



Saint Ambrose College News Bulletin

14th September 2018

Message from the Principal

This week's assemblies have focused on the theme of 'Striving for Excellence' which is, of course, one of the 8 Essentials of Edmund Rice Education. Following on from the recent successes in the summer exams, we discussed the importance of aiming for the highest standards academically, but, more than that, we focused on the importance of developing all facets of our character in order to reach our potential. There is no shortage of opportunities for our boys to push themselves, try new challenges and excel beyond their academic studies, with today's Societies Fair offering so much variation and the sports calendar already up and running, Recent & upcoming information evenings focusing on the small details leading to bigger successes.

In last Sunday's first reading and gospel, the focus was on the blind seeing and the deaf hearing. The crowd proclaimed Jesus' ability to make this happen. As educators, we aim to replicate Jesus' ability to make those in our care see our learning objectives as capably as Jesus' followers saw his (albeit not always immediately). Our students must always appreciate the wisdom, experience and knowledge that our teachers possess, and take every opportunity to listen and observe so that they may always hear and see.

This week we were delighted to receive survey results regarding the transition experiences of our new 1st year parents and carers. I would like to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey and for providing such overwhelmingly positive feedback. Of particular pride was the view that 100% of parents/carers would recommend St Ambrose College to other parents and carers based on our transition programme.

I wish our sports teams every success this coming weekend and thank both the staff and parents for giving their time to facilitate the fixtures and support the boys.

Finally, I would like to make an appeal on behalf of our Sixth Form Edmund Rice International group. We are aiming to support the parish of Our Lady & the English Martyrs in Urmston in answering the call from Pope Francis in 2015 to "take in one family" of people fleeing war or persecution. The parishioners are well on their way to providing a home for a refugee family but by mid-October the Home Office needs to be satisfied that everything is in place for the bid to be approved. Other schools and charities have pledged items such as white goods etc. but we have agreed to try to raise money towards the total of £9,000. If you feel that you could contribute towards this project and support our ERI group in their additional endeavours to raise money, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr D Rainey

International conservation project

A level biologists have returned from a once in a lifetime research expedition to Indonesia's rainforests and coral reefs as part of an international conservation project. 15 young men aged from 15 to 18 accompanied by Biology teachers Miss Drogan and Mr Allen were the hands and eyes of Operation Wallacea, working alongside leading scientists from US, UK and European universities to monitor flora and fauna both in the rain forests and the coral reef.



In week one the party were based in the tropical rainforest in Buton carrying out their data collection tasks as well as learning jungle survival skills, all the while sleeping in hammocks and washing in the rivers.

Miss Drogan said: "Separated from other landmasses by deep ocean channels, the rainforest has a high percentage of endemic species. There are 127 mammal species of which 62% are endemic, 700 bird species of which 32% are endemic and 74 species of herpetofauna of which 38% are endemic."

In the second week, they moved to sea and the small island of Hoga in the ecologically essential coral triangle in the Indo-Pacific Ocean. Here they stayed in the relative luxury of wooden huts beside the azure waters. While only covering 1.6% of the planet's oceanic area, the region has 76% of all known coral species in the world, and again is vital to our planets precious natural balance.

The trip left a lasting impression on the young men. James Bennett, 17, who wants to read Medicine at university, said: "It was a complete culture change. A different way of life totally, and it was a privilege to contribute to the collection of carbon data in the rainforests and to monitor the mammals, amphibians and insect life."

Toby Leigh, 17, who wants to study Biological Sciences, said: "I enjoyed the practical element of the expedition and that we were able to make a positive contribution to very important research. We were lucky to see some fabulous wildlife including Macaque monkeys, Cuscus, an endemic marsupial, snakes and lizards; the type of wildlife you simply never see in South Manchester." Edward Kaufman, 17: "I enjoyed both elements: Working in the rainforest was fascinating but quite physically demanding in the difficult conditions, then the diving in the coral reef was fantastic and very relaxed. Even in such a remote place you could see the damage being wrought by pollution and every day the divers would dredge the seabed for plastics as part of a daily routine."

Operation Wallacea is named after Alfred Russel Wallace, the 19th century English explorer and naturalist, who remains in the shadow of Charles Darwin, but for many of today's top scientists was just as influential.

Biology Teacher Mr Allen said: "Our students were a valuable resource to the team of international scientists and weren't regarded as students but as co-workers and we hope this expedition will have fired their enthusiasm for careers in science and research."

