



Saint Ambrose College

Weekly News Bulletin

 @PrincipalSAC

Friday 1st December 2023

A Message from the Principal

Advent starts as late as it possibly can this year as Christmas falls on a Monday. Still, we have plenty of time to prepare for the season ahead and we have reconciliation services scheduled for later in the month as part of this preparation. With last Sunday being the feast of Christ the King and therefore traditionally referred to as Youth Sunday, the focus of Fr Louis' homily at St Chad's in Cheadle was very much around supporting our young people to be active in their faith and in their parishes. I know a lot of our boys are but for those that aren't, Advent would be an appropriate time for a renewal.

This week also saw the feast of St Andrew yesterday so I hope those named Andrew or with Scottish heritage enjoyed the day and I always like to acknowledge the feast of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music which fell on Tuesday. With that, a timely reminder of our winter concert taking place in the central atrium at 7pm this coming Tuesday. See information within the newsletter.

Although Advent hasn't technically started, BBC Radio 2 started playing Christmas songs this morning so there is a little bit of extra festive mood around and this will no doubt be enhanced by the atmosphere at our Christmas Fair tomorrow. We will have hot food available, dozens of games, hundreds of prizes to be won, live music from the college musicians and upwards of 1500 bottles to be won as part of the north of England's largest Christmas bottle tombola (unofficial!). Please could you also support our Young Enterprise Team who will be selling 2024 calendars which have built around the college's term dates. Having a hard copy of the school calendar in your house is always advisable.

On Wednesday we were involved in two huge rugby fixtures against St Anselm's. The under 18 first XV enjoyed a brilliant win and now travel to Essex on Tuesday for the quarter-final stage of the national Natwest Vase. Whilst that game was a high scoring affair, the under 16 Cheshire Cup final was the opposite, with St Ambrose just losing out 11-6 at the end of a tense encounter. We are immensely proud of both teams and wish the under 18 panel the best for next week. The year 7 basketball team continues to go from strength to strength as they continued their winning run with a 32-14 victory against Sale Grammar.

Tomorrow we have several cross-country teams making the journey to Suffolk aiming for a top 10 finish having been placed 13th nationally last year. We wish them well and hope that the temperatures increase a little. I am sure parents are already

aware but to confirm that all of tomorrow's scheduled fixtures vs Cheadle Hulme School have been postponed.

The year 11 internal exams get under way next week. All students have been issued with their timetables and should be aware of where and how to access revision materials.



Thank you for the responses to the Y11 parents' evening survey. We were very pleased with the outcomes and headlines including all parents and carers being happy with progress, and all feel that your sons are safe and cared for. Only 1 parent felt that behaviour wasn't good with most respondents strongly agreeing that it was. Most respondents also selected strongly agree for the statement that the school is well led and managed and the only disagree for that question was sent in anonymously so we haven't been able to follow up and resolve unfortunately.

There have been a couple of high-profile education stories in the news this week, not least the inquest into the tragic passing of Ruth Perry shortly after an OFSTED inspection. The weight of inspection outcomes on headteachers is immense and reading the testimonies of those close to Mrs Perry about the impact the inspection had on her evidenced the need for a more proportionate and indeed compassionate approach to school accountability. The other story was the plans from the DfE to introduce minimum service levels on strike days. The response from the teaching unions has been unanimously against the proposals.

Last weekend I had the pleasure of watching 17 of our sixth form students compete in the Mock Trial event hosted by Minshull Street Crown Court. Our teams acquitted themselves superbly and gave a strong account of themselves in all cases. Congratulations to Withington School for Girls who were deserved winners overall. Thank you to Mr Hayes for preparing the team and to the other staff who came along to support.

Please can I ask all parents and carers to read communication sent earlier this week regarding opportunities and assistance required for our Careers Day later in the year. On the theme of seeking parental expertise, we are now in to double figures with Oxbridge interviews so anyone with experience of such interviews that might have the capacity to put our students through their paces, please do get in touch. We have been working with Loreto to prepare each other's students and this



A Message from the Principal

has been a fantastic help. Earlier this week, both schools joined forces again as part of our Ambreto project, aiming to address gender stereotypes. The students have separated into small working parties, where they are preparing a range of resources from assemblies, podcasts and posters, through to mixed sports events, to be unveiled in both schools, reaching students from all key stages.

