



# Saint Ambrose College

## Weekly News Bulletin

 @PrincipalSAC

Friday 1st March 2024

### A Message from the Principal

Bore da and Happy St David's Day to all those with Welsh ancestry and those named David (or Dewi in the case of members of our student body). St David is known for spreading Christianity across the continent of Europe and for giving us the line, "Do the little things", taken from his last sermon. St David's life and teachings have formed a choral work from Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins, perhaps best known for his work The Armed Man. As an aside, Jenkins himself will conduct a performance of The Armed Man at the Bridgewater Hall in April as part of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. If you enjoy choral music, I highly recommend it. Back to St David, he is also responsible for the leek becoming a national symbol of Wales and there is even a suggestion that he and his fellow monks were vegetarian. One final interesting fact is that Britain's smallest city is named after him. I hope all those celebrating have a fantastic feast day.

The sports hall has been buzzing today with dozens of visitors taking time out of their busy schedules to oversee stalls showcasing a wide and diverse range of careers. All students had the opportunity to attend, it was great to see so many 'old boys' in attendance promoting their chosen careers and inspiring the current students. I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to be with us and share their expertise, as well as Mr Gunning and Mrs Grainger for organising and coordinating. It has been a highly successful event with exceptionally positive feedback about the boys themselves.

With yesterday being the 29<sup>th</sup> February, we took the opportunity to make a bit of a fuss of the two students in the school whose birthday only falls once every 4 years. There were no staff or year 7 students with birthdays falling on the 29th so the focus was all on Rory and Jacob in year 11. I hope they weren't too embarrassed by having Happy Birthday sung to them by over 500 students. Fr John Rafferty also celebrated his birthday yesterday and on behalf of all at St Ambrose, we wish him a happy birthday also.

Thank you to Year 9 parents and carers for their attendance at an engagement with last night's parents' evening and also thanks to the year parents and carers who attended an information evening on Tuesday. Thanks also to Patrick Coyle, Chief Operating Officer with the Professional Footballers' Association who spoke to our Year 13 students on Wednesday afternoon. I have no doubt that his words of wisdom alongside his own clear work ethic will have inspired many in attendance.

This week's student successes include the Sixth Form team who participated in the Oxford Practical Ethics & Responsibility

Competition and were awarded highly commended as well as the Sixth Form team who participated in the Cambridge Chemistry competition, securing the highest finish we've had in that competition to date. Well done and congratulations to all involved. We also had recognition from Aid to the Church in Need Community Outreach following our recent donation totalling more than £500.

The money was raised by our Year 7 pupils who rowed the equivalent of the English Channel. Unfortunately, the Year 7 Trafford basketball final scheduled for Monday was postponed.

Next week we look forward to World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March as well as the continuation of the rugby sevens season. This weekend, teams from lower years travel to participate in the prestigious Warwick event. We wish them well.

SAPA would like to put out a 'save the date' for the summer ball to be hosted at Ringway Golf Club on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June with tickets priced at £60. It will be the first such event since the various lockdowns so we hope many of you will be able to join us. A recent uniform sale managed to raise more than £400 but we are at that point again where we would benefit from more donations of pre-loved items in good condition, so please do bring in if you are able. Thank you to the dedicated SAPA committee members.

One of the main news stories involving education this week was the idea of having a 4-week summer break. My preference at this stage would be for a coordinated approach to the current holiday patterns. There is no point in recommending 4 week breaks if schools will be taking them at different times. Getting primary and secondary schools to finish in the same week for summer would be a start. I know I am like a broken record on this topic but the impact on families as well as the issue of teacher recruitment would suggest to me that it deserves more consideration and conversation.

To finish on a positive, congratulations to the 17 students who received the Principal's Award at breaktime today. All well-deserved as always.

Enjoy the weekend.

**Mr Rainey**  
**Principal**





# REMINDERS

## Dates for your diary

7th March	World Book Day
20th March	Year 13 Leavers Photographs (individual)
22nd March	End of term
8th April	School resumes
10th April	2023 A-Level Leavers Presentation Evening

Term dates for 2024/2025 can be viewed [here](#)  
For more calendar dates please visit our website:  
[www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/calendardates](http://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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 McDonald N**

Who has just received the first level  
of KUP in British Taekwondo (Black  
Tag)



# 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**

### **Rugby**

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb our Year 7 and Year 8 teams took on Trafford select sides. 2 excellent games saw St. Ambrose lose to the two strong, well-drilled Trafford sides.

