



Saint Ambrose College

Weekly News Bulletin

 @PrincipalSAC

Friday 23rd February 2024

A Message from the Principal

Many of you will already know that Mr Roche has been absent since the October half-term. I have been given permission to share further information as to the reason for his absence and also to ask for your help if you are able to do so. Mr Roche tripped on the stairs at home and unfortunately the resulting fall damaged his spinal cord in 4 places, leaving him without use of his arms or legs. Things have improved and Mr Roche is now able to control an electric wheelchair and hopefully he should be able to return home soon having been in hospital and then a specialist rehabilitation centre since the accident. However, when he returns home he will only be supplied with a manual wheelchair, which would leave Mr Roche dependent on others, rather than being able to take his daughters to school or the shops. There is also the need for a ramp to be built to the front door so that Mr Roche can get into the house and a stairlift so he can sleep in his own bed again. There is a crowdfunding page to help with the affordability of these items so if you are able to contribute in any way, I know the Roche family and his wider circle of friends and colleagues would be very appreciative. The link can be found here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/LetsgetAndrewhome?utm_term=xnj3Z9PJz

Over the half-term one of the main news stories relating to education was the government's guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. There was nothing particularly new for us to take on board but it seems an appropriate time to remind parents that our position is that phones must not be seen on site. We know that many students rely on apps on phones for accessing bus passes so we don't have a rule that says that phones can't be brought in to school. However, once on site, they must be turned off and put away. The rules for use of phones by Sixth Form students is slightly different but the full guidance can be found in our behaviour policy which is available on the website. Recording and/or distributing material is viewed as a serious incident so please continue to support the school by speaking to your son(s) about this.

Thank you to the parents and carers of Year 9 students for your attendance at and engagement in last night's GCSE Options Evening. I hope you all found the presentations to be clear and informative. Before the deadline of March 7th, you will have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers further about choices and suitability at next Thursday's parents' evening. We also look forward to meeting with parents and carers of Year 13 students on Tuesday evening. Please see Mrs Barlow's correspondence for further information.

Yesterday morning I had the pleasure of welcoming a number of 'Old Boys' into school with the aim of strengthening connections for the benefit of our current students but also to explore methods of bringing the network together. We had departure dates ranging from 1968 to 2019 so we clearly have a solid 50 years' worth of experience and connections to tap in to. We will be looking to perhaps have weekly features of old boys in the newsletter so if you are an old boy or know others who are, please do ask them to get in touch by emailing alumni@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk



Just when you think sporting heartbreak has peaked for the boys this year, we had the news of the under-16 football team losing a 3 goal lead in Walsall on Wednesday to eventually lose 4-3 in extra-time, unfortunately finishing with 9 men on the pitch in the process. They have done so well this year to reach the stage where we were one of only a few northern teams remaining in the competition.

Thank you to all the staff and students who have arranged and accompanied trips recently. Students returned safely from Iceland and there have also been visits to Cambridge, Bletchley Park, as well as tonight's theatre trip to watch Blue Beard.

As we are now in Lent, there will be a range of opportunities for boys from all year groups to prepare for the upcoming festivals of Holy Week and Easter. Each house will have its own charity focus so please support. I did miss my chips and curry sauce at lunchtime today I must admit. That sacrifice on top of going off crisps, peanuts and take-aways will certainly be a challenge but will do me no harm and will be a daily reminder of the themes and messages of the season.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Rainey
Principal



REMINDERS

Dates for your diary

29th February	Year 11 History GCSE Trip to Manchester
29th February	Year 9 Parents Evening (email will be sent on 22nd February)
1st March	Careers Day
7th March	World Book Day
20th March	Year 13 Leavers Photographs
22nd March	End of term
8th April	School resumes

Term dates for 2024/2025 can be viewed [here](#)
For more calendar dates please visit our website:
www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/calendardates

EXAM INVIGILATORS

Invigilators are the people in examination rooms responsible for conducting examinations in the presence of the candidates. They have a key role in upholding the integrity of the external examination/assessment process. Saint Ambrose College is committed to ensuring that invigilators are effectively trained, briefed in their duties and kept up to date with JCQ and awarding body regulations and instructions regarding the conduct of exams.