The work on Hale Road seems to have been the catalyst for a recent issue involving a change of routes parents and carers are taking to drop off and pick up their children. The system has always been to enter the road used by buses via Hale Road and exit on to Wicker Lane via Holy Angels car park. Some parents are doing the opposite which is causing issues, not least around health and safety of the students. I know the queues are a little longer than usual at present but please be patient and use the route outlined above.

Whilst we try to contain our excitement ahead of tomorrow's fair, spare a thought for the students who are 'sleeping out' this evening to raise awareness of homelessness. I have put sleeping out in inverted commas because as a result of the forecast temperatures, the students will be moving inside for much of the evening following a review of the risk assessment. It is fantastic that over 50 students have volunteered to take part and as much as we are aware that the point of the 'event' is to experience the daily challenges of homelessness, we have to be mindful of the dangers of spending too long in below zero temperatures. The students

taking part will be briefed on revised plans and expectations but the change in plans in no way diminishes their efforts.



The NHS has launched an open consultation on its aim of creating a smoke-free generation and also ambitions to tackle youth vaping. The consultation is an opportunity to inform government policy so if you wish to contribute your views, the consultation can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

Have a wonderful weekend and hopefully I will see many of you at the Christmas Fair tomorrow.

Mr D Rainey
Principal

Dates for your diary

2nd December	SAPA Christmas Fair (12:00-3pm)	
5th December	Year 13 A Level French Study Day @ HOME in Manchester	
5th December	Winter Concert (Doors open at 6:30pm for 7pm start)	
5th - 19th December	Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations	
20th December	School finishes for Christmas at 12.30	
8th January	Return to School	
8th-19th January	Year 13 Mock A-Level Examinations	

For more calendar dates please visit our website [Saint Ambrose College - Calendar \(st-ambrosecollege.org.uk\)](http://st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)



SCHOOL NEWS

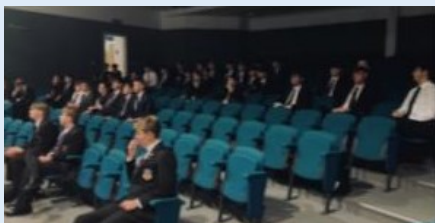
POLITICS SOCIETY

On Friday, Benedict D and Callum T, two notable members, engaged in a lively debate concerning whether immigration has been beneficial to the economy and society of the UK. While Benedict assured that immigration has filled in many gaps in industries such as healthcare, with 17 percent of NHS having a non-British nationality, Callum assured that an influx of immigrants, particularly those willing to work for lower wages, can lead to increased competition for jobs in certain sectors.

The debate concluded as an 19-3 vote emerged among members of the society, asserting the belief that the Immigration has indeed benefitted The UK's economy and society.

All students are welcome to join next Fridays Politics Society discussing the ideology Nationalism, which will be presented by the Head of the Society, Miles M.

Benedict D—Y13



SILVER SURFERS

Recently, four of the College's Computer Science students volunteered their time at Halecroft Grange care home, where they've been providing valuable assistance to both residents and locals in navigating the world of technology and software. Tomi A, Joseph H, Finian E and Austin S all demonstrated patience, guidance and hands-on support, helping elderly residents learn to use smartphones, tablets, and various software applications. These efforts have not only brought the digital world closer to the elderly residents but have also fostered a sense of community spirit among our future technologists. We take immense pride in our students' compassion and dedication to making technology accessible to all, demonstrating that computer science can truly touch lives in meaningful way. Well done boys!





SPORTS UPDATE

ALL sports hall lessons for the next 2 weeks will be outside due to the mock exams. Please ensure shin pads are brought to every games/PE lesson.

Gaelic Football

Training has started for year 8&9 initially! This will continue every Wednesday after school on the Astro.

Handball—No Handball after school due to mock exams.

Shin Pads

Parents and students are reminded that shin pads are required to participate in football in PE and Games lessons.

