had not learnt to swim.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Felix Blakemore on his selection alongside Jack Wilkinson for the Greater Manchester team in the All England Cross Country Final

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

The photograph shows former student Matthew Smythe being waved off as he prepared for a gruelling bike ride down to France in aid of Prostate Cancer - see press release attached.

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

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 central west 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 Cancer Support 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 MRI 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 and had already raised nearly £5,000 before departure.



Team Mathematics Challenge

On Monday 6th March at Manchester University, the boys faced some gruelling competition from state, grammar and private sector schools from all over the region and finished 3rd out of 28 teams. Congratulations to the boys involved:-

The boys are:

- Laurence Leigh
- Michael Itua
- Ehi Itua
- Thomas McFarlane



Happy 100th Birthday!

Benjamin Renison Year 1 NEWM would like to share with us the celebration of his Great Grandfather's Birthday.

Here are a few facts about Ben's grandfather:-

Richard Walter (Dick) Crittenden.

Dick was born in Liverpool on 29th December 1916.

His Father and Mother had come to Liverpool from Hastings, where they were both born and married, in 1912 as his father had gained a job as a Dental Mechanic (making false teeth) to Richard Edwards who was a dentist who became the first Dean of the Liverpool Dental School. His Father also eventually qualified as a dentist.

He had a happy childhood and at aged 12 he went to The Liverpool Institute School (now The Liverpool School of Performing Arts) where he was successful.

He joined the CCF and was affiliated to the Kings Regiment which means he has been associated with them for over 88 years, surely a record.

He left school at 19 to join Lewis's Store in Liverpool and worked there all his working life gaining the rank of Group Sales Manager and eventually retiring in 1980.

In 1939 he was called up for war service and after training became an officer in 1940.

He served all his war service in England due to injuries received in an accident whilst training.

He became involved in Officer selection and Training and organising Home Guard Groups.

He took part in moving gold bullion from Liverpool to London which became the subject of the film 'The Bullion Boys' a few years ago.

When he retired his rank was Captain.

After retirement he and his wife Adeline moved to Southport where he still lives as a widower now in a Care Home.

He is still able to remember virtually all the facts of his life and looks forward to playing chess and scrabble as often as possible.

He has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren.

He hopes to become the oldest man alive.

Happy Birthday Mr Crittenden
from Ben, Family, Friends &
St Ambrose College



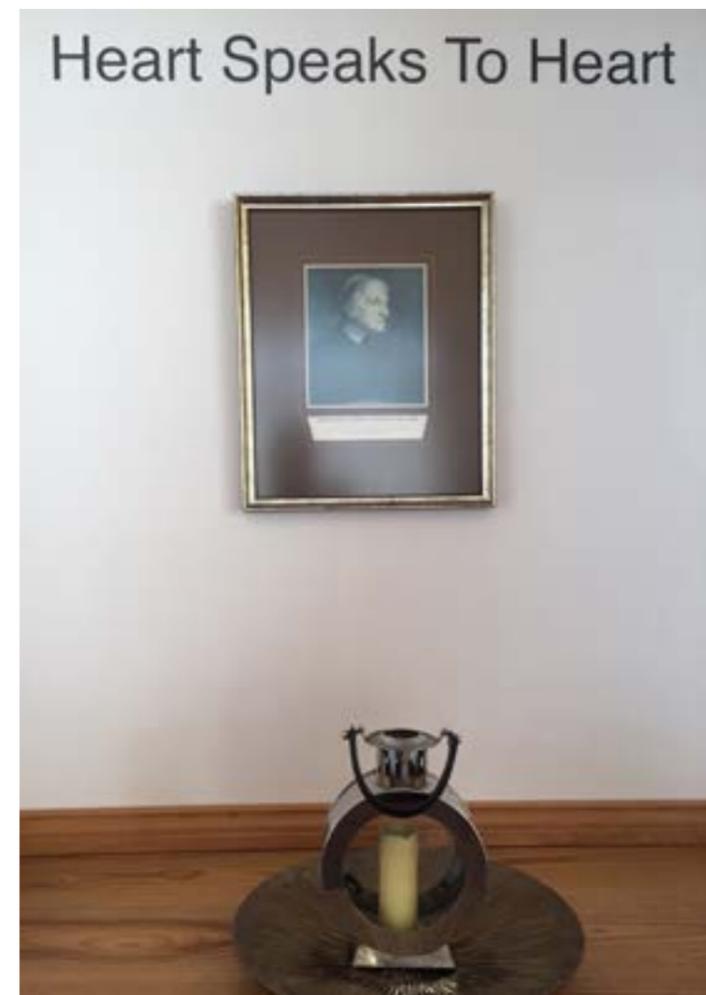
Visit to Blessed John Henry Newsman Catholic Church

Newman House Prefects' Visit to Blessed John Henry Newman Catholic Church

Last week a number of Newman House Prefects kindly gave of their valuable free time to visit the only church in the world named after their House's patron, Blessed John Henry Newman. Conveniently this church is located in Warrington and is under the pastoral care of Father Montgomery who kindly gave the Newman Prefects a tour of the church and explanation of its design.

