

Saint Ambrose College Newsletter

23rd February 2018



Message from the Principal

After a busy half term holiday, which included trips to Iceland, Maine and Sierra Leone, it is great to hear the stories and experiences of the students. Back in the real world, we are racing towards Easter and preparation for mocks at GCSE and A Level are well underway. The Upper sixth will be on study leave for these exams from the 5th-9th of March. Please encourage the students to revise well for the mocks, to provide the opportunity for a realistic experience and to allow them to identify and focus on areas that still may need honing before the final exams.

It is important that we spare a thought for others during this time of Lent, in the next few weeks we will be investigating methods for completion of the borehole for our sister school St Ambrose College in Freetown and I will use this media to keep you informed of progress.

This week we need to hold in our prayers the students and their families whose lives have been devastated by the school shooting in Fort Lauderdale.

Well done to all the boys involved in the Bowdon Music Festival and the year 1 and 2 boys who received achievement rewards.

'Education is not just about going to school and getting a degree. It's about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life.'

Shakuntala Devi

Easter Revision Sessions

Further details will follow regarding GCSE & A Level Easter Revision sessions, which will be held at school

Mr J M Keulemans

Bowdon Music Festival Success

'It's finally cool to be in a choir' according to St. Ambrose College's Director of Music Mr Phillips, who oversaw a hat trick of top prizes at the Bowdon Music Festival. His superbly drilled 40 strong junior choir won the senior choir category, even though they are all aged just 12 years and under.

Brilliant 12-year-old pianist Barnaby Simpson then won the Grade 8 piano solo, while St. Ambrose also won the junior ensemble, with their tight, yet powerful, five piece ensemble who practise together every day.

Mr Phillips said: "The popularity of choir programmes on the TV has shown the younger generation it is finally cool to be in a choir and I have no problem finding volunteers. We are also able to mix traditional choral music with some popular tunes of the day, which the boys love to sing."

He added: "The judges seemed so pleased to hear an all boys choir, which they had thought was a thing of the past, and gave us so much praise for our projection, clarity and harmony."

Pianist Barnaby Simpson, pictured holding the big cup, practises for at least an hour every day, using time before school, at lunch time and after school to hone his skills, and is already at Grade 8.

He said: "I really want to become a concert pianist and know I will have to work even harder. I love Mozart in particular and can't imagine ever tiring of playing his music." The five piece ensemble of Mele Gadzama on Trombone, Harvey Richardson on Trumpet, Joseph Oates on Saxophone (all pictured) with James Allen on Violin and Jamie Dwan on Flute, also won playing both classical and popular tunes. They also practise for at least an hour every day both together and individually, with Mele saying the secret to success was simple, "we listen to one and another and respect what we are all trying to do."

Mr Phillips concluded: "Everyone involved in music at St. Ambrose thanks the volunteers at the Bowdon Music Festival, for giving our boys a chance to air their skills in a competitive public arena. It's a vital part of their musical development and the festival organisers show true community spirit."



Dates for the diary

22nd February

2nd year options evening

5th March

U6th mock examination week

6th March

3rd year immunisations & 4th year parents' evening

20th March

SAC Careers Convention

26th March

Presentation evening

(Invitation only, please return all requests for tickets by the advised deadline)

29th March

End of term

S. Carter

Singer Song Writing Talent

Singer songwriters Matthew Bancroft and Marcus Doohan, say Altrincham town centre provides the perfect stage to hone their talents.

Both Sixth Form students have been busking in the town for the last six months, performing both their own music and standards that span the decades.

Matthew said: "Trafford Council want to encourage and support young talent, so it's great; you don't need a licence," but Marcus quickly added, "you've got to be good, very good, if you want to make any money. We might make £20 each from a two hour session, which is great but it's the experience that counts." Best friends, they even share a birthday November 13, after which they have named their act 13th Street, the pair have been playing ever since they took the stage with their school at the Manchester markets four years ago.

