



Saint Ambrose College

Weekly News Bulletin



@PrincipalSAC

Friday 29th September 2023

A Message from the Principal

Firstly, I am sorry that I didn't manage to include a weekly message in last week's edition of the newsletter. You will be aware that we were holding our entrance examination and as a result, we had a very different day and I didn't quite get the chance to write as I normally would.



It isn't often that I focus on our governors in the newsletter but it would be remiss of me not to mention yesterday's NGA awards for outstanding governance held at the Houses of Parliament. Our governing board were a finalist in the single school category and was awarded third place from almost 60 entrants from across the country. The role of a governor requires an incredible level of service and commitment and I would like to thank them and indeed congratulate them on behalf of the whole community on their magnificent achievement yesterday.

On Tuesday we celebrated the outstanding GCSE results of our current year 12 students. In our summer press release, we mentioned that their achievements were record-breaking and in the recent information evenings, I highlighted some of the key headlines. The results are now available on our website with the Attainment 8 score sitting at 72.79 and the Progress 8 score coming in at +1.00. Those figures mean that the average grade of our students was almost a third of a grade higher than an 'A' grade in 'old money' (based on their best 8 results) and that on average, each student attained 1 grade higher than what was expected based on their key stage 2 prior attainment. The Progress 8 score is comfortably the highest in the school's history with almost all key measures in line with or higher than the 2022 outcomes which, of course, were inflated nationally. Congratulations to all prize winners particularly those who were given additional prizes in specific categories. It was lovely to spend time with the students, parents and carers recognising that the outcomes didn't come about by chance and were the result of dedication and hard work over many months and indeed years.

As the year progresses, it is necessary to remind parents of the importance of the apps which we use to communicate key information to you. If you have any issues with passwords or generally being able to access the accounts, please contact our IT technicians using support@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk. If your query relates to an area linked to our data manager, Mrs Evans, it will be forwarded to her from the same address.

As we approach Black History Month, the students in our Sixth form leadership team are organising a series of events, one of which is a

poetry competition which parents and carers are also welcome to enter. The link for further information can be found here:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/poetry-competition-entry/>

Earlier today we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning as I'm sure many of you did in your places of work and other communities as well. I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Boulton for organising and also to the many staff who baked and donated cakes.

SAPA will be hosting a pre-loved uniform sale next Saturday 7th October during the morning fixtures. As always, we welcome any donations to keep our stock levels healthy. The fixtures are coming thick and fast and there were some excellent outcomes against Stockport Grammar last week with the only defeat being a 36-35 thriller. If you watched that and then watched Ireland vs South Africa later that evening you'd certainly have been fortunate with your choice of rugby union viewing. A nod to Wales as well who thrashed Eddie Jones' woeful Australia side. Good luck to all teams taking part in fixtures this weekend and a particular thanks to staff given the distance away to Leeds will eat further in to quality weekend time with their own families.

Finally, Mr Brady as asked if anyone is able to use their expertise in industry and business to form part of our guest speakers list on a Wednesday afternoon, please contact him directly at mrsbrady@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk. We are always particularly keen to welcome old boys back on site to hear of their successes.

I'm off to watch a weekend of Ryder Cup action – undoubtedly one of the highlights of the sporting calendar and an event which almost always creates incredible tension and drama. The Solheim Cup last weekend was phenomenal but I'm on the side which thinks that a 14-14 tie just leaves things feeling a little bit underwhelming.

Have a great weekend.

Mr D Rainey
Principal



REMINDERS

Upcoming Dates to Note

4th October	Year 11 School Photographs
16th—20th October	Year 7 Castlerigg Retreat
20th October	Last day of term
30th October	School resumes

YEAR 7 RETREAT to CASTLERIGG—Reminder

Further to our email on Thursday, thank you to those who have already signed the Jotform for your son(s) re-treat to Castlerigg in October. If you haven't got around to it, please use the link below to complete. The Jotform will close on at 9am on Monday 2nd October.