Dates for the diary

18th September

1st Year & L6th Photographs

19th September

3rd Year Parents' Information Evening at 8pm
4th Year Parents' Information Evening at 7pm

20th September

1st Year Meet & Greet Evening at 7pm

22nd September

Entrance Examination

An excellent start to the new school year was enjoyed by College rugby teams against local rivals Wilmslow HS. The 1st XV side came back to draw a very exciting game 21-21. The other games were much more straightforward with U-15, 14, 13 A and B sides all scoring over 50 points in their matches. Our U12 side also enjoyed a successful training session in preparation for their first Saturday fixtures this weekend against Sale GS and Hutton kicking off at 10 a.m.

Swimming Gala

Our first swimming gala takes place at Merchant Taylors on Tuesday 18th September. We leave at 3pm returning at 6pm. Boys will be told if they have been selected.

Sports Timetable

All boys have been emailed the Sports Facility timetable for the first term. Parents have also been sent a copy of this on Parent Mail. Try and encourage your son to attend extra curricular sessions. In a time when obesity and health issues dominate the news, we are very keen to support students and promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

200 Club

Thank you to all 1st year parents who have joined our 200 club. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the Direct Debit form, available in your welcome pack if you wish to join. Every £10 raised each month provides £5 of valuable funds to support our Sports programme, it also gives members a chance to win monthly draws of half the amount raised with half year and end of year draws over £1000 in prize money.

OPRO

The opro visit left several students without impressions taken. A further visit will be scheduled. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

N Handy

Director of Sport

A big thank you to everyone who attended our meeting on Monday. We had a fantastic turnout, including parents who have been attending for years in addition to lots of mums and dads whose sons have just started at the College.

Plans for our Scalextric Race Night on Saturday 13th October are well underway. We are planning lots of fun, with doors opening at 4pm and closing at 9.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, so please bring all your family. As well as racing, we will have 4-lane Mario Kart Racing on the big screen (in the lecture theatre) plus games to play like 'Drop the coin', Magnetic darts and Pick-up sticks. We will have lucky dips giving you the chance to win prizes. There will be hot food available to buy (hot dogs, burgers, fries, etc.), Krispy Kreme donuts, a pick and mix sweet stall (at the Penny Pit Stop), popcorn, hot and cold drinks and a licensed bar.

Tickets will be available from next week and can be bought via Parentmail. Tickets are open to everyone – boys, and their dads, mums, brothers and sisters, and grandparents. Race tickets are £9 and spectator tickets only £2. There are a limited number of race tickets so you need to buy your ticket quickly to get your race seat. There are two sessions to choose from (one at 5.45pm and one at 7.15pm). If you don't want to race, please come along to watch the action and have a go at our other fun games.

Look out for more information on Facebook, Twitter and the SAPA website. Why not take a look at the photos on our website from last year? If you have any questions, please contact chair18@sapa.org.uk

Can you help?

We need helpers at the Scalextric Night. Can you spare a bit of time to help out at a session, either 6pm to 7.30pm or 7.30pm to 9pm?

We have run out of coat hangers for our second-hand blazers and jumpers. Do you have any spare you could send into College?

We would like to offer mini pamper sessions (for hair and nails) to spectators at the Scalextric Race Night. Is this something you could help with? Please let us know quickly at chair18@sapa.org.uk so we can confirm our plans.

Jo McEntee
SAPA Chair

Please help this season!

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to help serve refreshments after matches. If any others can help please email Mr Handy.



mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Home Fixture
Saturday 15th September




Seniors & U12A
St Ambrose College
Vs
Hutton

10.00am Kick off
(Students selected have been advised to meet at 9am, wearing their school uniform)

AWAY FIXTURE
Saturday 15th September




Hutton
Vs
St Ambrose College
U15A, U14A, U13A, U13C

10.00am Kick off
(Students selected have been advised to meet at College at 8.15am if they require transport on the 72 seater coach)

AWAY FIXTURE
Saturday 15th September




Sale Grammar School
fixture @ Metrovicks Rugby Club,
M33 6LR
Vs
St Ambrose College
U15B, U13B, U12B

10.00am Kick off
(Where possible boys are asked to make their own way, 1 minibuses will depart from SAC at 9am)

Polite
reminder
No dogs
are
permitted
on College
premises.



SAPA dates for your diary

Monday 8th October
Second-hand uniform sale 6.30pm to 7pm in the College
&
SAPA meeting 7pm in the College

Saturday 13th October
Scalextric Race Night from 4pm to 9.30pm

Sunday 25th November
Christmas Fair 11am—2pm

Friday 8th February 2019
Family Quiz & Games Night

Friday 14th June
Summer Party Bowdon Rugby Club

Northern Rail has added us to their Educational Season Ticket Scheme. For more information, please visit: <mailto:www.northernrailway.co.uk/educational-season-tickets>