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.

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 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>

RESULTS THIS WEEK

Rugby

On Saturday 25th November we took on St. Edwards College with wins from 4.

On Wednesday 29th November our 1st XV took on St. Anselm's in the last 16 of the National Vase. They progressed to the ¼ final with a 52-35 win and will now face Felsted College.

Also on Wednesday 29th November our U16's travelled to Chester RUFC to take on St. Anselm's in the Cheshire Cup Final. Unfortunately, they could not reproduce the fine form that got them to the final losing 11-5.

Basketball

This week our year 7s played their postponed match v BTH on Tuesday 28th Nov and won 18-2

They continued their unbeaten on Thursday 30th v Sale GS winning 32-14

Waterpolo

On Wednesday 29th Nov our Year 7's took on MGS and Bolton GS in a Tri-tournament at home.

The results were as follows.

SAC A - 6 v Bolton - 3
SAC B - 0 v MGS - 5
SAC A - 3 v MGS - 4
SAC B - 3 v Bolton - 9
MGS - 5 v Bolton - 3

THIS WEEKS FIXTURES

This week the fixtures are:

Rugby

All fixtures v Cheadle are cancelled this weekend due to frost. Enjoy your weekend off!

Football

On Wednesday 6th Dec our U16A take on St Matthew's RC High School in the ESFA Cup at 3.30 (home)

On Thursday 7th Dec our U16B take on Tytherington High school in the ESFA trophy at 2.30 away)

Swimming

On Wednesday 6th December we had the Trafford Schools Boys swim gala with years 7-10 competing.

Games lessons for Year 7, 8,9,10 this half term – all students will need shin pads for football.

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



AUTHOR VISIT

Year 7 – Wednesday 6th December

Visit from author Aisling Fowler

We are delighted to have author Aisling Fowler visiting our Year 7 pupils on Wednesday 6th December to talk about the books in her fantastic fantasy adventure series 'Fireborn'.



In the first book, we saw a courageous young Huntling, Twelve, brave the forbidding Northern forests with two unlikely allies in search of a missing girl. Now, Twelve has become a hunter and chosen a new name to reflect her elemental power: Phoenix. Three months after the destruction of the Hunting Lodge, a witch arrives from the frost palace of Icegaard, desperate for Phoenix's help. Travelling north, Phoenix and her friends, Five, Six and Seven, must battle frightening new monsters and find a way to defeat the Shadowseam. But as Phoenix learns to control her new power, the faceless Croke begins to haunt her dreams... Phoenix will have to fight with everything she's got to save Ember from mortal danger. But the price of survival may be more than she can pay.

Copies of both books will be available for children to have signed and dedicated on the day. These can be purchased **via ParentPay** in advance or with **cash on the day** (please note we are unable to take card payments on the day) and are priced at £7.99 each.



SCHOOL NEWS

CORMAC H—STUDENT SPONERSHIP

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people under the age of 35 in the UK, every year over 1800 young people took their own lives. PAPYRUS is a national charity who provides confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person through their helpline, HOPELINE247.

Cormac wants to raise awareness to help all young people who deal with suicidal thoughts and will be running a 5k every day for the 25 days up to Christmas to raise money for PAPYRUS. Cormac has created a Strava Challenge dedicated to this and encourage everyone to give it their best shot.

He says, "I think that young people have many stressful problems that they are very good at hiding to the naked eye, and especially with the need to have a perfect social media nowadays, it's even more of a problem that needs to be stopped.