"That was nerve wracking," said Matthew, "but since, we have performed at a number of local festivals and on the Trafford Centre main stage and busking in town means we are rapidly developing our own voice."

The young men share a love of Lennon and McCartney adding, "They were simply remarkable tunesmiths," but play music up to the modern day with George Ezra and Ed Sheeran also in their repertoire.

Both young men are taking Music as an A level, and hope to go to Manchester University in 18 months, with Marcus reading Medicine and Matthew reading History.

Matthew said "Obviously our academic studies come first, but we'd love to continue our writing and performing partnership."

He added: "We write separately coming up with ideas and words on our own, usually starting from a simple chord progression and then working up a melody. Then we'll get together and work up the song from the basics, which is how Lennon and McCartney started when they were at school."

Marcus added: "Our parents love the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkle and Bob Dylan so we grew up listening to great song writers and that's what we want to emulate."

Head of Music Mr Phillips said: "I'm glad we live in a town that welcomes young performers and Matt and Marcus have some genuine song writing talent."

S. Carter



Matthew Bancroft & Marcus Doohan



The Catenians

Catenian Public Speaking Competition for Catholic Sixth-Form Students

Matthew Leigh and Sean Gilfedder (LVI) represented St Ambrose College at the 2018 North-West public speaking competition organised by the Catenian Association, held at Manchester Conference Centre in the city centre, before half term. The audience of over one hundred were treated to an array of intelligent, well-structured and passionate speeches from candidates representing their various schools and colleges.

Both boys acquitted themselves with aplomb, having dedicated many hours at lunchtime in school and during their free-time at home, crafting their speeches and practising their delivery. There were fifteen entrants from Catholic sixth-form students and we were delighted when Sean Gilfedder was placed third. Amid stiff competition, Sean's speech, entitled 'It's not a sin to be seventy', was very well received by the audience, while Matthew - who was randomly selected to deliver his talk first, which is never an easy task - was praised by the judges for the structure of his speech entitled 'The enemies of freedom do not argue - they shout'. Matthew didn't leave empty-handed and earned himself £20 while Sean won £50 and St Ambrose received a cheque from the generous sponsorship of Mr Peter Jones who sponsors the North-West competition and the National final.

English Teacher, Mrs Corrigan, who accompanied the boys, praised the boys' for their effort and emphasised the importance of taking part in activities outside of the school curriculum to broaden and deepen their learning, 'It is hugely brave of the boys to stand up in front of a fresh audience and deliver talks on topics about which they are passionate. We are very grateful to the Catenian association for this opportunity. The judges provided valuable feedback to each contestant which, I am sure, will stand them in good stead in the future'.

As part of their preparation for GCSE English Language Paper II, all boys are taught to express their viewpoints clearly in writing and this competition is but one way in which this skill has real-life application!

Mrs Corrigan

For further information on the work of the Catenians: <https://www.thecatenians.com/>

**Polite reminder
that Fizzy Drinks
are NOT permitted in school**





We are delighted to advertise, on behalf of:
The Board of the Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust

An exciting opportunity for anyone over 18 years of age to become a board member of this important charity.

The position would suit a person with experience and expertise in investment and legal matters.

Four meetings take place each year at The Edmund Rice International Office, Woodeaves, Hale Barns.
From 10am until lunch.

If you would like further details, please contact the Principals PA: Pa@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

What the charity does

- General charitable purposes
- Education/training
- The advancement of health or saving of lives
- The prevention or relief of poverty
- Overseas aid/famine relief
- Accommodation/housing
- Religious activities
- Economic/community development/employment



Aims & Objectives

The charity's objective is to advance the Christian faith, promote Christian ideals and provide for the education and training of children and other persons according to the spirit and ideals of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Success outside of school (SOS)



We are aware that many of our students achieve great success in their participation in a range of activities outside of their time at school. Furthermore, we are eager to share their success with the school community and would like to know what they are involved in. If you would like to share your son's achievements with us, you can email behaviour@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!

