



Saint Ambrose College

Weekly News Bulletin

 @PrincipalSAC

Friday 20th October 2023

A Message from the Principal

With the beginning of half-term approaching it seems appropriate to mention that term dates for 2024-25 have been published on local authority websites and unfortunately it looks as though there are differences across the various Greater Manchester boroughs again. Whilst we don't necessarily have to follow the Trafford dates, we do aim to work alongside local Catholic schools when confirming our dates so please don't book in any holidays just yet! My reason for raising this is due to my ongoing frustration that dates such as the upcoming half-term can't be coordinated at a wider level to benefit the many families, and indeed teachers, who have children or work across different local authorities. With so much focus on wellbeing and pupil attendance, it should be a priority area.

I'm going to get my moans out of the way early and then aim to finish positively. Earlier this week an article appeared in the Manchester Evening News regarding the views of some residents and councillors on our lettings. Firstly, the headline chosen by the journalist in question was incredibly unhelpful and it wasn't particularly clear that the alleged language concerned was NOT coming from students of St Ambrose College. Indeed, I am aware that the local clubs making use of the facilities aren't best pleased with the claims being attributed to their members. We were disappointed by many aspects of the article. Firstly, we know there was a recent floodlight issue which meant that, due to an electrical fault, the lights came on and remained on through the night. That is an isolated incident. We haven't been "blatantly flouting" the agreements as was claimed. We have engaged and responded positively when we have been made aware of an issue. Most recently, we reduced our planning application from 10 pm to 8 pm following constructive discussions with the local residents concerned. We don't feel the article was balanced but we are grateful for the many positive comments, both verbally and on social media about the school and our fantastic students. We are proud that local children and local clubs are availing of our facilities and we will continue to respond constructively to views expressed by residents. We were also disappointed to read the views of local Hale Barns councillors and we will aim to meet with them to ascertain the reasons behind the change in position and to obtain general clarity on this issue.

The Department of Education released the national GCSE results yesterday and we are currently ranked 87th for our attainment 8 score of 72.7 (will rise when finalised) and just outside the top 100 for Progress 8. Whilst we are delighted with our scores and outcomes, please don't be making snap judgements about schools across the North-west who are doing amazing things regardless of what their Progress 8 score is.

On to the positive content now! Yesterday we took six staff to the official launch of The Gaudete Trust at Edgbaston, Birmingham. It was such a positive, engaging day meeting dozens of staff from across the trust and most importantly taking away practical ideas and suggestions about making the trust high profile and visible across all the schools.



Year 7 pupils have all returned from the annual retreat to Castlerigg. As ever, the weather in The Lakes has been shocking throughout the retreat but the whole point of a retreat is to challenge. I hope all your sons have returned with positive experiences, comments and maybe even new friendships. As they are returning, the members of the Aquinas House from year 8 upwards are participating in their afternoon of rewards for winning the House Cup in the last academic year.

Visitors to the school this week have included a Careers Café focusing on architecture and a guest speaker on the Holocaust on Wednesday afternoon. Governors linked with the pastoral dimension to the school met with students on Monday to focus on welfare and in sport, we competed against Lymm High School in the Cheshire cup with victory for our year 11 team but defeat for our year 9 team. Thank you to all staff involved and to Mr Aspinwall for leading our cross-country teams last weekend.

Congratulations to all recipients of the Principal's Award at break-time today. An opportunity to receive the award for another student could come in the form of being the successful designer of our school Christmas card. Please encourage your son(s) to see Mr Roderick for more information. We would love to see a variety of entries. Staying on the theme of Christmas, don't forget the SAPA Christmas Fair booked in for Saturday 2nd December and watch this space for details on a the bottle tombola!

UCAS early entry has been a focus over the past fortnight and we have had numerous students accessing the various tests. We wish them all well with their endeavours.

Finally, we are seeking to recruit a teacher of RE and a Second in PE/Sport for a January start. If you know of potential applicants please point them to the documents on our website and note the deadline of next Friday morning.

Have a fantastic half-term break and stay safe.