I think that running is a great form of escapism, regardless of pace. It can be a place where you can clear your head, appreciate nature or the community, listen to your favourite music or even just get out of the house and feel accomplished about yourself. For me, it gives me purpose to my day and if I can raise money for a charity by doing it that's amazing. "

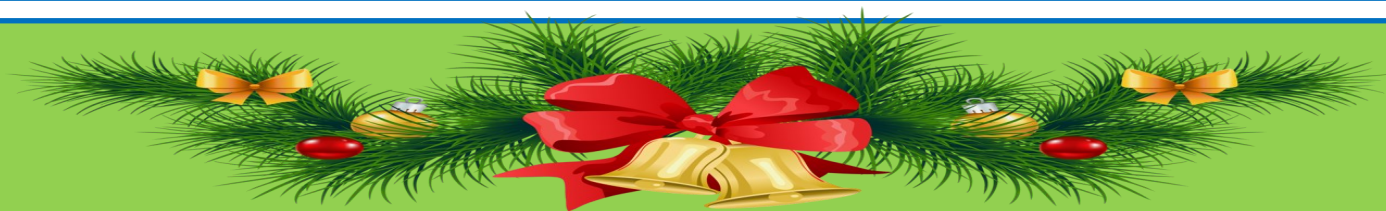
Every £5 raised can contribute towards a life-saving contact to HOPELINE247.

If you would like to donate to Cormac's JustGiving page, the link is https://www.justgiving.com/page/5k-advent-calendar?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2F5k-advent-calendar&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share





CHRISTMAS LUNCH



TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Tickets must be purchased in advance for the Christmas Lunch

Tickets can be purchased from all tills at break/lunchtimes from Monday 4th December

Last day to buy is WEDNESDAY 13th December

Only £3.50 (Price held from last year)

Turkey with all the trimmings, festive dessert & a drink

Or

Mac & Cheese festive bites with French fries

Merry Christmas!





CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Christmas Jumper Day

@ St Ambrose



Tuesday 19th December

(also Christmas Dinner Day!!)



Save the Children
FUNDRAISER

**Suggested
donation**

£2



WINTER MUSIC CONCERT

The Winter Music Concert

Central Atrium - 7:00pm
Doors Open at 6:30pm

Adults - £5

Children &
Concessions - £3

Available for
purchase at the
Door or
on Parent
Pay!



The Music Department is pleased to announce its upcoming Winter Show, a delightful evening of festive music that will set the stage for a joyous holiday season.

Date: **Tuesday 5th December**

Time: Doors open at **6:30pm** for **7pm** start

Location: **School Atrium (enter through Lecture Theatre doors)**

Prepare to be swept away by the sounds of the season as our talented students showcase their musical prowess in a Winter Wonderland-themed concert. The night will feature our school choir, orchestra, jazz band, brass band, woodwind group and staff choir, as well as a number of solo acts.

Tickets can now be purchased on ParentPay for £5 (adult) or £3 (concessions). There will also be a range of refreshments available during the interval.

We look forward to welcoming you.

The Music Department



MOVEMBER

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

How and why **YOU** should get involved:



MOVEMBER®

Hello all,

This month, like many other Ambrose Sixth Formers, I'm aspiring to encourage young men to speak out more about their health problems by taking part in Movember. This is chance for us to contest the absence of talking about 'men's health'.

I will be growing a moustache to raise funds which will be donated to aid men battling prostate and testicular cancers and supporting male suicide prevention.

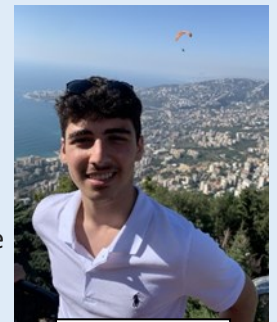
Often men place restrictions on themselves which can stop them seeking help or medical attention. Depression and anxiety can spiral without support. Therefore, I believe that with the help of the St Ambrose Community and the public, we can highlight the importance of men's physical and mental health and well-being.

I've already started my webpage and I will be posting regularly not just on my Movember Webpage (<https://movember.com/m/timeforachange?mc=1>) but my socials (e.g. Instagram, Facebook etc) and updating all my viewers and donators on my incredible 'Mo-journey', this will include pictures, motivating messages and 'thank yous' throughout the challenge. To find out more about my captivating journey, you can visit my Movember Webpage.

Your help is everything! In order to get involved, you can donate whatever you can afford to help me beat the ambitious target of **£500**.

Improving men's health is vital. I hope that our community of young men will be encouraged to speak out more about health problems each time they see our moustaches around school, as they come to understand the true meaning of Movember.