1st & 2nd year students congratulated for their consistent high standard of work

Congratulations to the many 1st and 2nd year students who joined Mr Keulemans, Mr Rainey and Miss McCrory to celebrate their achievement of producing a consistent high standard of work. Boys were rewarded with a bag of treats for the standard and presentation of their work across a range of subjects. Boys whose books were excellent across a range of subjects also received a certificate for their achievement.

S. McCrory



Principals Award



Congratulations to this week's recipients of the Principals award

Aquinas

Ciaron Byrne

Augustine

Sean Gilfedder

Ignatius

Joshua Lavorini

Newman

Niall Sheridan



Sports News

Despite the cold weather students have been continuing to enjoy sport in school this week, Congratulations to the 1st year rugby 7's team, they competed in the Warwick School's Rugby 7's competition early this week and won the semi final. Following the U13 Water Polo success in January, Mrs Chandler accompanied the team who competed on Sunday 18th February in the City of Manchester competition, beating national champions Nottingham, Nova.

The 1st SAC football team also had success playing against Sale Grammar winning 4-2. Congratulations to everyone involved with sport both in school and with other organisations. If any student would like further information regarding any clubs and sporting activities available within school, they are encouraged to see members of staff from the Sports Department or their House Captain/Vice House Captain.

Congratulations to Adam Mottershead



Congratulations to Adam Mottershead who has enjoyed an exciting and memorable lacrosse season during his 1st year at St Ambrose. Adam has triumphed, being awarded two cup wins with Cheadle, his club, in addition to being selected for Stockport Metros Lacrosse team, which is a four year exchange programme with Anne Arundel Youth Lacrosse Club from Maryland in America. We wish him every success with his sport and the very best of luck as he prepares for the Metros lacrosse tour to Maryland, USA at the end of July where he will be staying with an American host family.

S. McCrory



Please help!



If you are available to help with refreshments during Saturday home fixtures, please e-mail:

mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

St Ambrose College Sport

Please use the following link to join our teamer account:

<http://tinyurl.com/y934ghdh>



National Plate Semi Final



HOME FIXTURE
Wednesday 28th February



St Ambrose College 1st XV
Vs
Trinity School, Croydon

2.15pm Kick off
(Students selected have been advised of meet times)

**No dogs
permitted on school
premises**



Helpful links:

School office: office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Pastoral concerns e-mail: Pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Twitter: [@StAmbroseColl](https://twitter.com/StAmbroseColl)

SAPA FASHION SHOW
Friday 9th March @ 7pm

SAPA News

Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

Thank you so much to everyone who came to our meeting on Monday.

Fashion Show Friday 9th March

The date of our Fashion Show is getting closer, so please make sure it's in your diary and buy your tickets. They are priced at only £5! Tell all your friends and family and bring them along too.

It's a really enjoyable evening that helps raise money for the College and Preparatory School. Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm. You will be able to buy drinks from a licensed bar and snacks, which you can enjoy while you watch the models show off the clothes. All items modelled at the show will be available to buy – they will be brand new and usually available in sizes 8-20. In past years we've had clothes from Top Shop, Monsoon, River Island, Phase 8, Marks and Spencer, Ralph Lauren, and many more, with up to 75% off the recommended retail price. You can pay by cash, debit card or credit card. Changing rooms will be available so you can try on the clothes.

Buy your tickets from the Parentmail website (in the shop) or from the school office.

Keep up with SAPA on;

Facebook - www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/

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

Website - www.sapa.org.uk

SAPA dates for your diary

Thursday 22 February
Second-hand uniform sale 7pm

Friday 9 March
Fashion Show 7pm

Monday 12 March
SAPA meeting 7pm

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/

SAPA Chair



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

For your information
If you have any confidential concerns you wish to pass onto the College, please use the following link; pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.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

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.