



Saint Ambrose College News Bulletin

11th January 2019

Message from the Principal

Welcome to 2019! 'Happy New Year' to everyone. I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

I hope everyone had a pleasant Christmas and managed to take time to rest.

It is as though we have never been away! We had a very fruitful 5th Year Parents' Evening this week as well as our Taster Day, ahead of 5th Year students choosing their subjects for A level. Thank you to parents who have responded to the parent survey following Parents' Evening. I am pleased to report that of the 48 returns to date, 47 have stated that they preferred the new format. As always, we will take the additional comments on board as well and strive to improve in any way we can.

2nd Year parents and carers will have received ParentMail communication regarding completion of a jot form to help us with a 'dummy run' for 3rd Year options. We are exploring the possibility of introducing 2 pathways for next year, so it is crucial that we have a full response by next Friday, 18th January to enable us to meet the needs and requests of all students as much as we possibly can.

Our week began, of course, with the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. We recall the story of the Magi journeying to visit the new born Christ and are invited to see ourselves in the Magi. Where are we on our journey? What gifts can we bring to those around us to make Christ and his message more visible in our world? Whenever I think of the Magi I remember the myth of the Fourth Wise Man named Artaban who had set out to find the new born as the other 3 had, but departed with his gifts along the way, eventually arriving too late to see the birth of Christ. He then travelled to Egypt and to many other countries searching for Jesus for many years and performing acts of charity along the way. After 33 years, Artaban, still a pilgrim arrived in Jerusalem just in time for the crucifixion of Jesus. He spent his last treasure, the pearl, to ransom a young woman from being sold into slavery before being struck in the head by a falling roof tile. About to die, having failed in his quest to find Jesus, but having done much good through charitable works, a voice tells him "Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) He dies in a calm radiance of wonder and joy. His treasures were accepted, and the Fourth Wise Man found his King.

We should never stop striving to find Christ in our lives. Our efforts and deeds will be recognised, even if at times we might feel that our journeys are in vain and full of struggles.

Mr D Rainey
Acting Principal



5th Year Parents' Evening

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for attending Parents' Evening on Wednesday 9 January and for your continued support.

Please let us know if we can help in any way to ensure students achieve the grades that they are capable of.

We would appreciate any evaluation feedback, please follow the link below.

<https://form.jotformeu.com/SACPA/5th-year-parents-evening-feedback>

Thank you
Mr P M Groves

5th Year mock examination results

During break today a number of 5th year students were invited to attend a meeting with the Principal in recognition of their outstanding GCSE mock examination results. Congratulations to all those who attended.



Dates for the Diary

1st February - Inset day

12th February - U6th Parents' Evening

13th February - 2nd Year Parents' Forum

18th to 22nd February - half term holiday

25th February - Return to School

5th March - 2nd Year options' Evening @ 6pm

12th March - Careers Convention from 7pm

21st March - 4th Year Parents' Evening

3rd April - 2nd Year Parents' Evening

8th to 18th April - Easter holidays

23rd April - Return to School

Sports News

This weekend we begin rugby fixtures for 2019 against local rivals King's Macclesfield. Kick offs are 11 a.m. which is unusual but does mean we have a longer lay in than normal. Boys travelling to Macclesfield will leave College at 9.30a.m meeting at 10.15 a.m. if travelling direct. This 10.15 meet is also the time for Home teams. If any parents of Under 15 and Under 14 boys can help with refreshments this weekend that would be much appreciated, with numbers of helpers dropping off in weeks before Christmas.

Basketball

Our penultimate matches in the Trafford basketball league take place next week with Under 16 and 14 sides at Wellacre on Wednesday evening, our Under 12s play at home on Thursday against the same school. On Tuesday our Under 16 team have a match at home against Wellington.

House Sports

In House competitions our 1st and 4th year students completed their swimming gala this week with some excellent individual performances. Our water polo teams competed at Year 1 also in a very close set of matches. Galas took place on Thursday against Cheadle Hulme with the side recording a comfortable victory at all age groups.

