

# Saint Ambrose College Newsletter

9th March 2018



## Message from the Principal

This week the newsletter gives us an insight into the immersion trip to Sierra Leone. Clearly this has been a fabulous opportunity for students and I thank everyone who supported the boys, by whatever means to take part.

Our goal to support the digging of a borehole for the Academy in Freetown will be achieved very soon. We will keep you up to date with how this progresses, but we hope it will be completed, before the end of the dry season.

Currently the College is raising funds to support two members of staff, who will be giving up their Easter holiday to support the Edmund Rice mission in Zambia and I thank all those involved in the 'swim to Zambia' fund raising.

Well done to the 'Boys Can' Young Enterprise team last week, who achieved recognition for their customer service.

Well done to all those involved in our sporting success, particularly our rowers, maybe there is a future Steve Redgrave in the College.

*'Take a look at your natural river. What are you? Stop playing games with yourself. Where's your river going? Are you riding with it? Or are you rowing against it? Don't you see that there is no effort if you're riding with your river?'*

*Frederick Carl Frieseke*

J. M. Keulemans

### Students visit Sierra Leone

We are delighted that students had the opportunity to return to the school we helped to establish in Sierra Leone, for the first time since the Ebola crisis.

A party of ten, upper sixth form students and four members of staff, spent ten days in Freetown over half term, helping the local teachers in lessons and extra curricular activities.

Head Boy, Sam Nanda, said: "We probably learned more from the experience than those we were there to help."

Representatives from St Ambrose, first visited Sierra Leone in 2010, to establish the St. Ambrose Academy, which aims to support the capital city's street children, together offer respite from the aftermath of a bloody and debilitating civil war. Proceeds from our annual sponsored walk, when we aim to raise £10,000 each year towards the fees and capital costs, continues to support the school, which is so valued and appreciated by the community we visited.

Head of Religious Education Mr O'Neil said: "During the first few years, we saw significant progress each year, but the Ebola pandemic certainly put the country backwards and they are struggling to fully recover."

St. Ambrose no longer pays the running costs of the school, but continues to raise money for capital projects, including the construction of a bore hole on site, which will enable the community access to clean water. We also are committed to paying the fees for six girls orphaned during the Ebola crisis, which although only costs £80 each year, is completely beyond the financial reach of their adoptive families.

Sam Nanda added: "It was frustrating that we didn't have enough time to make a physical impact on the school's infrastructure, but I feel we left an emotional legacy. The children were all so happy to see us, to know whom their school is named after and to hear that people are so interested and supportive of their futures."

Pictured on the right, Captain of St Ambrose 1st XV rugby team and Sale Sharks player, Ciaran Booth, took some rugby lessons: "They play football and you see them kicking around old deflated balls, bottles and even rocks to get a game; they were not at all familiar with rugby, but they certainly enjoyed learning the basics and were incredibly enthusiastic."

Charlie Conduit, said: "We had heard about their living conditions and to see such poverty is actually quite tragic, but the lasting impression was how happy they are, even though they have so little and how they make the most of everything."



S. Carter

### Dates for the diary

**9th March**

SAPA Fashion Show

**20th March**

SAC Careers Convention

**26th March**

Presentation evening

**29th March**

End of term

**16th April**

Return to school

**7th May**

Bank Holiday



If you are able to loan a sleeping bag to support the 'sleep out' on Friday 16th March, please get in touch!

2018

### Young Enterprise Team

Four representatives, Barnaby Gent, Troy Wood, Matthew Johnston and Dexter Glynn-Bonning, from the 2018 Young Enterprise team, took part in a Trafford Trade Fair at the Trafford Centre in February. Students were rivalled by 14 other teams from all over Manchester. The team were given the chance to sell their cook book to the public and also explain their new idea, Boys Can: Blast Off! Customers and judges were intrigued by the journey the team had been on, and the ideas they had devised.

Our team were then delighted to claim the award for best customer service, highlighting their success on the day.

C. McClements



### Advocacy Week commences 12th March

On Monday we will our week of Advocacy to raise awareness for the situation facing asylum seekers and the acute homelessness in Greater Manchester. In preparation and throughout Advocacy Week we are asking that you and your son please give generously to our clothes and food banks to support local centres and shelters. All donations would be greatly appreciated by those who receive them, particularly given the recent freezing temperatures and the increase in families accessing food banks.

Throughout the week there will be guest speakers from supporting charities, organisations and shelters as well as refugees and victims of homelessness. In addition there will be themed lessons for 1<sup>st</sup> years and workshops for the whole school, culminating in a charity football match and a sleep out open to all sixth formers on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. If you would be willing to loan a sleeping bag to support the event, we would be very grateful!