[CASTLERIGG CONSENT FORM](#)



WATER BOTTLES

We have acquired a number of unnamed bottles in lost property, replacing them can be quite costly. Please ensure names are written on water bottles using a permanent marker so they can be easily identified and returned to the rightful owner.





SPORTS UPDATE

Senior & U16 Football

Senior and Under 16 Footballers Boys have the opportunity to purchase a full kit which should be worn to matches and in Games lessons. The total cost is £25 for shirts, socks and shorts. Goalkeepers kit is also available. Mr Cutting will be selecting squads in the coming weeks and boys will need the kit for matches starting at the end of the month. Please pay using the Parent Pay system.

Senior and u16 Rugby players can now pay for their full rugby kit via Parent Pay.

Head Injury Risk Assessment

There has been a lot of discussion on the news about concussion and direct links to dementia etc in contact sports. The RFU have a very useful video which I would recommend all parents to watch outlining what we should do if we suspect a potential concussion. You can find this on <https://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugbysafe-toolkit/headcase/> and is appropriate for all contact sports.

Shin Pads

Parents and students are reminded that shin pads are required to participate in football in PE and Games lessons. This will be fully enforced in each lesson.

KUKRI Online Shop

Personalised rugby shirts The Kukri Shop will be opening again shortly. If you missed the first opportunity to order a personalised rugby shirt please contact the College via email office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk to be added to the waiting list. As advised KUKRI will only reopen the online shop when there are a minimum of ten orders.

We do have some older style reversible Games shirts available to purchase as a replacement. The shirts are £10 and we have various sizes available.

200 Club

Parents are reminded of our 200 Club which has monthly draws to raise money for School Sport. The Direct Debit mandate can be found on the School website and parents are encouraged to support the Sports Committee who run this. For £10 a month parents can win £100 with three bumper prizes of £250 in Summer and Xmas draws. The School receive half of the monies collected and use this to support our extensive Sports programme. Please return completed forms to any Sports staff. I was delighted to return to school last week and find 38 new 200 club parents who had sent in their DD forms. These are being processed and should hopefully be included in the October draw.

School sports Website:

The vast majority of fixtures are available to view on : <http://www.sacsport.org.uk/?id=332>

Sporting fixtures commence:

Rugby

On Saturday 23rd we competed in 6 matches against Stockport GS. The College won 5/6 games.

This Saturday 30th September we play Leeds Grammar School

1st XV, 2nd XV, U12A&B are at AWAY

U15A, U14A&B, U13A&B are at HOME

All 10.30 am ko

The meet time for the teams travelling **AWAY to Leeds GS is 8.00am.**

On Tuesday 26th our U15 began their Natwest Cup campaign v Liverpool College with a fine victory 55-14

This Wednesday our 1st XV beat Ellesmere College in Round 2 of the Natwest Vase 41-18

Football

On Tuesday 3rd October our U16 begin their ESFA cup campaign at home to Tytherington 4pm ko

On Wednesday 4th our senior team has a ESFA fixture against Bolton School away ko 2.15

Also on Wednesday our 2nd and 3rd XI have matches at Home v Kings Chester.

Swimming

On Friday 6th October our U13, U15 and U18 teams compete in the Northwest swim qualifiers for the National Finals at Everton Park Leisure Centre. (4pm start)

Sports Training Timetable

All students are encouraged to take part in at least one physical activity and we have tried to offer as wide a choice of Winter Sports as possible. House competitions will also be starting very soon in their Games lessons. The water polo lessons after school are a paid for activity and will start when numbers are confirmed. All other practices begin in the week commencing Monday 11th September. We have lunchtime practices to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to compete for School team selection. The exception is in Senior football where boys are asked to stay until 5pm for their practices and year 10/11 basketball (although basketball will be an option in the year 10&11 games lessons) Boys can wear appropriate non-school kit for practices to enable parents time to wash Games and PE kit which should be worn in curricular lessons. Any boys unable to take part in those lessons should bring a note or alternatively join teachers in the swimming pool or Fitness suite where an appropriate activity will be given to assist their injury. Please make sure your son has the appropriate kit for all lessons.