### **Basketball**

On Monday our Year 7 team were supposed to take on Ashton on Mersey School in the Trafford basketball final. Unfortunately this has been postponed until Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

## **FIXTURES THIS WEEK**

### **Rugby 7's**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March our Year 7s kicked off the rugby 7s fixtures with a tournament at Wirral GS. Well done for winning 8 tries to 2!



On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March our U13, U14, U15 and U16 teams travel to Warwick School for their annual 7's tournament.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March our Year 8 take part in the Cheshire 7's

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March our Year 7 take part in their Cheshire 7's

Also on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March our Year 9 take part in the Wirral 7's

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March our 1<sup>st</sup> XV have their Cheshire 7's tournament.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March our U14 compete in their Cheshire 7's.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March our u16's travel down to London for the All England 7's in preparation for the tournament on Sunday.

## **Basketball**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> our Year 7 team take on Ashton on Mersey School in the Trafford basketball final.

## **Swimming**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we host the Trafford Primary Schools swim gala.

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

### **Sports Training Timetable**

Please find the Sports Facility timetable on our website. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**



# HALE CRICKET CLUB



## Hale Barns Cricket Club

Brooks Drive, Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 8TN

[www.halebarnscc.co.uk](http://www.halebarnscc.co.uk)

### Junior Waiting List 2024 NOW OPEN\*

- Weekly coaching April to Sept from ECB qualified coaches
- Competitive and Friendly matches throughout season
- A safe, inclusive and fun environment with an emphasis on participation and player development



#### Our teams:

U9 (Yr 3&4)  
U11 (Yr 5&6)  
U13 (Yr 7&8)  
U15 (Yr 9&10)  
Girls Section

#### Register your interest:



\*Available places will be released by end of March



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> February by VI Form helpers who will boys 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**



## YEAR 11—History Trip to Manchester

Our Year 11 Historians enjoying an informative and engaging presentation during their Elizabethan England revision day in Manchester on Thursday.

Lots of useful hints and tips thanks to @bones\_carmel and @HodderHistory.

Thank you to Mrs Scott & Mrs Burke for facilitating the trip.



## 2024 Leaplings

As this year is a leap year, we wanted to honour those whose birthday only officially arrives on 29th February. We searched our database and found not 1 but 2 students, both in Year 11 who share this unique birthday. We gathered in the atrium at break and joined in singing happy birthday to them! Happy official 4th birthday Jacob and Rory, we hope your leap year birthday was filled with joy and happiness.





# CAREERS DAY 2024

## 1st March



In preparation of National Careers Week, we held our second Careers & Future Pathways event on Friday, creating an invaluable bridge between students and the professional world. We extend our gratitude to all the delegates who kindly shared their time and expertise to illuminate the future for our students.

Representing a spectrum of professions and educational establishments, the event provided a comprehensive look into various career avenues. From the compassionate realms of social care to the dynamic landscape of construction, and from Technical Qualification providers to esteemed universities.

The students had the unique opportunity to interact

with professionals, gaining insights into what a typical day looks like in different professions. The event aimed not only to broaden horizons but also to help students make informed decisions about their future career paths.

As we eagerly anticipate National Careers Week, the success of this event is a testament to the wider support of our community in nurturing the aspirations of our students. The engagement and enthusiasm displayed by both students and professionals promises a bright future for all involved.

**Mr. Gunning**  
Careers-lead





# YEAR 7

## Charity Fundraising

### Sponsored Row Across the Channel

In a remarkable display of unity, determination, and charitable spirit, the Year 7 students of Saint Ambrose College recently undertook a commendable endeavour to raise funds for a noble cause. Organizing themselves into form groups, these young individuals embarked on a challenging journey - a sponsored row across the English Channel. Their efforts not only tested their physical endurance but also showcased their commitment to helping others in need.

Under the guidance of their teachers and with the support of their families and friends, the students eagerly embraced the opportunity to make a positive impact in their community. Inspired by the values instilled in them by their faith and the teachings of Saint Ambrose himself, they set out to raise funds for a cause close to their hearts.



The journey began with meticulous planning and preparation, as each form group worked together to devise strategies and set goals for their fundraising efforts.

With determination and enthusiasm, they embarked on their challenge, rowing their way across the symbolic waters of the English Channel, all while raising awareness and funds for those less fortunate.

The spirit of camaraderie and solidarity among the students was palpable as they pushed themselves beyond their limits, fuelled by the knowledge that their efforts were making a difference in the lives of others. Along the way, they received encouragement and support from their peers, teachers, and the wider community, further motivating them to persevere until they reached their goal.