We are seeking to employ Exam Invigilators to join the existing team for the upcoming GCE and GCSE examinations at the College. The post will suit applicants who can work as part of a team, have effective communication skills and be reliable and flexible during main exam periods. Full training will be provided so no prior invigilator experience is required.

St Ambrose College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

For more information please see the Job Description on the TES or contact our Exams Officer, Miss McEwan at exams@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk. If you would like to apply to be a part of the Saint Ambrose College Invigilation team please complete the online application by following the link below by the 8th of March 2024.

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/search?keywords=saint+ambrose&sort=date&view=List&page=1&displayLocation=Current+location&point=53.3761236%2C-2.3022894&distance=30&selectedJobId=1998844>

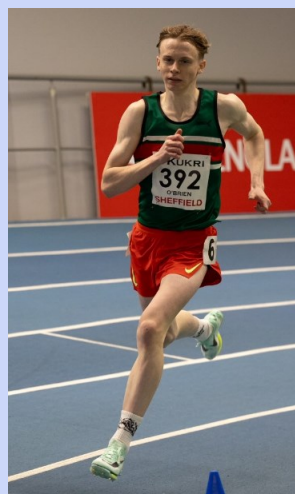


STUDENT SUCCESS



Congrats to James O—

Who competed in the National England Athletics U20, U17 and U15 indoor championships in Sheffield earlier this month. James went onto secure a place in U17 800m final by coming 1st in his heat with a pb which he smashed the next day with another pb of 1:55:95 when he won Bronze in the overall final!





SPORTS UPDATE

✕ @StAmbrosesports

Gaelic Football

Training continues every Wednesday for Years 7-9 after school on the Astro 3:45-4:45pm

Handball—continues after school on Tuesdays 3:45-4:45.

Indoor Cricket—continues on Monday 3.45-5.15 for Years 7 & 8

Indoor Cricket—continues on Wednesday 3.45-5.15 for Years 9 & 10

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.

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.

School sports Website:

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

THIS WEEKS RESULTS

Football

On Wednesday 21st Feb our U16 football team travelled to Walsall in the last 16 of the ESFA Cup. Another heart-breaking result in sport losing 4-3 in extra time.

Basketball

On Tuesday 20th Feb Our Year 8/9 team travelled to Ashton on Mersey in the play-off finals running out winners 61-47. They are one game away from becoming Trafford Champions.

FIXTURES THIS WEEK

Rugby

On Saturday 24th Feb our Year 7 and our Year 8 teams take on Trafford select sides.

On Friday 1st March our Year 7s kick off the rugby 7s fixtures with a tournament at Wirral GS

Basketball

On Monday our Year 7 team take on Ashton on Mersey School in the Trafford basketball final.

Games lessons for Year 7,8,9,10 this half term inside – all students will need trainers

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. Thank you for your continued support of school sport. Cheques are being sent out in the post:

September 2023 £100

Mr Lee Hamilton
Ian Barlow
Mrs Johanna Smith

November 2023 £100

Chadwick M T
Keung CK
Varguese V

December 2023 £200

Janet Walters
MJ HS Priest
Faye Brocklebank

October 2023 £100

Kokocinski
Savage & Bowring
Foley & Everett

January 2024 £100

MJ Morghan
V McGuire
EC Oliver



SCHOOL NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY

Back by popular demand, we are pleased to announce this year's St Ambrose Book Swap, which will take place on **Thursday 7th March** to mark

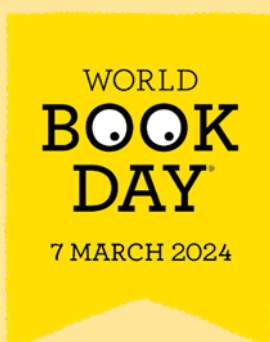
World Book Day. This is a great opportunity for your son to recycle books that he has finished with and to find something new to read. We are also hoping that this event will create a 'buzz' about books, generating lots of conversations about reading among the boys.

