

Saint Ambrose College Newsletter

23rd March 2018



Message from the Principal

Once again, we race towards the end of term. Final preparations for summer examinations are well under way. During the Easter holidays, the college will be open for revision classes, I encourage students to book sessions and use the opportunity to enhance their preparations.

On Monday next week, we look forward to our first presentation evening utilising our fabulous building for such an event. We hope those involved will enjoy the evening. On Thursday next week we will also be holding mass for all students as part of Holy week.

Well done to all those involved in advocacy week, particularly those who braved the Arctic blast on Friday night, to sleep out and experience what homelessness is really like.

Work on the borehole at St Ambrose Academy, Freetown has begun in earnest, we will keep you updated with progress. Thank you for all your support in recent years to raise funds for this essential project.

Finally, thank you to those who contributed to a hugely successful careers evening on Tuesday, your time and support is sincerely appreciated and will have a lasting impact on the ambitions and direction of many of our students.

Have a peaceful, joyful and revision filled Easter

'In many areas of our lives we trust others who know more than we do. We trust the architect who builds our home, the pharmacist who gives us medicine for healing, the lawyer who defends us in court. We also need someone trustworthy and knowledgeable where God is concerned. Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who makes God known to us.' Pope Francis

J. M. Keulemans

A chilly end to Advocacy Week

Sixth form students and three members of staff slept 'rough' outside the College, in temperatures with a wind chill of minus 10 Degrees Celsius, over Friday night into Saturday morning as a climax to Advocacy Week.

The experience left the young men vowing to volunteer more in Manchester's streets and refuge centres, but never to repeat their night outside. Marcus Doohan, who wants to study Medicine, said: "I am never doing that again. I was still aching 36 hours later and didn't feel I had recovered fully. I just can't see how so many people do that night after night after night. It must have a dramatic effect on their life expectancy."

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award winner and multi award winning senior venture scout Troy Wood, said: "Even though we had several layers and quality kit, it certainly made an impact on us all, both physically and emotionally."

Theodore Russell, who wants to study Medicine, said: "It was really awful, especially when I woke up with snow on my face, but that's how so many people live in Manchester."

Alex Dobson, another wanting to read Medicine at university, said: "We all slept in snatches, perhaps an hour or two at a time and no one got more than four hours sleep. It certainly made me more aware of the terrible plight of those forced to live on the streets and I am still sore, aching and tired now on Monday morning."

The sleep out was the brain child of the young men in the College's Edmund Rice International Group, named after the founder of the Christian Brothers, to promote charitable causes both at home and overseas, and is a key element of the faith school's mission.

In the preceding week Vice Principal, Mr Rainey, Learning Mentor, Mrs Burton, and Biology teacher, Dr. Rousseau, had organised visits from Wythenshawe and Sale East MP Mike Kane, and a number of Eritrean and Yemeni asylum seekers from the Christian Brothers Revive centres in Salford and Manchester, to discuss one of the North-West's most pressing problems. Mr Rainey, who was one of the staff sleeping out, said: "Many people think that once asylum status is granted that those who have been forced to flee troubles in their own lands are now in some sort of sanctuary, but shelter is a basic human right and we must do more to give them access to education, training and the work place, so there is no homelessness through unemployment, and they can be a productive part of our society." He added: "Then there are our own citizens who may have fallen in to family breakdown, domestic abuse and mental illness, who find themselves with no choices available."

He concluded: "This is the start and not the end of our campaign. During the week we sent a mini bus full of food and clothing to local food banks and we are still receiving items for a second. Then after attending a range of workshops our first year groups will extend their advocacy work to environmental issues, such as the use of plastic, as well as the issues of homelessness and the increasing dependence on food banks." The boys were determined to do more. Marcus Doohan added: "Our Edmund Rice International Group will be putting together food packs every two weeks to give out in Manchester and we aim to continue giving English lessons to asylum seekers at the Revive centres." Alex Dobson added: "It's certainly a cause I want to be part of, not just now but until society finds a solution."



S. Carter
Press Officer

Sixth form immersion to Sierra Leone



A team of ten 6th form students and four members of staff had the privilege of travelling to Sierra Leone over the February half-term break, visiting our sister school for the first time since the recent Ebola crisis. To say that we were warmly welcomed does not do justice to the reception we received from the children, teachers, parents and the local community of Allentown. Our entry to the school was accompanied by several hundred children lining the street to sing our welcome. This was the first of many experiences which I am sure will remain with our students for many years to come.

Our partnership with St Ambrose Academy goes back to 2010. At that time, it was agreed that each secondary school in the English Province of the Edmund Rice network would form a partnership with a school in Sierra Leone. The building now occupied by the Academy had originally been built as an adult education centre, but this venture proved unsuccessful. Instead it was decided to create a secondary school for the children of the local district. To enable this, St Ambrose College agreed to fund a significant proportion of the salaries of the teachers for the initial years of the life of the Academy. As the Principal, Br Paul Mendy, reminded students during his welcome address, the Academy would not exist without St Ambrose College. Our students spent much of the week working in the school and getting to know the children. Before departure, students prepared a number of lessons, which they were able to share with different classes on a rotation basis. It was great to see the pupils of the Academy learning about the British royal family, being inducted to the basics of rugby, singing songs and making paper aeroplanes!