During the afternoon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March representatives from a number of charities will be invited to take from our food and clothes banks. Notices are also being circulated in parish bulletins and we are appealing to you to donate what you can during the next fortnight. If you have contacts or links with any businesses that may be able to assist, please forward this correspondence to them - EVERY ITEM MATTERS!

Your generosity with this appeal is appreciated.

D. Rainey



### 2nd Year Students Creative Arts Trip to London

On Wednesday 26th February, students and staff braved the blizzards and went to London to visit the Tate Modern. During the afternoon they were treated to a phenomenal performance of The Lion King in the West End. It was a hugely fun and successful day, enjoyed by all, despite the snow!

M. Bull



768

school bus service



The 768 school bus driver would like to thank students who use the service and their parents for their patience and understanding on Monday during the delay. He said the boys are a pleasure to have on board and a credit to the College.

### Careers

### Advice Clinic

All students are invited to drop in to see Mrs Woods in the careers room from 1pm every Tuesday.

Mrs Woods is available to answer student

careers queries and give support with CV writing.

Please book an appointment at the main school office.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ben Middleton who won a gold medal competing for Glossop, in an open age swimming competition at the Manchester and District gala last weekend.

### Careers Evening Tuesday 20th March

We are delighted to be hosting our second annual Careers Evening on

Tuesday 20th March from 6pm - 8pm. Representatives from a range of industries and professions will be in attendance, which will include an ultra sound scan of a real dog!

We look forward to seeing you!



# National Citizens Service

National Citizens Service (NCS) is a flagship government initiative running throughout England.

NCS is an exciting opportunity aimed at providing 16-17 year olds with the opportunity and support to take on new challenges, develop new skills and make a difference. Participants will complete a 4 week personal development programme taking place over the summer holidays.

The programme consists of 2 residential weeks and 2 social action weeks, benefitting participants and the local community. From now until Easter, NCS Coordinators will run sessions in schools focusing on working with young people, to encourage team work, familiarise them with our NCS team and prepare them for the summer of a lifetime.

The programme has 5 start dates throughout the Summer holidays, in order to be as flexible as possible for all participants. Please ensure you tick the most convenient dates on the parental consent form.

## “FOR THE LESSONS THEY CAN’T TEACH YOU IN CLASS”

A way for young people to gain life skills including independence, leadership, teamwork, confidence and social action experience. A chance for young people to meet new people and strengthen friendships.

## “FAST FORWARD YOUR FUTURE”

By completing NCS, young people will receive a National Citizen Service award, which is a brilliant addition to CVs and UCAS applications.

## “MAKE YOUR MARK”

The social action part of NCS is a great opportunity for young people to demonstrate the skills they have learnt whilst having a positive impact on their local community.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

To secure a place on the programme we require a £25 contribution for early booking (usually £50) that can be paid by credit/debit card online, in cash or in instalments. This will be the only cost incurred by you and will cover all phases of the programme, including accommodation during the residential and all food for the duration of the programme. This registration fee will be passed onto the national NCS organisation to support future development of NCS.

If your family circumstances make paying this difficult, please talk to the NCS co-ordinator – it is important to us that any young person who wishes to participate should be able to do so, as bursaries and exemptions are available.

To pay your £25 online please visit –

[www.salfordfoundation.org.uk/ncs](http://www.salfordfoundation.org.uk/ncs)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- W NCSYES.CO.UK
- E [ncs@salfordfoundation.org.uk](mailto:ncs@salfordfoundation.org.uk)
- T 0161 7873838
- M 07903 856209
- A Salford Foundation, Foundation House, Jo Street, Salford M5 4BD



## Old Boy takes the lead

Congratulations to ‘Old Boy’ Darragh Cowley who has been selected to play the leading role as Melchior, in the production of Spring Awaken at the Hope Mill Theatre in Ancoats, Manchester. During his time at St Ambrose, Darragh starred in several shows, most notably being the lead in Buggy Malone and Little Shop of Horrors.



Darragh Cowley performing in Little Shop of Horrors

M. Bull

## 4th year study skills

4th year students have been introduced to their first, of a number of study skills sessions, which we are holding during Wednesday morning House Tutor period.

The sessions have been developed to support their revision and preparation for the critical end of year examinations, which take place during the week commencing 8th May.



4th year study skills

P. Groves



# SAPA News

## Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

### Tonight's Fashion Show Friday 9th March 7pm

It's not too late! If you haven't bought a ticket, you can pay on the door tonight. It's only £5. Come and enjoy the evening with us, grab a bargain, meet other parents, have a drink. You'll be missing out, if you don't come.

### SAPA meeting Monday 12th March 7pm

Please come along to our next meeting, when we will review how the Fashion Show went and think about how to make it even better. We will also be discussing fundraising ideas for our Summer Party. If you have a great idea, please email [chair18@sapa.org.uk](mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk) or, even better, come and tell us.