Alistair Merrill

Alistair continues to impress for the Irish Exiles squad and has established himself in their Under 18 squad playing again this weekend. He should be looking to emulate Ciaran Booth next year with a place in the full Schools squad. We wish him every success.

We all have been tempted I am sure to make a resolution in January, often in line with weight loss or some sporting pursuit. Please use this as a carrot to entice your son to compete and participate when given the many opportunities here at St Ambrose. There are many sports clubs either in full swing or starting this term and I would hope there is an activity for every pupil.

Happy New Year

N Handy
Director of Sport

Polite request

If you witnessed a car incident in Halecroft carpark on Wednesday morning, please contact the school office.



News

Foodbank Donations Christmas 2018

See below an extract from a letter of thanks received from Wythenshawe foodbank.

Thank you for your support.

“On behalf of the Wythenshawe Food Bank, Real Food Team and the people of Wythenshawe I am writing to thank everyone at St Ambrose for their fantastic support of food donations which allowed us again this year to distribute in addition to our crisis food parcels, Christmas Food Hampers and toys to those in need in Wythenshawe. The total weight of the food donated by St Ambrose was an incredible 500.55kgs.....amazing.

We worked with professional agencies to identify individuals and families who, without the hampers and toys would struggle to manage over the Christmas period. In total the hampers provided food for 425 people—182 adults and 243 children—and the total weight of the food given out weighed 1127.30kgs. In addition all 243 children were provided with at least one toy.

To deliver this project takes real team effort and is not possible without the support and generosity of individuals and organisations and again we sincerely thank everyone for their support.”



Elevate Education

Today we were delighted to welcome representatives from Elevate Education, allowing 5th year students the opportunity to take part in a motivation study skills programme. These are young people who have just completed their degrees, so are well placed to relate to our boys. More information will follow, but the boys all enjoyed the session and we hope that this along with all our other initiative's will ensure outstanding outcomes in the summer.



Elevate Education have revolutionised the way study skills are taught around the world. Since expanding to the UK in 2013, their programmes have already resulted in tangible improvements in student performance at over 850 UK schools.



Having benchmarked the study habits of thousands of past students, their award-winning seminars cover the techniques utilised by the country's top students. They have over 17 years experience that demonstrates that any student can improve performance by tapping into, and replicating, these techniques.

Mr P M Groves





2019 – 2020 Calendar dates

| Michaelmas Term 2nd September to 20th December 2019 | |
|--|---|
| Monday 2 nd September 2019 | Inset day |
| Tuesday 3 rd September 2019 | Morning only - 6 th Form all day - 1 st year |
| Wednesday 4 th September 2019 | Whole school return |
| Friday 20 th September 2019 | Inset day |
| Thursday 17 th October | Break up for half-term |
| Half-term holiday (18th October to 25th October 2019) | |
| Monday 28 th October 2019 | Return to school |
| Friday 6 th December | Half day closure to celebrate St Ambrose day |
| 28th October to 20th December 2019 | |
| Friday 20 th December | Break up for end of term |
| Christmas holiday (23rd December 2019 to 3rd January 2020) | |

| Lent Term 6th January to 27th March 2020 | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Monday 6 th January 2020 | Return to school |
| Friday 7 th February 2020 | Inset day |
| Half-term holiday (10th February to 14th February 2020) | |
| Monday 17 th February 2020 | Return to school |
| Friday 27 th March 2020 | Break up for end of term |
| Easter holiday (30th March to 13th April 2020) | |

| Trinity Term 14th April to 16th July 2020 | |
|--|------------------|
| Tuesday 14 th April 2020 | Return to school |
| 14th April to 21st May 2020 | |
| 4 th May 2020 | Bank holiday |
| 22 nd May 2020 | Inset day |
| Half-term holiday (25th May to 29th May 2020) | |
| Monday 1 st June 2020 | Return to school |
| Friday 17 th July 2020 | Inset day |
| Summer holiday (20th July to September 2020) | |

We ask that you DO NOT take children out of school during term time
please note: dates are subject to change