



# Saint Ambrose College News Bulletin

18th October 2018

## Message from the Principal

It has been quite a week in the world of education and there have been other key events worth referencing. Towards the end of last week, Amanda Spielman announced proposed changes to OFSTED inspections. One key proposal is the removal of 'Outcomes for Students' as a section to be graded with 'Quality of Education' being introduced. Effectively this means that exam results will play less of a role when judging the quality of schools. Although this has been the headline, it isn't as much of a shift, in my view, as has been reported given that the current progress of current learners has been the focus of inspections more than the rigorous analysis of past data. However, what the change would mean is a focus on the overall quality of the curriculum being offered. Mrs Spielman is quoted as stating that the aim will be to reward schools offering a breadth of subjects. In a Catholic context, the St Ambrose College curriculum model is one which allows our student to have life and have it to the full. Our approach to GCSE options, for example, hasn't limited what the students choose as their preferred subjects & we have a full range of subjects on offer at Key Stage 3 to cater for and nurture all talents.

The weekend saw Oscar Romero being canonised in the Vatican. Having attended a diocesan meeting at Hallows in Macclesfield last Friday whose mission statement is 'Aspire not to have more but to be more', I was grateful of the opportunity to reflect on the life of Oscar Romero ahead of Sunday's celebrations. Students from across the diocese led a short reflection on what we can all learn from Romero's values, with Pope Francis then echoing the students' presentation by referencing Romero's commitment to social justice issues and standing up for the oppressed in his speech on Sunday. Coincidentally, this week saw the 20th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel prize for peace to my hero, John Hume (jointly awarded along with David Trimble). Those familiar with John Hume's background would note similarities with Romero's values and a desire to bring about change for the betterment of all. Hume, like Romero, was tireless in his pursuit of justice and equality.

As we come to the end of the first half-term of the academic year I urge everyone to make the most of the opportunity to rest and recuperate. The start of an academic year can be hectic for staff, students and families, and it is important that we take the opportunities to recharge our batteries when they arrive. Ensure you find time to do whatever allows you to switch off for the next week. Find time for each other and to spend with those you love.

'Let us never tire of preaching love. It is the force that will overcome the world.' Oscar Romero.

Mr D Rainey, Acting Principal

## St Ambrose College Ramblers

Last weekend, Mr O'Neill took 9 students to Skiddaw House in the North Lakes. The plan was to get to the youth hostel on Friday evening for an early Saturday morning start, then hike up and over Skiddaw, one of the highest mountains in England. The trip was shortened unfortunately due to high winds and torrential rain, though this didn't 'dampen' the group's spirit.

Friday night saw us make the 4 mile trek from the minibus to the hostel in the pitch black accompanied by wind and rain with Mr O'Neill, our guide, leading at the front. It was a case of head torches on and heads down as we carefully made our way along the wet and rocky path. On the Saturday morning after a hearty breakfast, the group donned their semi-dry gear and made the trip back to the bus. In the daylight however, this felt a completely different route and we were able to enjoy some of the scenery we'd missed the night before.



A big thank you to Mr O'Neill for organising and leading another great trip, with an additional thanks to Mr Beegan and Mr Leisk for their time and support.

## totalfitness Altrincham

**7 days for free, during October half term  
for St Ambrose College students and their families!**

Total Fitness Altrincham have invited students and their families to join a 7 day free trial at their club which is conveniently located in the heart of Altrincham town centre. The club offers two floors of state of the art gym equipment, pools and group exercise studios.

The Club boasts a large array of cardio and resistance machines plus a big free weights area. These great facilities are complemented by 3 group exercise studios which offer over 70 group exercise classes each week. For extra comfort, they also offer a private Ladies' only gym with an excellent selection of equipment.

Please contact Total Fitness, Altrincham for further details on 0161 925 4500 or call into the club to register.

[@StAmbrosecoll](https://twitter.com/StAmbrosecoll)



Please ensure, you top up your son's catering account using ParentMail PMX.



If it is necessary for him to bring cash into school please note we are unable to provide change.



## Dates for the Diary

**18th October**  
Break up for half-term at 3.35pm

**29th October**  
Return to College

**31st October**  
1st Year Parents' Evening

## Christmas 2018 Card Competition

We invite all students to get creative with this years Christmas Card competition.