If your son would like to take part, all he needs to do is bring in a book/ books that he is willing to swap/donate. Books will be collected during form time from Monday 19th February by VI Form helpers who will issue with a ticket, which will enable them to select a book of their choice from the available selection on the day itself.

We would ask that donated books be in reasonable condition and ideally be appropriate for children in your son's own year group. Exchanged books may be kept forever so please make sure your child does not donate any book that they will want back.

Thanks in advance for all your help and support in making this event a success.

Mrs Hill



5th ANNUAL CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY RACE

On Saturday 10th February, 5 A-Level Chemists set off to take part in the 5th Annual Cambridge Chemistry Race at the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge. It is an opportunity to solve Chemistry problems as a team in a two hour competition that tests teamwork, chemical knowledge, logic and the ability to be adaptable and think on your feet over a two hour period. It is great testament to William F, George D, Gabriel K, Jeswin J and John D that they achieved 30th place in this national competition. They improved by 11 places on last years result and scored more points than last year, so hopefully Jeswin and John can prepare next year's Lower 6th to another improvement.

Many thanks to the students who took part and thoroughly enjoyed what was a long day and to the Chemistry staff for preparing and taking them to the competition.

Mr Elwell



Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat

Many thanks to those that auditioned for 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat'. The Music Department thoroughly enjoyed witnessing these auditions and are excited to be moving onto the next stage of what promises to be a fantastic show.

A full list of the cast, technical team, orchestra and stalls holders has been published on the door of the Music room. Anyone on this list will be meeting in the Music Department at 13:00 on Monday 26th February.

Miss Yates
Director of Music





SCHOOL NEWS

UK Rocketry Challenge

UK Youth Rocketry Challenge has been running the event annually since 2006. The challenge is aimed at students aged 11-18 from any secondary schools to design, build and launch a model rocket with a fragile payload.

Interested students should contact Dr Gardener and if sufficient interest we will discuss the rules etc. in next week's Physics Society (Wednesday lunch).

Entry is free but the rocket materials will have a cost, which needs to be considered. There are some good prizes available and there is the possibility of going through to the international stage!

[UKROC - Home of UK Rocketry Challenge](http://ukroc.org.uk)

Dr Gardener



DRAMA—Visit from Dr Simpson

Dr Richard Simpson visited the Drama department on Thursday this week to share his experiences of supporting asylum seekers at SERV.

His presentation was well attended. Boys across all age groups asked a wide range of perceptive questions to develop their understanding about the UK asylum seeking system.

We were saddened to learn how long many asylum seekers have to wait for decisions to be made. Boys were also quick to calculate that the weekly allowance for asylum seekers of £49.18 (which is to cover the cost of food, travel, medication and phones etc) was a mere £7.02 per day. Dr Simpson also highlighted discrepancies between statistics relating to the numbers of people applying for asylum in the UK with how asylum seekers are presented in the media.

His presentation further ignited our passion to share the experiences of asylum seekers with an audience in this year's school show, in July.

Mrs Taylor



MATHS CHALLENGE



Congratulations to all the students in Y10 and Y11 who took part in the 'Intermediate Maths Challenge'. We had a record number of Gold and Silver awards this year and 6 students qualified for the follow on rounds:

Edward G (Y10), Luca P (Y11), Charles H (Y11) and Aaron C (Y11) all qualified for the 'Pink Kangaroo'.

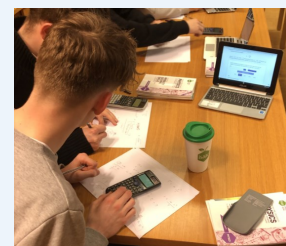
Benedict K (Y11) and James O (Y11) both qualified for the 'Maclaurin Olympiad' which around only 1,800 nationally qualify for.

Miss Donegan

YEAR 12—UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Mr Charnley and Dr Sate took a group of Year 12 physics students to the University of Cambridge to spend the day in the famous Cavendish Laboratory in the Department of Physics. Students took part in a tour of a college at the university, followed by a talk on higher education study and routes into physics. Students then took part in a practical session, investigating gravity in the laboratory and ended the day with a problem-solving challenge. Pupils excelled at this and even won prizes representing Saint Ambrose. Overall, it was an excellent day out and pupils really enjoyed themselves, taking a lot from the experience and representing the college impressively.