More importantly, these encounters provided a vehicle for relationships to be formed. The students of the Academy and the College were equally interested to learn of each other's lives and their discussions were filled with energy and enthusiasm.

In addition to their work at St Ambrose Academy, students had the chance to visit other community projects and places of cultural significance in Freetown. For example, we visited Old Wharf which is home to a fishing community. The students were shocked to see the grim conditions in which people live during a visit to the Susan's bay slum. Visits to the National Museum of Sierra Leone and to the Peace Museum helped develop the students' understanding of the history of the country.

The highlight of the week for many was our visit to the Tacugama Chimpanzee sanctuary, which cares for nearly 100 chimpanzees. The sanctuary, established to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned chimpanzees, is committed to offering conservation education to support the sustainability of chimpanzees in the wild. For every baby chimpanzee taken as a domestic pet, the entire adult family is killed by the poachers. For this reason, the sanctuary staff is keen to welcome school groups in order to teach them about the plight of chimpanzees in domestic settings.



Owing to the generous support of the parents of the College, we were able to fund two different groups to visit the sanctuary during the week. Over 100 children from the Academy visited the sanctuary, and took the opportunity to visit the Peace Museum and the sight of the recent mudslide whilst they had the use of a coach. Our students were able to join one of these groups and a very worthwhile day was enjoyed by all.

As part of the visit I was able to meet with Br Noel Bradshaw, the Provincial Superior of the

West African Province. We were able to finalise our plans to drill a borehole at the Academy, which will hopefully be completed in the next few weeks. As our students can testify from personal experience, the sanitary conditions at the school are far from ideal and the borehole is greatly needed. Over the next few weeks, the immersion team will deliver assemblies to share their experience. I hope these assemblies will remind us all of our connections within the wider network of Edmund Rice schools, and ignite the imaginations of our younger boys who might one day wish to undertake the immersion experience themselves. Br. Paul asks that we remember the children of the Academy in our prayers.

Thanks to all members of the immersion team, whose hard work, good cheer and commitment made our 10 days in Sierra Leone so worthwhile. Our inspiration for the visit came from the words of the prophet Micah, 'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' I hope that these words maintain their relevance as we settle back to the demands, business and busyness of our everyday lives.



M. O'Neill

Dates for the diary

26th March

GCSE & A Level Presentation evening

29th March

End of term

16th April

Return to school

19th April

3rd Year Parents' Evening

7th May

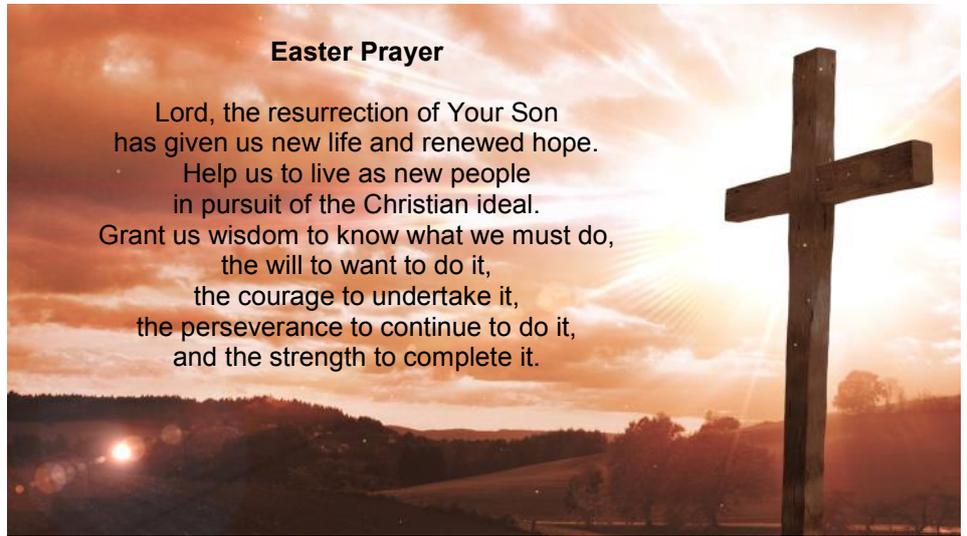
Bank holiday

8th May

4th year internal examinations

Easter Prayer

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.



Careers Convention 2018

The college hosted its 2nd annual Careers Convention on Tuesday. The evening was a great success and our warmest thanks go out to all the contributors, parents, students, and staff who attended. The convention welcomed an array of speakers from many different careers, sectors and industries, ranging from nuclear engineering, accountancy, and law, to psychiatry, energy and teaching. The boys seemed to particularly enjoy the Easter Egg Quiz by Willmott Dixon Construction, and one student won himself a valuable work experience placement with dynamic PR company, Firework PR.