The church was opened in 2010 following the Beatification of John Henry Newman by Pope Benedict XVI at Cofton Park, Birmingham; it occupies prominent position on Knutsford Road and has a number of striking architectural features. The Newman Prefects also were lucky enough to be able to venerate a First Class Relic of Blessed John Henry Newman and prayed for his intercession on behalf of all of Newman House. Newman Prefect Tom Reid described the trip as "great and enlightening" and Newman Usher Jack Waywell was particularly struck with Father Montgomery's story about the origins of the stone used to make the Baptismal Font. A monk once reported proudly to an admiring visitor to the Abbey of Fecamp in Normandy that "it prays of itself" - it would be accurate to say that the same feeling struck the Newman House Prefects upon arrival at Blessed John Henry Newman RC Church.

By Joseph Ronan - Head Boy



CAFOD Family Fast Day

As part of our Lenten Journey, one day is devoted to praying for and giving to the needs of others in the developing world. Every year CAFOD asks us to convert something we give up into a donation to help the poor. Today our Canteen Manager Mrs Allen served up a bowl of soup and a piece of bread to boys and staff who had paid £1, in place of their usual lunch. Given the quality of the Fish and Chips on offer at St Ambrose College on a Friday selling the tickets for the Family Fast Day is always quite difficult but in the end a good many members of staff and boys went for the CAFOD Family Fast Day meal. The profits made will be donated via CAFOD to the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who are building fish farms in Zambia and teaching people to build the necessary ponds and care for the growing fishes.

To promote the Family Fast Day, CAFOD used the example of a lady called Florence living in Northern Zambia. When her husband died in a mining accident, she struggled to make a living. Thanks to donations to CAFOD she is able to farm fish; the fish Florence started with were the size of a thumb. With her hard work, commitment and dedication, they grew to the size of a dinner plate. "I'm determined to do this", says Florence. "When I came back from the training, I wanted to help my neighbours as they had helped me in the past. I thought if they were empowered, they would benefit too". Florence sold the fish and bought clothes and school books - a future for her children. From just a tiny start, she accomplished big things. "I can send my children to school now and I can feed my family. I urge you please continue supporting me."

This video explains the cause in more detail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAsa9StVQ0I>



Creative Arts Trip to London

Second and third year students interested in studying Art, Music or Drama at GCSE, enjoyed a fantastic day to London on Thursday 9th March.

Students explored the Tate Modern in the morning, after a stroll along the Thames to see Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre.

After a riverside lunch in the sunshine students enjoyed the electric performance of 'School of Rock' at the New London Theatre in the West End.

We were even treated to a guest appearance by the musical's creator, Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, who was watching the show only a few seats in front of us.

Despite the travel time, the day was well-worth it and a great time had by all. Thanks to all staff involved.

Follow the Creative Arts Facebook page for more details: <https://m.facebook.com/Creative-Arts-at-SAC-381192952213268/>



ERI Youth Ambassadors' Geneva Visit

7th - 9th March 2017

It was an early start on Tuesday for myself and Max – the 7am departure meant that we had to be at Liverpool Airport for a rather alarming 5am where we met the other English schools' equally bleared eyed ERI Youth Ambassadors. After enjoying a light breakfast at the airport we boarded the plane to Geneva and after a surprisingly pleasant flight met the Irish school's ERI Youth Ambassadors at the arrivals gate.

We then all travelled into Geneva city by high-speed train, heading straight for the impressive Edmund Rice International offices where we met Brother Brian Bond and Brother Kevin Mullan who are in charge of the Brothers' advocacy mission in Geneva. They introduced us to their current intern, an impressive man in his early twenties from Australia, who joined us for a delicious lunch before we all travelled to the Palais de Nations to receive our ID badges for the following day's UN visit. It was at this point that we started to understand how high security things are at the UN. The process took quite some time but we managed to squeeze in a visit to the Red Cross Museum prior to a sumptuous dinner in Geneva, followed by a spiritual reflection session led by Mr Murray; we eventually checked into our hotel for a much needed night's rest.

It was another early start on Wednesday with breakfast in Annemasse followed by a bus journey to the Palais de Nations where we were lucky enough to sit in the UN Human Rights Council Session for three hours; this had been kindly arranged by the Christian Brothers. This was the pinnacle of our trip and it is fair to say that it was both interesting and harrowing listening in equal measure. Following this incredibly valuable experience we enjoyed a splendid lunch at the Palais de Nations followed by a walk by the shore of Lake Geneva before heading to the Edmund Rice International offices for a de-brief regarding the morning's Human Rights Council Session at the UN. We then bid farewell to the Brothers and thanked them for their wonderful hospitality prior to enjoying some free time in Geneva where we sampled some more culinary delights that this great city had to offer. We headed back to the hotel for a spiritual reflection session before we were sent to our rooms; myself and Max talked late into the night about our very moving experience at the UN earlier that day.