Mr Charnley

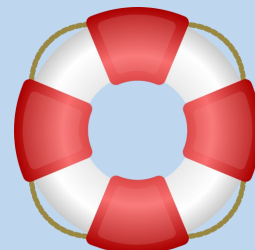




SCHOOL NEWS

LIFE GUARD COURSE

Well done to all the boys who attended the Life Guard course during Half Term. Fiona the course leader said the boys worked really hard and passed with flying colours!





ICELAND TRIP

Over half term the Geography Department took 48 students and 5 staff (Mr McFadden, Mr Donnelly, Ms Widolf, Mr Fitzsimon, Ms Dean) to Iceland for 5 days and 4 nights.

On the first day after flying over the recent lava flows from the fissure eruption near to the town of Grindavik, we went to Reykjavik to experience FlyOver Iceland – an immersive Experience about Iceland's culture and natural landscape, before heading to our hotel for an evening meal followed by a swim in the outdoor geothermal swimming pool. We stayed Hotel Ork, in the town of Hveragerði to the East of Reykjavik to reduce travelling times as we explored the East, South and South East of Iceland. We all decided the hotel's facilities were pretty good, with a games room, outdoor geothermal swimming pool, 2 hot tubs and sauna building.

On day 2 we visited the Hellisheidi Power Plant visit (geothermal powerplant) and learned about geothermal energy and carbon capture, before heading to Reykjavik to visit the Perlan Ice Cave and Planetarium, followed by the amazing Lava Show – where we saw lava at 1100°C close up! We then head to a real lava tunnel to go underground and explore the Raufarhólshellir Laval Tunnel.

On day 3, we visited the Ava Centre Exhibition and learned about the Hekla, Katla and Eyjafjallajökull volcanoes, then visited two incredible waterfalls: Skógarfoss (awesome 25m wide and 60m tall waterfall) with incredible views of the landscape around after a long walk-up some icy steps and Seljalandsfoss (60m tall waterfall). After this we visited the coast from Dyrholaey and then on to a highlight of the trip, the glacier walk on Sólheimajökull. We headed onto the glacier as most tourists were leaving the site and within an hour had the glacier and valley to ourselves, which was an incredible experience for all. We then visited a local food hall where the boys could choose their own food, before returning to the hotel for our evening swim.

Day 4 was spent on the classic Golden Circle, visiting: Gullfoss waterfall (awesome fault-guided waterfall) where we could walk in its huge gorge, Geysir and Strokkur geysers, the Þingvellir National Park – rifting between American

and Eurasian plates which is a sacred place for Icelandic meetings from the age of the settlers, and on to the Secret Lagoon to relax. We managed to find time to visit the result of an old fissure eruption, resulting in a series of splatter volcanoes at the Kerio Volcanic Crater Lake.



Day 5 was our final day and we visited Reykjavik in the morning to see and experience the culture in the city, before a walking tour and



heading to a fish market and food hall for some excellent fish and chips before heading to the airport.



The boys were excellent ambassadors for the school, with many people remarking on their excellent behaviour and attitude! The trip was an amazing experience, we'd highly recommend Iceland in February and look forward to repeating the trip with the next GCSE cohort.

Mr McFadden - Trip Lead





YEAR 12 Bletchley Park

A Fascinating Journey into History

On Friday, 9th February, a group of enthusiastic Year 12 boys embarked on an educational adventure to Bletchley Park, the renowned World War II codebreaking centre located in Buckinghamshire, England. The trip proved to be an eye-opening experience, offering a captivating blend of history, technology, and the thrill of cryptography.

One of the highlights of the day was an engaging workshop on coding, where the students delved into the intricacies of the cryptographic methods employed during the war. Led by knowledgeable instructors, the boys were given a hands-on experience in understanding the principles behind the art of codebreaking. The workshop not only provided valuable insights into historical codebreaking techniques but also allowed the students to appreciate the importance of cryptography in contemporary digital security.