A special mention must go out to Troy Wood, one of our 6th form students and designer of Tim Peake's spacesuit badge. Troy stepped in at the last minute to deliver a talk on his experiences of work, CV building, and saying 'Yes' to all opportunities that come his way. One parent commented on how well Troy spoke and described his presentation as 'amazing', saying they could have 'listened to him for hours'. Troy will certainly be called upon in the future.

We are continually looking to develop and add to our programme of careers related events, and over the next few months will be welcoming a diverse range of speakers to present during one of our new Career's Cafés. As we all know, technology is firmly rooted in all we do in our everyday lives and career opportunities in these sectors are growing exponentially. With this in mind, we will be hosting a 'Tech Con' careers event in the summer, allowing students and their families the opportunity to find out about the many exciting careers emerging in our technological 21st century. Further details to follow.

If you would like to contribute to our careers programme, we always welcome suggestions for future events, careers speakers, and help with work experience placements.

Please email: mrslicoultas@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk if you are able to help.



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.

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/

Day of Divine Mercy

This special celebration will be held on Sunday 8th April at Holy Angels Church, Hale Barns.

The church will be open from 1.30pm and Confessions will be from 2pm onwards.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 2.30pm until 3.20pm and Novena Chaplet, and Promises will be read at 3pm.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm with refreshments available after Mass. In addition, you may wish to recite the 9-day Novena prayers/chaplet commencing on Good Friday.



SAPA News

Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

Happy Easter from SAPA!
We hope you all have a wonderful break.

SAPA website

We have a fabulous website designed by our previous SAPA Chair, Will Bonning (see www.sapa.org.uk). We need someone to take over from Will, in keeping the website up to date; it isn't a lot of work and is very straightforward to do. If you are interested, please get in touch with us as soon as possible (chair18@sapa.org.uk). The website is designed and managed using [Wordpress](#), so if you have experience of using this website creation tool, you'll know how easy it is. Training will be provided.

Second-hand uniform

SAPA holds regular sales of second-hand uniform before every monthly SAPA meeting and also at other events happening at the College. We also sell uniform at the Sports camps for new boys starting at Saint Ambrose College in September, that take place over four weekends in April, May and June. Our uniform sales are very popular and raise a lot of money for the College and Preparatory School. Since April 2017, uniform sales have made an incredible £1,163. Thank you to everyone who has helped to raise this amazing amount of money, by either donating or buying uniform. If you have any unwanted blazers, ties, jumpers or sports kit, in good condition, that your son has outgrown, please drop it off at the College office as soon as you can.

Summer Party Friday 15 June 7.30pm

Tickets will be going on sale during the week after the Easter holidays. Look out for further details in the newsletter, on the SAPA website and in Parentmail communication. Places will be limited, so get ready to buy your ticket (s) quickly – just £20 each. We will be having a raffle, so please let us know if you can donate a prize (chair18@sapa.org.uk). There will also be a pre-event drinks raffle, with the chance to win £50 to spend at the bar. Tickets for the drinks raffle will only be £5.

chair18@sapa.org.uk<<mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk>>

SAPA Chair



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

SAPA dates for your diary

Monday 16th April
SAPA meeting @ 7pm

Monday 16th April
6.30pm to 7pm
Second-hand uniform sale

Saturday 28th April
Second-hand uniform sale

Friday 15th June
Summer Party @ 7.30pm

Keep up with SAPA on;

Facebook - www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/

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

Website - www.sapa.org.uk



Sports News

GM Games Success

The Greater Manchester Games were held on Tuesday this week, with our Under 13 Swimming Squad representing the Borough against all other Districts in the Greater Manchester Region. The event was held in the Aquatics Centre in Manchester and despite strong opposition our team won the overall championship for Trafford Schools.

In individual races Oliver Mortlock, won the 50 metres Breaststroke, Joseph Mortlock and James Goodwin were second in the butterfly and freestyle. Matthew Ho, was 3rd in the Backstroke. With Jack Johnson, added to the relay squad, the sides were comfortable winners in the Medley and Freestyle Relays and topped a brilliant day with victory in the Cannon. Congratulations to all involved.



Oliver Mortlock Joseph Mortlock Mather Ho, Jack Johnson and James Goodwin

Under 12s Sevens Success

Our Under 12 squad completed a hat trick of wins in the County sevens. The School U12's B team also enjoyed a successful afternoon finishing second in their group to runners up Wirral and then going on to beat Lymm High School's A team comfortably in the final. The sides played some outstanding rugby and should be delighted with their success in both the 15 a side game and sevens.

Final Fixture's for 15 a side teams.

In the final 15 a side fixture for the Under 13 and Under 14 sides, we hosted University College from Dublin. Reputedly one of the strongest rugby sides in their District, their side struggled to compete with our open style of rugby, losing 5 -17 and 0 - 50. Thus avenging England's' loss to the Irish at the weekend.

Both age groups are looking forward to finishing the season in a similar way with the Under 12s County Sevens tournaments next week.

N Handy

Director of Sport



Please help next season!

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

mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

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)