Mr M Fitzsimon
Director of Sport



PASTORAL/WELFARE MANAGER

To our returning students, welcome back and to our new students, we are so happy to have you here. Many students at the school know who I am and will point you in my direction should you need any help or support with anything. This is my seventh year here so I hope that most of the time I can answer any questions you might have, but if I can't, I am sure I can point you in the direction of someone who can.

My role is Pastoral/ Welfare Manager and I am available to support you every day during your time here. Alongside this job role, I am also the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead so if you have any safeguarding concerns please do feel free to come and speak to me.

Day to day, you can find me in the "Pastoral Hub" office which is located on the ground floor opposite the languages department. It is the one with the frosted windows and also houses Mrs Keary (our SENDCO) and Mr Murray (School Chaplain).

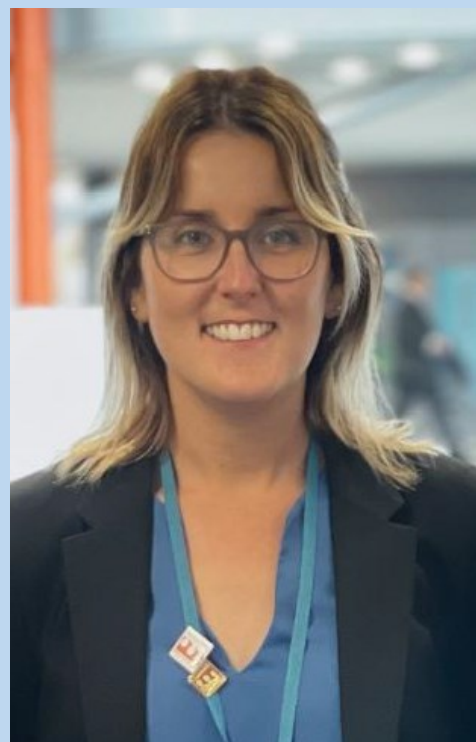
A lot of my role at the school is supporting students who are finding it difficult to settle, have issues with their mental health, problems at home or are experiencing issues with their friendship groups. I coordinate the school counsellors, who work in school on a Monday and a Thursday. If you feel you would benefit from talking to a counsellor please do let me know, and I can arrange this for you as it is by appointment only. We often do have a waiting list but most of the time it is much shorter than trying to arrange external counselling. Sometimes, I will need to speak to you about your behaviour choices but I am hopeful that I won't need to do this too often.

One of the best parts of my job is that I am pretty much always available to you as I don't have a teaching timetable. I really enjoy getting to know you so please always feel like you can stop me to have a conversation and tell me a bit about yourself. I am involved with the Y7 rugby teams this year so many of you will see me on Saturday mornings too.

I hope you all enjoy this year and that you are able to make the most of the excellent opportunity you have by attending this great school.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Miss Dean





STUDENT SUCCESS



Congrats to Tom C—Year 9

For passing his Grade 5 trumpet exam
with a merit.

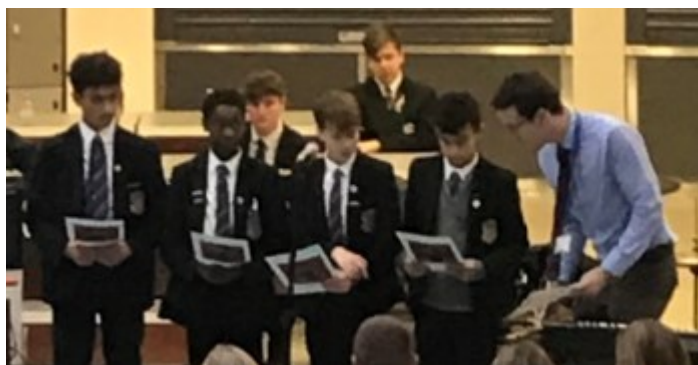


SCHOOL NEWS

GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING

On Tuesday evening, we had the pleasure of celebrating the fantastic GCSE achievements of the 2023 co-hort. Thank you to everyone who was present to make the occasion such a memorable evening.

