



Dear Parents/Guardian

College has been a hive of activity this week. School internal exams, GCSE, AS and A levels have continued and the students should be commended on their attitude to their exams and the respect shown for those around taking theirs. Students and staff involved in the Battlefields and Iceland trips over half term have also been filling our minds with many wonderful stories of their experiences.

We have also participated in Part 1 of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award which involved around 70 boys, making us one of the largest centres in the North West. Obviously the weather has been varied, making it a real preparation for outdoor life.

Next week is again a very hectic week, with external examinations continuing and the year 7 trip to Blainville also taking place. I wish all involved Bon Voyage.

Can I thank all parents for their support in making it possible to offer such excellent enrichment activities to the boys.

On a concerned note I was intrigued, as the parent of two teenagers, to watch a documentary about how teenagers are hard wired to behave in a 'risky' way this week, can I ask that you consolidate the messages students are given in college about involvement in activities that could put themselves or others at risk, particularly as we head towards the longest daylight evenings of the year and indeed the summer holiday itself.

Thanks for all your support

God Bless,

Yours faithfully
J M Keulemans
Principal



Saint Ambrose College



Principal's Weekly Newsletter Issue 3 – 10.6.16

PMX:-

We have transferred to the new updated ParentMail system called 'PMX'. Please ensure that you verify your account on the link provided to you via email or mobile. Once you have verified, please note the new login link:

<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/#core/login>

Invitation to Parents and Family

Musical Evening 29 June 2016 from 7.00 pm with refreshments and strawberries being served at the interval.

Tickets only £3.50 on sale via PMX. Thank you for your support.

Calendar Items:-

UCAS Day 16/6/2016

Lower Sixth return 16/6/2016

5th Year Liturgy & Celebration 17/06/2016 (students)

Sports Day 24/6/16 (students)

Musical Evening 29/6/16 (students, parents and families)

Sponsored Walk 1/7/16 (students)

Open Morning 2/7/16 (New Intake 2017)

French Theme Day 4/7/16 (students)

1-4 year full reports to be posted by 6/7/16

End of Term 8/7/16 2016 12.30 pm

Items to Note:-

Pastoral concerns email: pastoralsupport@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Sport Fixtures/Scores: <http://www.schoolssports.com/School/?id=332>

Exam Information: <http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/1272/info/examination-information/>

Twitter: @StAmbroseColl

Rugby Twitter: @StAmbroseRugby

St Ambrose Parents' Association Twitter: @StAmbrosePA

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Holidays in Term Time

Following the judgment by the High Court on Friday 13 May regarding the case of the *Isle of Wight Council v Jon Platt*.

Extract Message from Nick Gibb MP:-

As you will be aware there is clear evidence that absence from school is linked to lower levels of attainment. The Department of Education's latest analysis published in March shows that every extra day missed was associated with lower attainment at age 11 and at age 16. In other words, every extra day of school that is missed can affect a pupil's chance of gaining good GCSE results.

In the meantime, it remains the case - as set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 amended in 2013 - that headteachers continue to have the power to authorise leave of absence, **but only in exceptional circumstances**.

I am clear that we need to continue reducing absence, building on the success schools and local authorities have already achieved, to support attainment and ensure all pupils fulfil their potential.

With best wishes.

Nick Gibb MP

Minister of State at the Department for Education





News from the Drama Department

Live Wire Theatre's performance of '**Hands Up for Jonny Wilkinson's Right Boot**' has been touring the North West to celebrate the upcoming World Rugby U20 Championship 2016.

The U20 World Championship is a showcase for the Future Stars of Rugby *and will be played across five match days at two venues: the AJ Bell Stadium in Salford and Manchester City's Academy Stadium, between 7 and 25 June.*

Many of the current England Rugby senior squad, Jack Nowell, Paul Hill, Maro Itoje, Jack Clifford and Henry Slade have all graduated to the international test arena following success in this tournament. With tickets from as little as £5 for children and £10 for adults, the tournament is a great value opportunity to watch back-to-back international rugby.

For more information, including how to buy tickets, visit www.englandrugby.com/U20Championship #WorldRugbyU20s.

For another opportunity to see Hands Up for Jonny Wilkinson's Right Boot, tickets are still available for the penultimate performance at The Dancehouse Theatre in Manchester on Friday 3 June at 20.00. See <http://www.thedancehouse.co.uk/events/2016/61-jonny-wilkinsons-right-boot> for further details.



Battlefields Trip MJ O'Neill - Faculty Leader: Theology and Religious Education

As the centenary of the Battle of the Somme approaches, a group of St Ambrose students and staff undertook a pilgrimage to the battlefields of the Western Front to remember the terrible human cost of the war and to further develop their understanding of the history of the conflict. We were privileged to be joined by Major Nicholas Haines (rtd.) who acted as our Battlefield Guide.

The trip was organised jointly between St. Ambrose College and Remembrance Travel, to provide a tour tailored to the interests and needs of our boys. For example, we were sure to visit the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines which proved to be a thought provoking and moving experience for many. Four of our number took part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, laying a wreath on behalf of the College. All boys were smartly attired in their College uniform out of respect to the Fallen.

Such was the impact of the experience, it has now been decided that the College will organise an annual tour; alternating between the sites of the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Next May Mr. Wilcock will organise a trip to Dunkirk and the sites of the Normandy landings. This will be open to all boys in 3rd and 4th Year (irrespective of their choice to study GCSE History or not).

In addition to our participation at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, we conducted our own private act of remembrance at Tyne Cot. Once again, we laid a wreath with the College badge and spent time in prayer and reflection. Given the fact that many of our group were only a few years younger than the soldiers whose graves we were visiting, the following poem by AE Housman seemed an apt inscription for our wreath.



Here dead we lie
Because we did not choose
To live and shame the land
From which we sprung

Life, to be sure,
Is nothing much to lose,
But young men think it is.
And we were young.





Safety Message from Trafford Junior Neighbourhood Watch

The Trafford Junior Neighbourhood Watch Project seeks to put young people in the forefront of promoting Community Safety through the designing of flyers, posters and booklets which warn of the dangers of issues such as encountering strangers and how to deal with them.

Other issues might be cyber-bullying and sexting and pupils at the Altrincham College of Arts have designed comic strips to show the dangers of each and also how best to deal with them.

Please click below to view the flyer:-

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/library/client/website/General/Parents/Cyber%20Bullying%20Leaflet.pdf>

Do you know your child is corresponding with on-line? Please ensure that you are supervising your children's on-line activities at home to ensure to ensure safety from stranger danger.



Edmund Rice International and the 'HAART for Children' campaign

The Edmund Rice International group are looking forward to recommencing their weekly meetings now that the examination season for the Lower Sixth is coming to an end. Top on their agenda will be preparing for the annual gathering of outgoing and incoming Youth Ambassadors at St Anselm's College, Birkenhead, on Friday 24th June.

Tom Murray, the Edmund Rice Office's Youth Development Coordinator, plans to use the day to launch a global campaign for Edmund Rice International groups across the Edmund Rice schools next year, Caritas's 'HAART for Children' campaign aimed at lobbying governments for the implementation of basic testing of pregnant women for HIV/AIDS. Tom has also invited a number of asylum seekers to attend the gathering in June; they will be sharing their stories in small groups with a view to the Edmund Rice International groups producing an informative publication focusing on the plight of refugees in the UK.

Any current Fifth Years who are interested in joining Edmund Rice International in September or indeed any current Lower Sixth who would like to join Edmund Rice International now in readiness for September, should simply see Mr Krause or the Sixth Form ERI Youth Ambassadors, Shane Fox and Max Ashton.