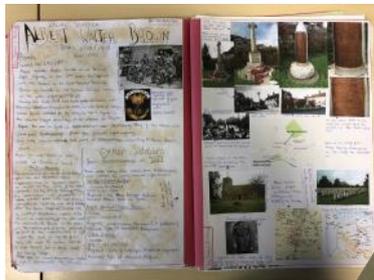
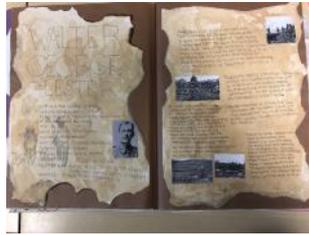
Please return all entries to the College Office by Monday 29th October

## Every Soldier Remembered

In the run up to the Centenary of the end of the First World War. We are hoping that as many students, staff and parents as possible will engage with this project over half term. The idea is to remember as many soldiers as we can in school during Peace, Reconciliation and Remembrance Week.

We are asking for displays which remember a soldier who could be a family member or a local soldier. Your local war memorial could be a starting point. As a minimum please include a name and a photograph of the soldier you wish to remember. Any information needs to be displayed in a poster form as we are using wall space for this project. Please bring in your displays for Wednesday 31st October so that we can put them up in preparation for Peace, Reconciliation and Remembrance Week 5th - 9th November.

Mrs Scott



## History Society

The History Society have continued to meet on Thursday in Room 2403. Presentations this term have included the Battle of Britain, the Renaissance and Apartheid. We have enjoyed Presentations from the Sixth Form, the First Year and the Second Year. I am hoping that some GCSE historians will accept the challenge of researching and delivering a presentation on the topic of their choice. Please see Matt Bancroft and Rory Keates, (U6) if you would like to come along and give a presentation. We are anticipating their presentation on the Holocaust as they will be visiting Auschwitz in early November and we are also looking forward to commemorating the Centenary of the end of the First World War. in the week beginning the 5th of November.

All welcome.  
Mrs Scott

History Society  
Thursday lunchtime  
Room 2403



# WW1 EXHIBITION

-- a retrospective



At the site of the  
first local Red Cross  
WW1 Hospital



with war stories relating to our members

**ADMISSION FREE**

**Altrincham United Reformed Church  
at Trinity, Hale**

*Corner of Ashley Road and Cecil Road*

Friday 9th November 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.  
Saturday 10th November 10.30-12.30 p.m.  
Sunday 11th November 12.30 - 2.00 p.m.  
(after Remembrance Service at 10.30 a.m.)  
Monday 12th November 12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

Registered Charity No: 1129206

Looking for  
something to do over half term?

Have you ever visited your local  
war memorial?



We would like to invite Military Veterans  
to join us commemorate  
Remembrance Day  
and the Centenary of the end of the  
First World War

On  
Friday 9th November  
at  
10.30am



the event is anticipated to last about one hour,  
with light refreshments available.

# Sports News

## Athletics

On Friday our U16 team competed in the Greater Manchester Indoor Meeting at Sport City. 14 of the districts top schools competed and our side finished a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place. Individual medallists were Lewis Rowlinson, silver in the 800m, Liam O'Connor, Bronze in the 60m hurdles and Cian Lambert, Bronze in the 400m. Our 4x200m relay squad also received a bronze medal to complete a very enjoyable afternoons work.

## Swimming

On Friday night our swimmers competed in the NW Boys Round of the English Schools Championships in Liverpool. In the Junior boys Freestyle Relay the side finished 7<sup>th</sup> of 16 teams and 8<sup>th</sup> in the Medley Relay. At Intermediate age group the side finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Freestyle Relay and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Medley whilst our Seniors came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Freestyle event and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Medley. We are waiting to find out if our Seniors times are quick enough for the top 12 National places. Our swimmers can justifiably be pleased with their efforts, especially our Juniors, all of whom will be eligible to compete at this age group next year.

## Cross Country

Last weekend was a very busy and fruitful one for College runners. On Saturday the John Leigh Park races resulted in a clean sweep for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year teams. Individually Dylan McGrath was 1<sup>st</sup>, Jack Everett second and Luke Kelly third in the 1<sup>st</sup> year race. James Kelly was 1<sup>st</sup> and Daniel Akindrewo 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year race. Other runners high placings guaranteed the team event for our runners.