For anyone who was unable to attend, you can email Miss McEwan at exams@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk to collect your official certificates from November.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Staff at St Ambrose participated in the Macmillan Coffee Morning in support of cancer research. Sadly too many of us will be affected by cancer in one way or another so it is important that we keep funding the research to help find a cure.





SCHOOL NEWS

MESSAGE FROM HEAD BOY

As we come to the end of our first month of the academic year 2023/2024, we must appreciate it has been a huge success. It is great to see so many familiar faces coming back to join the sixth form as well as getting to know our new students who have joined us throughout the school. Our new Ambrosians seem to be getting stuck into our community at the College and I expect our older school pupils have made this transition as easy as possible for them. After the well-deserved summer break, I hope that everybody was eager to return to Saint Ambrose and has managed to hit the ground running with their workload.



With the academic year having only just begun there is so much to look forward to, our school play is in the works, an array of musical events on the horizon and our sporting prowess already being showcased. The societies fair was, as always, exceptionally busy, with numerous student and teacher led societies that were only outnumbered by the students signing up for them. I encourage all students from Year 7 to Year 13 to get involved with as much as they can, as the enrichment provided at the College is truly second to none. It has been brilliant to see the variety of societies and activities Saint Ambrose has to offer and if you have not signed up for a club yet, it is definitely not too late!

All of these amazing opportunities and successes would not be possible without the unfaltering dedication of the staff at Saint Ambrose. So, I must take the time to thank the kitchen staff, cleaning crew, caretakers, technicians, office staff, our admin team, our pastoral team, senior leadership team and our teachers. The work put in behind the scenes at the College shines through in the successful start to the year!

Ben Hartigan
Head Boy

MENTORING

Every year we are inundated with applications from sixth form students to be a mentor so it was great to have our mentoring program up and running again for another year. We have a number of exemplary sixth form students working with students from Year 10 and 11. This stretches across all subjects from Maths and the Sciences to English and the Humanities. We have seen over the years how one to one sessions can have a tremendous positive impact on students' progress.



Thank you to all our sixth form volunteers and keep up the good work everyone!

Mrs Hart
Achievement Mentor





SCAN TO
SIGN UP!



CRS | CharlesRussell Speechlys LAW EVENT

4TH OF OCTOBER | 5PM - 6:30PM



**SALUTING
OUR
SISTERS**

The National Black History Month Poetry Competition 2023

Dear Participants,

We are excited to announce the **National Black History Month Poetry Competition for 2023**, a groundbreaking collaboration between *Black History Month Magazine* and the *Black Writers Guild*. This year's theme, "**Saluting Our Sisters**," aims to illuminate the incredible contributions and unwavering spirit of black women.

Who's Invited? This competition welcomes participants of all backgrounds and poetic experience levels. Whether you are a budding poet or an established wordsmith, we encourage you to take part. To ensure a level playing field, the competition is divided into four age-based categories:

- Primary (Ages 5-10)
- Secondary (Ages 11-16)
- College/University (Ages 16-24)
- General Public (Aged 25 and above)

The Essence of the Poem For this competition, we invite you to craft poems that weave stories about black women.

- Trailblazing black women who have left an indelible mark in their professions or endeavours.
- Personal accounts of black women who have served as pillars of strength and inspiration.
- Thoughtful introspections on the joy, pride, and essence of being a black woman.

Whether you choose to write about globally recognised figures, beloved family members, community heroes, or draw from your personal experiences, every story is cherished and valued.

The Judging Process To ensure fairness and transparency, a distinguished panel of judges from the Black Writers Guild will evaluate all submitted poems. They will assess entries based on creativity, originality, and alignment with the competition's theme. Our goal is to

discover poems that authentically encapsulate the spirit of Black History Month and duly honour the profound contributions of black women.

Perks and Prizes Winners from each category will not only receive cash prizes but will also have their poems immortalized in our anthology, "**Saluting Our Sisters.**" Additionally, winners will be esteemed guests of honor at a special celebration scheduled for March 2024.