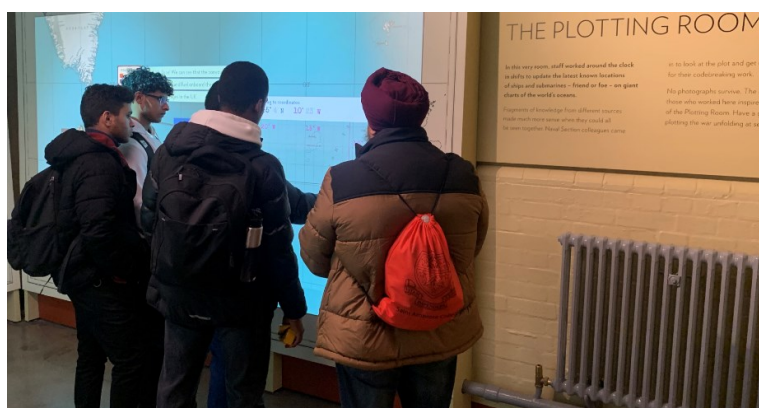
The awe-inspiring moment for many was the chance to see the legendary Enigma machine up close. The Enigma, a German encryption device, played a pivotal role in the war, and Bletchley Park was the site where British mathematicians and codebreakers successfully deciphered its complex codes. Witnessing this iconic machine in person allowed the students to connect with the past and appreciate the ingenuity and brilliance of the individuals who worked tirelessly to unravel its secrets.

Bletchley Park itself is a treasure trove of history, and the boys had the opportunity to explore the various huts and buildings that once buzzed with the intellectual energy of codebreakers such as Alan Turing and his team. Walking through the historic grounds, the students gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced and the extraordinary efforts undertaken to decipher enemy codes during the war.

The trip to Bletchley Park was not just a journey into the past; it served as a valuable educational experience that resonated with the students' studies. The boys were able to connect the dots between the theoretical knowledge they had acquired in the classroom and the real-world applications of coding and cryptography.

In conclusion, the Year 12 boys' trip to Bletchley Park was a resounding success, providing a unique and enriching experience that blended history, technology, and education. The workshop on coding, the encounter with the Enigma machine, and the exploration of the historic site collectively offered a glimpse into the remarkable world of wartime codebreaking, leaving a lasting impression on all those fortunate enough to participate in this educational adventure.

BLETCHLEY PARK





ST AMBROSE PRESENTS...

Bake Off Competition

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
7 MARCH 2024

WORLD BOOK DAY

BAKE OFF COMPETITION

REPRESENT YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK, CHARACTER OR
SETTING THROUGH EDIBLE BAKED GOODS!
PRIZES FOR THE WINNER!

BRING THESE IN ON THURSDAY 7TH MARCH
JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 12.30PM
(START OF LUNCH)
2503 (MISS WALTON'S ROOM)



NEW LUNCHTIME SOCIETY

ST AMBROSE COLLEGE



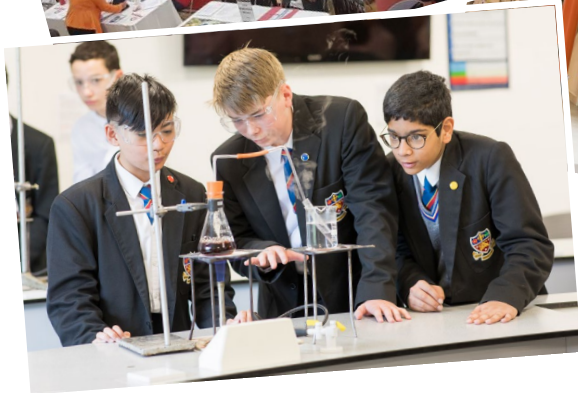
**HINDU
SIKH
JAIN
BUDDHIST
SOCIETY**

**EVERYBODY WELCOME!
MONDAY LUNCHTIME
1:00-1:30
3205**



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL:
18RISHIKNAIR@ST-AMBROSECOLLEGE
18PARSHVASHAH@ST-AMBROSECOLLEGE**

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: careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