On Monday in the Greater Manchester and Lancashire round of the English Schools Cup both teams qualified for the North West Final. Freddie Meredith was second in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year race with James Kelly 6<sup>th</sup> in his completing two memorable days of Cross country running. The finals take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November and Mr Aspinwall is preparing the teams for what could be a very important day in this sport.

## Year 7 County Rugby Festival

On Tuesday, we hosted a preliminary group stage of the County Cup. In a league of four our U12s competed against Altrincham G.S, Lymm H.S and Sandbach School and continued their impressive start to the season winning all three matches and progressing to the finals group. To date all St Ambrose sides have remained unbeaten in their Cheshire Festivals and will be hopeful of County Cup success at U12, U13 and U14. The U15 side play Lymm on Thursday in the next Round of the Nat West Cup continuing their County Cup Final success from last year whilst our U16 side have (progressed to the Semi Final of their own County tournament).

To date our U12A & B teams, U13A and U14B teams have reached half term unbeaten, which is an outstanding achievement considering the number of games played and the strength of our opposition. My thanks to all staff, parents and boys involved.

## Senior Football

Our 1<sup>st</sup> X1 played in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the English Schools Cup on Wednesday and lost in the final minute to local rivals Ashton on Mersey.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 played Bury G.S Senior X1 and despite some late cry offs the side held a strong opposition for most of the game. The side conceded a goal late in the first half after scoring first and ended up 1-3 down despite some close efforts on goal in a tight second period.

N Handy  
Director of Sport



**Polite Reminder**  
**No dogs**  
are permitted on  
College premises

## Please help this season!

If anyone can help serve refreshments after matches please email Mr Handy. [mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:mrnhandy@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

St Ambrose  
Christmas Fair  
on  
Sunday 25th November  
11am - 2pm



# SAPA News

Saint Ambrose Parents' Association

St Ambrose Parents' Association proudly presents THE SAINT AMBROSE CHRISTMAS FAIR Sunday 25 November, 11am – 2pm

There's something for everyone!  
Christmas Lunch, Santa's Grotto, Toys, Games & Prizes, House Stalls, Christmas Drinks, Tombolas, Presents, Department Stalls, Raffle, Sweets, School Uniform Stall, Cartoons, Christmas Puddings, Christmas Music and Performances.

Please come and enjoy a few hours with us to celebrate this magical time of year.

ALL proceeds are shared between the College and Preparatory School

Can you help us?

As we prepare for this special event, we invite you to get involved. There are a number of ways to contribute to the Christmas Fair...

**Donate!** Do you have things you no longer need? We welcome donations of Toys, Games, Books, PC and Console Games, Tech, Housewares, Sweets, Chocolates, and Bottles of Wines and Spirits. Donations will be collected in the College's reception and in the Preparatory Car Park between Monday 19 and Friday 23 November at pick up and drop off times – look out for the car with the signs and boot up!

**Sponsor or Sell!** Advertise your business! Do you have a business that you'd like to advertise? Donations to our Raffle give you a free mention in the Christmas Fair Guide and again during the raffle draw. A limited number of stalls are also available to parents for promoting and selling.

**Volunteer!** A few hours goes a long way! In the run up to and during the event we need your help. If you can spare a few hours we would be very grateful. We need people to help sort donations and decorate the College (Friday 23 November 2pm onwards), man stalls (Sunday 25 November) and tidy up after. Please get in touch.

For ALL enquiries, please contact [chair18@sapa.org.uk](mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk) <<mailto:chair18@sapa.org.uk>>

THANK YOU!

Mrs J McEntee  
SAPA Chair

## SAPA Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 25th November**  
Christmas Fair 11am—2pm

**Friday 8th February 2019**  
Family Quiz & Games Night

**Friday 14th June**  
Summer Party Bowdon Rugby Club

## Keep in touch with SAPA

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/](http://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/) <<http://www.facebook.com/SAPAnews/>>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StAmbrosePA>

Website

[www.sapa.org.uk](http://www.sapa.org.uk) <<http://www.sapa.org.uk>>