Important Dates to Remember Please mark your calendars with these crucial dates:

- Submission Deadline: 15th November 2023
- Judging Period: 16th November 2023 – 2nd February 2024
- Winner Announcement: World Poetry Day, 21st March 2024

To Submit Your Poems To submit your poems for this remarkable competition, please visit the following link: [[Poetry Competition Entry – Black History Month 2023](#)].

We encourage you to embrace this unique opportunity to express your creativity, pay homage to the contributions of black women, and possibly become a part of an inspiring anthology.

Thank you for being a part of the celebration of black history and the empowerment of black women through the art of poetry.



SAPA LATE SUMMER NEWS!

SAPA MEETINGS

**Our next meeting is the AGM at the college
on Thursday 12th at 6pm
All welcome!**

A huge **welcome** goes out to our new SAPA members.

It was lovely to meet you at our last meeting.

Any new parents who wish to be part of the group
please just turn up at the next meeting or message us
on the email below. We promise you a warm welcome!

Please email chair@sapa.org.uk for more information

**OUR NEXT UNIFORM SALE IS
14TH OCTOBER 8.30am**

**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!!
OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR IS THE 2nd DECEMBER**

We are already planning our Christmas fair and as usual

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

**Please email chair@sapa.org.uk
to express your interest in becoming a helper/volunteer on the day.**

**You do not have to attend all the meetings to volunteer at our events
and the more we have, the more successful it will be.**

CAN YOU HELP?

**WE ARE ALREADY
SOURCING PRIZES
FOR OUR EVER POPULAR
CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE.**

**DO YOU HAVE A CONTACT WHO YOU
COULD ASK FOR A DONATION?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR AMAZING
PRIZES ESPECIALLY FAMILY PRIZES
SUCH AS TICKETS/VOUCHERS OR
SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL
SUCH AS A MANCHESTER UNITED OR
MANCHESTER CITY SIGNED SHIRT!**

**IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE GET IN
TOUCH ON THE EMAIL BELOW.
THANK YOU!**

Please email chair@sapa.org.uk for more information



SAPA LATE SUMMER NEWS!

**OUR NEXT UNIFORM SALE IS ON
14TH OCTOBER AT 8.30**

**PLEASE KEEP SENDING IN CLEAN
AND LAUNDERED DONATIONS!
(Especially ties and socks!)**



**Our stocks are depleted after our amazing
sales and we desperately need donations of:**

**TIES • BLAZERS • SPORTS SOCKS • RUGBY TOPS
KUKRI RUGBY SHORTS • INDOOR PE KIT**

**PLEASE COULD YOU SEND THEM INTO THE COLLEGE
RECEPTION SO WE CAN HELP THE NEW YEAR 7 PARENTS
WHO ARE WAITING FOR ITEMS TO COME IN!**

Please keep sending in all other sizes and items as usual.



General Notices

ATTENDANCE

The School Day

Please can we remind all students to ensure they are on-site by 08:55, all boys should be in their form rooms at 09:00 for registration.

All students should enter the building using the student entrance **not** Main Reception (this is only for late arrivals). Students who have two or more late marks in one week will receive an after-school detention.

Parents/Carers – please do not use the College car park as a drop-off point at the beginning or end of the day. This is for the safety of our students.

For further guidance please refer to our Attendance Policy available on the website: [St Ambrose College \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

Medical Appointments

If your son has a medical appointment please try and make them after school or if not as close to the end of the school day as possible. Please give advance notice of appointments in writing attaching copies of medical letters/appointment cards and email them to attendance@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

PASTORAL/WELL-BEING ISSUES

Please contact your son's form tutor in the first instance and they will resolve or pass on as required. For urgent matters relating to safeguarding or pastoral care, please contact Mr Groves, our Designated Safeguarding Lead: mrpgroves@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

ONLINE SAFETY

Students' online safety is important to us. We encourage parents to visit our website for advice and guidance [Saint Ambrose College - Online Safety \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)

Useful resources can also be found by visiting:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx>

More general advice and information about the latest apps is available from Net Aware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>