This event coincides with our Mental Health Spa which is open every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes for half an hour between the time slots **12.45-1pm** and **1-1.15pm**. The spa offers the chance for students to speak to our Mental Health Team (trained Year 12 and 13). The team can answer questions, direct students to services and offer support. If you have any queries about the Mental Health Spa then either email myself or Joel S, lead of the Mental Health team, (17joelscaria@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk), me (18samuelelghaoui@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk), or speak to your Form Tutor.



Here's me!

Thank you for your time and I hope you consider donating. Let them grow and become part of this incredible, worthwhile cause! MOVEMBER!

By Samuel E

Below are the links to other students taking part in Movember who you could sponsor from St Ambrose College:

<https://movember.com/m/timeforachange?mc=1> Samuel E Year 12

<https://movember.com/m/15109981?mc=1> Antonio A Year 12

<https://movember.com/m/15144767?mc=1> Declan S Year 12

<https://movember.com/m/15144808?mc=20> Felix J Year 12

<https://uk.movember.com/mospace/14877193> Greg P Year 13

<https://movember.com/m/15146662?mc=20> Ewan F Year 12

<https://movember.com/m/15144830?mc=1> Hugo F Year 12



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.

Monday 17th June – Friday 21st June 2024

Work Experience for Year 12

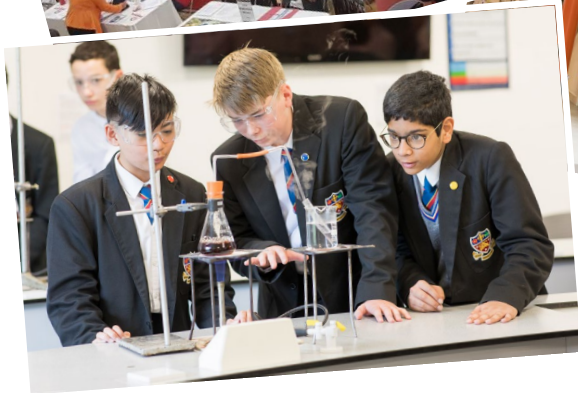
During this week, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to participate in a work experience program. Students are encouraged to organise their own placements at workplaces of their interest. **We strongly recommend that students begin making inquiries and arrangements for work experience as early 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

St. Ambrose College Careers Day 2024



St. Ambrose College is looking for employers and further/higher education providers to deliver and promote careers within their companies for our Careers Day 2024

- St. Ambrose College is a selective school and one of the top performing schools in the country
- St. Ambrose College has a wide range of high achieving students and future talent from across Greater Manchester, that are keen to learn about possible career paths and the world of work

We would like companies and providers to to:

- Send representatives to run a stall to promote the company and possible careers with the company and pathways into employment
- Students will rotate with a new year group each hour (5 hours in total)

Twitter: [@stambrosecoll](https://twitter.com/stambrosecoll)

St. Ambrose College Careers Day 2024



St. Ambrose College is looking for employers to deliver and promote careers within their companies for our Careers Day 2024

DATE: Friday 1st March 2024

START TIMES:

Year 7	Period 1	9.15 - 9.40
Year 8	Period 1	9.45 - 10.10
Year 9	Period 2	10.15 – 11.15
Year 10	Period 3	11.35 – 12.30

Lunch Break

Year 11	Period 4	1.40 – 2.35
Post 16	Period 5	2.40 – 3.35

Benefit to Companies:

- Links to one of the top performing schools in the country
- Access to high achieving learners and future talent
- Positive Social and Corporate Responsibility exposure

EVENT INFORMATION:

For each session, students will register with their classroom teacher before being escorted and accompanied to the sports hall for the duration of the session by teaching staff. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be present throughout the day.

During the session students will have the opportunity to gain information and ask questions to a range of employers, employees, apprenticeship providers and FE and HE institutions.

If companies have stands/displays that they would like to bring to market and promote their company we would welcome this alongside any literature about the company and employment pathways.

Please contact the following if you would like to take part in helping support the future generation of talent from St. Ambrose College:

Careers Team

careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

St Ambrose College, Hale Rd, Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 0HE

Tel: 0161 980 2711



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





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/>