Before the meeting starts, we will be selling second-hand uniform from 6.30pm until 7.00pm in the College.

### Summer Party Friday 15 June 7.30pm

This summer, we are holding a brand new event, and we would love you to come. We are having a party at Bowdon Rugby Union Football Club in their magical Marquee Room. It will be a relaxed, informal evening and a chance to unwind. There will be a hog roast and BBQ (with veggie options), licensed bar and dancing until the early hours. Spend time with your other half away from the kids. Or bring all your friends – maybe a girls'/lads' night out is what you need. Whatever you decide, it will be a lovely summer evening and you can have some fun, help raise money for the College and Prep School, and get to know other parents, teachers and school staff.

**Tickets are only £20.** Please put the date in your diary. Start planning now!

If you can help by donating raffle prizes, sponsoring welcome drinks or have ideas on how to raise money on the night, please get in touch ([chair18@sapa.org.uk](mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk)).

SAPA Chair



SAPA Summer Party  
Friday 15th June  
At  
Bowden Rugby Club  
Timperley

### Keep up with SAPA on;

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/](http://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/)

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/StAmbrosePA>

Website - [www.sapa.org.uk](http://www.sapa.org.uk)

### SAPA dates for your diary

#### TONIGHT

Friday 9 March  
Fashion Show 7pm

Monday 12 March  
SAPA meeting 7pm

Monday 12 March  
Second hand uniform sale

Friday 15 June  
Summer Party

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school. Please use the following link:

[parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/)



Saint Ambrose Parents' Association  
Proudly Presents



# FASHION SHOW

## Friday 9th March 7.00pm

at Saint Ambrose College, Hale Barns, WA15 0HE



the  
fashion show  
& sale company

Shop2Drop Ltd

up to

# 75% off

High Street Brands like:

Oasis - River Island - Miss Selfridge  
CC - Evans - Next - Wallis - Top Shop  
M&S - Debenhams - New Look

Sizes  
8 - 20

Tickets Only  
**£5**

Tickets available  
on Parentmail and from  
College and Prep School  
Receptions

All enquiries via our website: [www.sapa.org.uk](http://www.sapa.org.uk)

## Come and Grab a Bargain!

ALL proceeds from the fashion show go to the College and the Prep School and are used to support the boys in the furthering of their academic, spiritual and physical education.

# Sports News

Congratulations to all students who competed in events this week. We have had numerous success' and further details will follow in next week's edition.

Congratulations to all staff and students involved with competitive swimming in Northampton on Monday, and to the Water Polo team's success this week.

Congratulations to all students and staff involved with the county sevens fixtures, we are delighted with their achievements.

If any student would like further information about joining sporting clubs in school, please ask them to see any member of staff from the PE department.

Please refer to the website, sports page to keep informed about fixtures.

N. Handy  
Director of Sport



Congratulations to students who competed at the Armitage Centre rowing competition last Tuesday. The young rowers have won a hat trick of city wide titles, without touching the water.

The power packed athletes won the 1st year, 2nd year and 4th year titles for indoor rowing at the Greater Manchester School Games.

St. Ambrose teams qualified across all age groups as the Trafford champions and then beat teams from the other nine boroughs across the Metropolitan district.

Henry Ashby came second in the individual 1st year category, with 505 metres in two minutes, and Adam Kokocinski, achieved third place with 500 metres in the two minute time period. 2nd year rowers had three minute sessions and 4th year, five minutes, with the Ambrose teams winning all their age group relays.

Henry, said: "I have been on the water a few times and after performing so well in this event I want to try the sport alongside my rugby."

Adam added: "I would never have known I had any talent for rowing if Mr Aspinwall had not spotted me in one of our fitness suite sessions."

Sam Aspinwall, an accomplished ultra marathon runner and former St. Ambrose pupil, said: "Our new school has a fabulous indoor fitness centre which allows us to develop a passion for healthy living and exercise and spot potential top talent."

S. Carter





**HOME FIXTURE**  
**Saturday 10th March**

St Ambrose College  
1st XV & U12A  
Vs  
Newcastle Under Lyme School

**10.00 am Kick off**  
(Students selected have been advised of meet times)





**AWAY FIXTURE**  
**Saturday 10th March**

Newcastle Under Lyme  
School  
Vs  
St Ambrose College  
U15A, U14A, U13A

**10.00 am Kick off**





**Please help!**

If you are available to help with refreshments during Saturday home fixtures, please e-mail:  
[mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

**No dogs permitted on school premises**



**Please check the website for all the rugby sevens fixtures this weekend.**





## Helpful links:

School office: [office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)  
Pastoral concerns e-mail: [Pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:Pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)  
Twitter: [@StAmbroseColl](https://twitter.com/StAmbroseColl)