Mr D Rainey
Principal



REMINDERS

Dates for your diary

30th October	School resumes
1st November	Year 12 Safe Drive, Stay Alive Event at Middleton Arena
6th November	Flu Vaccinations for Years 7-11
8th November	6th Form Open Evening
12th November	Multi-faith Remembrance Service at Holy Angels , Hale Barns at 10am
15th November	Year 11 Parents' Evening (booking opens to parents/carers 08.11.2023)
22nd November	Year 13 Parents' Evening (booking opens to parents/carers 15.11.2023)
27th Nov - 1st December	Year 11 Mock Speaking Tests for French/Spanish
7th - 19th December	Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations

For term dates for 2023-2024, please visit our website [TERM DATES 2023-2024](#)

REMINDER PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT ARE CLEARLY LABELLED

The College holds a huge amount of lost property that is unnamed and unclaimed. Please may we remind all students/parents/carers that all items of equipment and uniform should be clearly labelled with the student's name. This means we can reunite items with their rightful owner!





STUDENT SUCCESS



WELL DONE to Remi P—Year 9

Who plays for Everton U14's and is part of the ball boy crew at Everton first team games, represented Everton during Black History Month by holding the flag for the Premier Leagues 'No Room for Racism' campaign.



WELL DONE to Rory F—Year 11

We continue to celebrate the success of Rory's promising football career as he was called up to play for Ireland Men's U17's having qualified for the Elite Round of the UEFA European Championship Qualifiers. Rory played in all three games last week against Armenia, Iceland and Switzerland.



PRINCIPALS AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the young men below who all enjoyed a reward breakfast this morning with Mr Rainey in recognition of their dedication to striving for excellence.



Mevindu H—Y13

Benedict D—Y13

Tom H - Y11

Edmund H—Y10

George F—Y13

Jeremy A—Y10

Edwin S—Y8

Rory D—Y8

Lewis C—Y7

Baily P—Y7



***#ambrosianspirirt #positiveattitude #compassionandkindness #strivingforexcellence
#sportingexcellence***



SCHOOL NEWS

MUSICFIRST PODCAST

Santiago L and Miss Yates

Off the back of winning the national MusicFirst composing competition in July, Santiago L and Miss Yates were invited to participate in a podcast with Dr Jim Frankel, who is Director of MusicFirst in the US.



S6 E3 - Ms. Rachel Yates & Santiago Lloyd
MusicFirst - Profiles in Teaching with Technology



The podcast provided a superb platform for Santiago to discuss his passion for music composition, how he navigates the creative process and the importance of music technology within his projects. Miss Yates was also given the opportunity to discuss her musical background, upbringing and philosophy towards music teaching and how music technology slots into this.

The podcast is around 45 minutes long and can be listened to at <https://www.musicfirst.com/podcasts/s6-e3-ms-rachel-yates-santiago-lloyd>

CAREERS—Upcoming Events

Wednesday 28th February 2024 (6pm – 8pm): Careers & Future Pathways Fair. We are excited to host a careers fair during this evening, where we aim to bring together a diverse range of employers from various industries. This event will provide an excellent platform for our students to gain insights into different career paths and connect with professionals.

Work experience for Year 12. This will take place between **Monday 17th June – Friday 21st June 2024**: During this week, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to participate in a work experience program. Students are encouraged to organise their own placements at workplaces of their interest. **We strongly recommend that students begin making inquiries and arrangements for work experience as early as possible to ensure a valuable and enriching experience.**

If you or any contacts you may have are interested in being a delegate and presenting at our careers & Future Pathways Fair, we would be delighted to welcome new employers. Please reach out to us at the contact address provided below.

We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

Kind regards,
Mr. Gunning and the Careers Team



SCHOOL NEWS

AQUINAS HOUSE WINNERS—Reward Day

Today on the last day of half term, we celebrated the victorious house Aquinas which won the 2022-23 St Ambrose House competition. Kevin & Dominic, the Head of House and Deputy Head of House are pictured celebrating their success along with the rest of the House. They enjoyed music by DJ Vaughton and a bag of goodies followed by a film on the big screen. Good luck to all the Houses this year, we threw a party for those in Aquinas during periods 4 & 5 today. Our resident DJ, Mr Vaughton mixed the tunes while the boys enjoyed their treat bag. Goodluck to all Houses for this year!



SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to all students in Year 12 & 13 who entered the Senior Maths Challenge. Particular success was with Samuel S who received 'Best in Year' for Year 12 with a silver award and Joseph D who achieved the 'Best in Year' for Year 13 and 'Best in School' for the entire school with a gold award.

Well done boys!

Miss Donegan



MENTAL HEALTH

SPA

This week Year 13 students from the Mental Health Lead Group have led assemblies and will continue with other Year groups after half term. The focus of the assembly is that no student at St Ambrose 'will be left behind'. The powerful assembly focussed on the need to look out for one another and support each other. They reminded students of our support network in school such as ; Confide, form tutors, DSL's and the Mental Health leads.

After half term, they will launch the Mental Health Spa at lunchtimes, keep watching the weekly Newsletter for more details.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

St Johns RC Church, Chorlton, is inviting young people in the parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 23rd June 2024.



Children in year 8 or above, who have already made their First Holy Communion, will be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions for this will begin at the end of January 2024. Further information and the registration form for the preparation sessions can be found [here](#)



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.

KUKRI Online Shop - This is now CLOSED

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—now even easier to set up via your on-line banking!

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 £200 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 a 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 14th October we hosted Wirral GS winning 4/5 games. Games away were cancelled due to the poor weather and waterlogged pitches.

Our next Saturday fixture is Saturday 11th Nov V Sandbach

On Tuesday 17th October our U14 team took on Lymm HS in the National Cup. They were sadly knocked out in the 1st round.

Also on Tuesday our U16 took on Lymm HS in the Cheshire Cup winning 37-5 to progress to the semi-finals after half term.

After half term, on Wednesday 1st November our 1st XV travel to Calday GS in the next round of the Natwest Vase.

Football

After half term on Friday 3rd Nov, our first XI continue their ESFA cup campaign at home to Cheadle High School ko 2pm

Games lessons for Year 8,9,10 after half term – all students will need shin pads for football.

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. 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.

A reminder - kit is as follows:

Games lessons: Hooped rugby shirt, rugby shorts, games socks, boots. (shin pads when on football)

PE lessons: white polo shirt or blue PE shirt, blue shorts, white socks, trainers. (for some outside sports your teacher may ask you to bring your games kit)

Swim lesson: house swim jammers, towel, hat, goggles.

Mr M Fitzsimon

Director of Sport



The following parents were the winners in the sports committee monthly draw. Cheques are being sent out in the post:

June £100

M&J Pryers
M Boyle
M&T Zindi

July (super draw) £200

CG Akinradewo
MJ & HS Priest
MP Rogan

Aug £100

V McGuire
J Rees
AM O'Gara



SPORTS REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY—First round

Thursday 19th October saw the first round of the English School's Cross Country Cup take place at North Cestrian's playing fields just down the road in Altrincham. The first round puts schools in the Greater Manchester county against one another, to qualify for a place in the North West Final where they will join the top 3 schools from Cumbria, Merseyside and Lancashire.

The course was very flat, with a few boggy areas due to heavy rain the night before. The Junior boys race consists of years 7&8 running together, with the Intermediate boys years 9&10.

Our Junior team were first up and finished in a great second place, with 3 runners inside the top 10. Thomas D moved excellently through the field to finish in 2nd place individually, on his first time representing the school. This was even more impressive considering he is still year 7. The other members of the team were Shea G in 7th, Henry F in 10th, Zac F in 20th and Cormac K in 22nd. Henry and Cormac are both year 7 too which bodes well for their team in 12 months' time.

The Intermediate team dominated the race with 3 runners finishing inside the top 4. Thomas A narrowly beat Liam O in a sprint finish to take the individual victory. Gabriel M wasn't too far behind in 4th place. James S, Oliver H and Adam L, all year 9's, also ran well to place in 10th, 18th and 19th respectively to take an easy team win.

This meant that both teams qualified for the North West final, which will take place at Sedbergh School, Cumbria on Wednesday 8th November. Any team that finishes in the top 3 in that race, will make it to the National Final in Suffolk. That will be the goal for all 3 of our teams this year, with the Senior team of years 11-13 joining the other two.





Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11



UK Health
Security
Agency



Protect yourself against flu

Flu immunisation in England

Information for those in secondary school



Flu **i**mmunisation

Helping to protect you against flu

Available to all Students in Years 7-11

Parents/carers please see the email sent on 12th October for guidance and link to the online consent form.

You must complete the form even if you **do not consent** for your son to have the vaccination.

Vaccination date:

6th November

Online consent form closes:

29th October



Design a Christmas Card Competition



Calling all students in Years 7, 8 and 9

The St Ambrose Christmas Card Competition is
NOW OPEN

If you're an illustrator, sketcher, photographer, painter or digital artist then we'd love to hear from you!

The winning design will be sent to the Ambrosian community and beyond

- Designs must be size A5 (portrait or landscape)
- Designs must be handed in to the office by no later than Monday 30th October





OCTOBER HALF TERM

SCREEN SHOT THIS PAGE TO KEEP HANDY WHEN OUT OVER HALF TERM.



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

M&S CAFES

Spend £5 & get one free kid's meal Mon - Fri during the Oct Half term (various dates)

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

YO! SUSHI

From Monday 16th October - Friday 27th 2023 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE Monday - Friday from Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.





LIFEGUARD COURSE



**LIFESAVERS
DIRECT**
Royal Life Saving Society



RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD QUALIFICATION

Venue: St Ambrose College 2024

Cost £270

(NOTE For St Ambrose students only)



**Monday 12th February
Tuesday 13th February
Wednesday 14th February
Thursday 15th February
Friday 16th February
Time 8.30am till 5.30pm
100% attendance required on all
days
Candidates must be over 16.**

For booking and more information contact Trafford Training on:

Fiona.buckley@traffordleisure.co.uk

training@traffordleisure.co.uk

Please see Mrs Chandler with any questions

more people more active more often
www.traffordleisure.co.uk





SAPA AUTUMN NEWS!

THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to you all for your generous contributions to our SAPA fundraising over the last year. We have been able to purchase some amazing things for the college with this money and our latest purchase is to be a **state-of-the-art laser cutter** for the Design & Technology department. This is a necessary purchase for the continued high-quality education that St Ambrose College strives to provide for your boys and it will play a vital role in multiple subject areas as well as extracurricular activities and school projects.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd November from 6-7pm in the college - All welcome!

If you wish to be part of the group please turn up to the next meeting or message us on the email below. We promise you a warm welcome!

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2nd DECEMBER 2023

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SOON!!

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!!

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ON THE DAY.

PLEASE GET INVOLVED.

You can offer as little as one hour but it would be great if you can offer more time.

We especially need extra help at the end of the day to tidy everything up!

Please email to register your name.

Thank you to those who have already contacted us.

Please email chair@sapa.org.uk to become a helper/volunteer on the day.

CAN YOU HELP?

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

**DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR
HAVE A CONTACT WHO DOES?**

**COULD YOU ORGANISE A PRIZE
DONATION FOR OUR AMAZING RAFFLE?**

OR CAN YOU DONATE ONE YOURSELF?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANY PRIZES
SUCH AS TICKETS, VOUCHERS, ALCOHOL,
CHOCOLATE, PAMPER TREATMENTS,
HAMPERS, EVENT TICKETS, ANYTHING!**

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

THANK YOU!

Please email
chair@sapa.org.uk



UNIFORM SALE

Last Saturday our uniform sale was moved to a new location, in the classroom near the swimming pool at the back of the college. We had really positive feedback from parents who said that it was much easier to find what they wanted and there was more room. Based on this positive feedback, we have decided to move the sales to this area permanently until the Summer next year.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no uniform sale at the Christmas Fair this year but we are adding an extra date in November. Keep reading the newsletter where we will announce the date soon.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY SHIRTS OR TROUSERS, WE ARE AT CAPACITY WITH THESE ITEMS, THANK YOU!

Please keep sending in other donations as usual.
We are again low on ties and socks!

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





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/WEELL-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/>