Our final morning saw us partake of our final meal together as a group before heading to Geneva Airport for a 10:30am departure; upon arrival in England myself and Max were relieved to see that the car was still there and so we headed back for an afternoon of school. I speak for us both when I say that this was quite simply the best school trip we had ever been on. We are very grateful to Mr Krause, Mrs Maguire, Mrs Lochery and Mr Murray from the Edmund Rice Office at Woodeaves for arranging such a superb 'once in a lifetime' trip for us. It was also wonderful to meet our fellow ERI Youth Ambassadors from the other six Edmund Rice secondary schools across England and our fellow ERI Youth Ambassadors from Ard Scoil Namara Edmund Rice secondary school in the Republic of Ireland. Great friendships were forged in the shadow of the UN building and already plans are afoot for us to meet up over the summer. Myself and Max are positive that our experience on this trip will serve to further encourage current Lower Sixth members of the ERI group to seek to be elected as the next ERI Youth Ambassadors at St Ambrose College.

Shane Fox - ERI Youth Ambassador



Urmston political activist Matthew Leigh is sitting for the National Youth Parliament on a four point programme to help young people in the Trafford constituency

Matthew, 16, who is taking 10 GCSEs at St. Ambrose College in Hale Barns, wants to replace Personal Social and Health Education with Sex and Relationship Education; he wants to extend Greater Manchester Transport's IGO scheme to support 16 to 18-year-olds not in compulsory secondary education; he wants to activate young volunteers to help the homeless and he wants to fight all forms of discrimination.

Matthew, who ultimately wants to read History and Politics at university, hopes his election to the National Youth Parliament which will be conducted in secondary schools across the Trafford Borough later this month, will be a stepping stone to becoming an M.P. later in life.

He said: "PSHE is out of date and the government has already ruled that it should be replaced by SRE and I want that change to be immediate. Currently lessons don't speak to today's generation of teenagers. We have to deal with an explosion in new technology and problems such as 'sexting' and 'cyber bullying' and need better advice now, instead of a curriculum that was devised before we born."

He added: "The IGO card scheme should be extended to 16 to 18-year-olds not in compulsory secondary education. They are paid child wages and should still pay child fares." He continued: "At St. Ambrose we have a volunteer programme to help the homeless at Cornerstones and refugees at the Revive centre both in Salford and I feel such programmes should be offered more widely to other teenagers." "As far as discrimination is concerned, it's something we should be passionate about and I'd like to see more classes on citizenship in secondary education across the Borough."

Matthew will be contesting the campaign against three young women and added: "It makes absolutely no difference if my political opponents are young men or young women, I just want to offer practical solutions for practical problems." Formed in 2000, the National Youth Parliament has around 600 members, who are elected to represent the views of young people in their area to government and service providers. Over 500,000 young people vote in the elections each year, which are held in at least 90 percent of constituencies. It is managed by the British Youth Council. Members meet regularly to hold debates and plan campaigns at least three times locally a year and twice on a national level, which includes the annual debate within the Chamber of the House of Commons every November.

St. Ambrose College Assistant Headteacher Patrick Groves said: "There has been a reawakening of political activism in young people in recent years not necessarily centred on party politics but on key issues and Matthew is a passionate and responsible advocate for the coming



St Ambrose College GCSE student Dónal Parker has spent his hard earned paper round money on restoring two bikes he rode as a young boy to donate to refugee children in Salford.

Dónal, 15, from Altrincham was so moved by the school visit of husband and wife Mostaffa and Nadin and their son Him, who had fled Syria as the bombs dropped around them, that he wanted to do something genuinely practical to help.

So of his own volition he has had his two bikes repaired so the six year-old Him and another child currently living in Salford can start to enjoy a more normal childhood.

Dónal said: "We are definitely not doing enough as a country to help the refugee crisis. I was brought up to care for and welcome others. I think the government could be doing more and it is also up to individuals to support the refugees. They've done nothing wrong, their lives have been destroyed by war, I wanted to do something positive, help them to make a new start and live a normal life in this country".

St. Ambrose College sixth formers are currently working with refugees on developing their language skills and helping them integrate into British life, spending Wednesday afternoons at the Christian Brothers' Revive Centre in Salford, while younger children at St Ambrose College are helping to write a book recording their experiences back in the Middle East and now living in Salford.

St. Ambrose College senior teacher Dale Krause, who is helping to coordinate the school's refugee support activities, said: "Our young men respond wonderfully to a wide range of local, national and international causes and are always keen to help anyone you ask them to help. I was very moved by Dónal's story: he spent his paper round money on restoring these bikes. It certainly restores your faith in humanity and makes you feel that the world might be in better hands when the next generation is making the decisions."