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

Tel: 0161 980 2711





CAREERS—UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

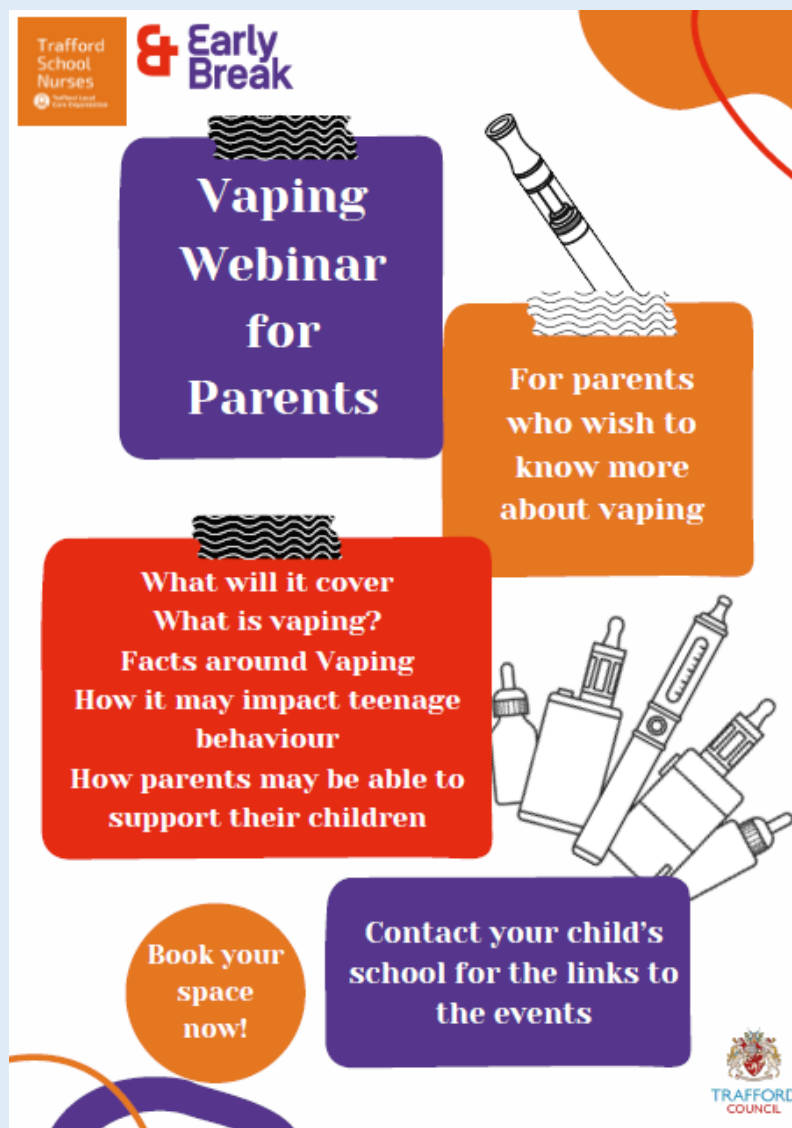
We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

Kind regards,
Mr. Gunning and the Careers Team





WEBINAR FOR PARENTS



Are you a parent with a child at a Trafford School? Join our webinar for information on vaping!

Commissioned by Trafford Council's Public Health Team, a smoking cessation and vaping service for young people has been established.

In partnership between the School Nurses Team and Early Break, this webinar will offer parents information on the facts around vaping, the risks, how behaviour may be impacted and how to manage this at home. It will also give you the chance to ask questions and know where to get support if you would like support for your young person.

We will be running free webinars on the following dates:

[Wednesday February 28th at 7pm](#)

[Thursday March 28th at 7pm](#)

Please click on the link for whichever webinar you wish to join. If this does not work, please email info@earlybreak.co.uk who will be able to share the event with you or if you have any further questions.

See you then!

Early Break and School Nurses Team



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/>