Through their dedication and perseverance, the first-year students surpassed all expectations, collectively raising an impressive sum of £523. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their unwavering commitment to serving others and their willingness to go above and beyond to make a positive impact in the world.

The funds raised through the sponsored row will be used to support various charitable initiatives, including providing essential resources and assistance to those facing poverty, hunger, and other hardships. By contributing to these efforts, the students are embodying the principles of compassion, generosity, and solidarity that lie at the heart of their Catholic faith.

As we celebrate the success of the students, let us also reflect on the profound lessons their actions teach us about the power of unity, compassion, and service. May their inspiring example inspire us all to strive for greatness and to use our talents and abilities to make a positive difference in the world.

**Mr Cutting**  
**Head of Year 7**



# PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



## CONGRATULATIONS



Well done to the students today who were all the worthy recipients of the Principal's Award and enjoyed a hearty breakfast and chat with the Boss himself.

Edward G—Year 10

Jeswin J—Year 12

James V—Year 11

John D—Year 12

William I—Year 11

Gabriel K—Year 13

Pablo R—Year 11

George D—Year 13

Andrew B—Year 11

William F—Year 13

Will W—Year 11

Johnny M—Year 13



Thomas D—Year 7

Max C—Year 8

Abraham A—Year 9

**#ambrosianspirit #positiveattitude #compassionandkindness  
#strivingforexcellence #sportingexcellence**



# 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)



# CAREERS—UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

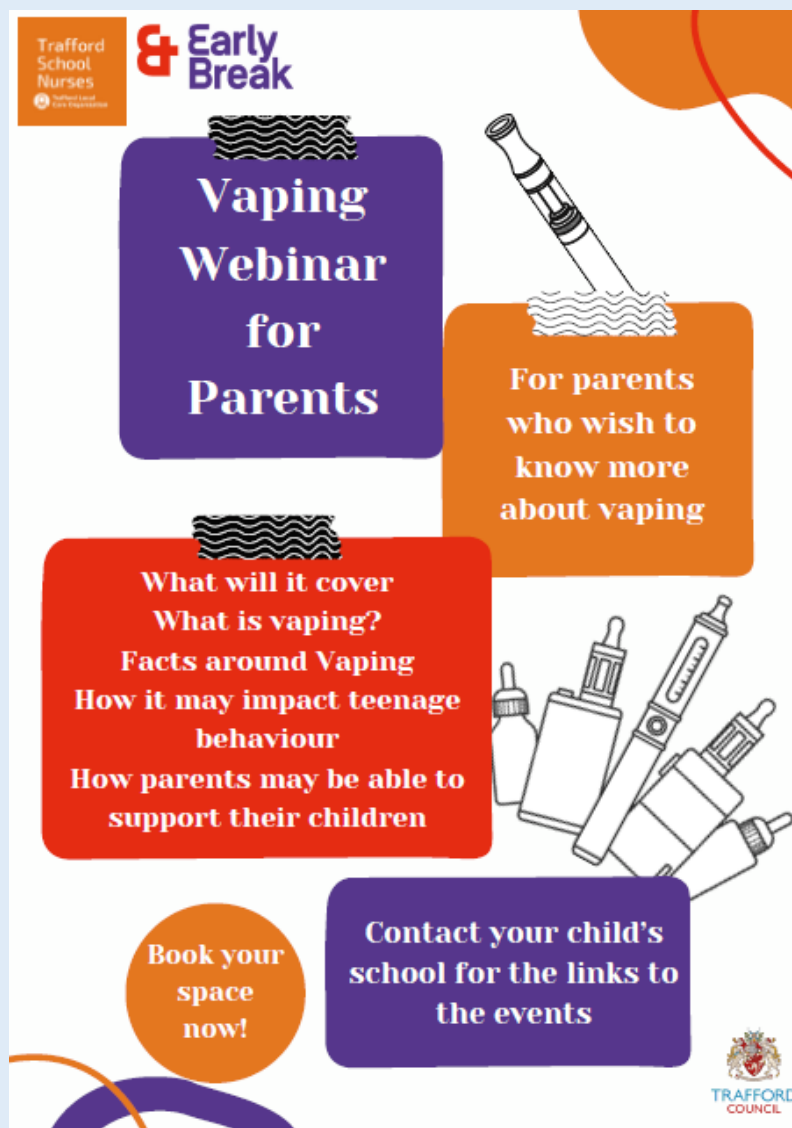
We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk).

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 date:

[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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>