



A Message from the Principal

Yesterday was Laetare Sunday, also referred to as Mothering Sunday in the Church. The reason I want to start with that is because our trustees are currently in the process of exploring the possibility of establishing a multi-academy trust (MAT) with other religious order schools. If the plan comes to fruition, the MAT would be named The Laetare Trust but there would be a period of consultation beforehand. I will share more when I can but felt the timing to at least give a brief overview was appropriate.

In the next edition of the newsletter I will summarise the outcomes and experiences from the different events that took place over the weekend including hosting fixtures against Wesley College, Dublin, the national water-polo finals and the Oxford Union Debating Final featuring 2 of our year 12 students.

I had an eye on Thursday's budget to see what the headlines would be for education but there wasn't a great deal apart from the welcome creation of new special schools. Last week we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday with a range of activities including a scavenger hunt, book swap and even a World Book Day themed bake off! Thank you to all staff who organised and took part.

Congratulations to the students in years 11 and 12 who have been selected for the Sierra Leone immersion. It is fantastic to be able to revert to taking students annually. At Mass yesterday Brother John from the Lasallian Brothers addressed the congregation about the work they do to provide education opportunities overseas and there were many similarities to what we aim to do as part of the wider Christian Brothers network. On a similar theme I had lunch with a group of year 8 and 9 students last Monday to discuss ways of making Catholic Social Teaching and our subsequent associated responsibilities more apparent.

The rugby sevens season is now in full swing despite a few cancellations. Our teams have already picked up some 'silverware' with the under 16 team winning the shield in Warwick last weekend (Mr Depledge's first trophy since joining the staff) and further wins for the year 7 and year 9 teams in The Wirral Sevens. We have also had recent individual successes as well with Daniel G being called up to the England under 20 rugby squad and in lacrosse, Calum W in year 13 being called up to represent England. Our year 7 basketball team lost to Ashton-on-Mersey school in a closely contested Trafford final on Monday.

We have purchased a package called UpLearn to further support 6th Form students with their learning. Whilst I imagine that it will be utilised mostly by year 13 students in the short-term, all of the current year 12 will also have access. Staff will have a demonstration this evening to ensure we can advise students on how best to use the package and we are asking the company to provide a demonstration for parents and students as well. The subjects involved are mathematics, economics, biology, chemistry, physics and psychology. Given the introduction of another online system, we felt it was a good opportunity of the other portals/apps we use:

- Classcharts for homework and student timetable - [Parent Login Classcharts](#)
- SIMS Parent App for reports, school calendar, student conduct, attendance and student timetable – [SIMS ID](#)
- ParentPay for school trip payments, trip consent and school lunch accounts - [ParentPay](#)
- SchoolCloud for remote parents' evening appointments - [SchoolCloud - Saint Ambrose College](#)

The GCSE momentum is very much apparent for year 11 with the English speaking and listening assessments, music recitals, NEA deadlines and food technology practical all taking place recently. They seem to be responding well. The school will be open from Monday through to Thursday in the first week of the Easter holidays for any year 11 and year 13 students who want to avail of the opportunity to come in and work quietly. Places are limited so please keep an eye out for the link to book places in the next edition of the newsletter.

Finally, what a brilliant weekend of sport we've just had. I thought Ireland were second best on Saturday with England fully deserving of their victory. The other two Six Nations clashes were similarly enthralling. In the Premier League there can often be an anti-climax to the games involving the bigger teams but I thought yesterday's match between Liverpool and Manchester City was fantastic and lived up to the hype. Let's hope the title race goes down to the wire.

Mr D Rainey
Principal





REMINDERS

Dates for your diary

14th March	KS3 Science Visit to MOSI
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

SPORTS REPORT

U15 Water polo friendly at Bolton One Sunday 3rd March

Bolton Grammar 6 St Ambrose College 18

Many thanks for all the parents for taking their sons to the friendly match at Bolton One early on Sunday 3rd March. I'm sure you would agree with me that it was an outstanding performance in preparation for the National Essa Final on the 13th March. A big thank you to Mr Moffatt for coaching the boys, I know he was extremely pleased with the way the boys performed. Good luck boys for the final.

Goalscorers

Jack P	2
Oscar P	1
Andrew S	6
Jude E	4
Xavier B	1
Matthew W	4





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 Friday 1st March our Year 7s kicked off the rugby 7s fixtures with a tournament at Wirral GS where they were overall winners!

On Saturday 2nd March our U13, U14, U15 and U16 teams travelled to Warwick School for their annual 7s tournament. The U13's finished 6/16, our u14's made the Plate final and our U16's won the Shield final.

On Monday 4th March our Year 8 took part in the Cheshire 7's finishing 3rd in the group

On Tuesday 5th March our Year 7 took part in their Cheshire 7's, once again reaching the final but sadly losing 3-4 to St Anselm's Also on Tuesday 5th March our Year 9 took part in the Wirral 7's winning the Shield

On Wednesday 6th March the 1st XV had their Cheshire 7's tournament cancelled due to waterlogged pitches.

Basketball

On Thursday 8th our Year 7 team took on Ashton on Mersey School in the Trafford basketball final. Unfortunately, they lost 27-24.

FIXTURES THIS WEEK

Rugby 7's

On Saturday 9th March, we welcome Wesley College, Dublin to St. Ambrose for a touring match against our U14 and U13 teams.

On Friday 8th March our U14s compete in their Cheshire 7s.

On Saturday 9th March our U16s travel down to London for the All England 7s in preparation for the tournament on Sunday.

On Monday 11th March our U13s take part in the Birkenhead school 7s

On Tuesday 12th March our U15s take part in the Cheshire 7s

On Wednesday 13th March our U13s, U16s and u18s travel to Stonyhurst to take part in the Stonyhurst 7s

Waterpolo

On Monday 11th March our U18's take part in the National plate Finals .

On Wednesday 13th March Our U15's take part in the National Cup Finals.

Basketball

On Thursday 14th March our Year 8/9 team take on Stretford High in the Trafford final.

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 11th September. We have lunchtime practices to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to compete for School team selection. The exception is in Senior football where boys are asked to stay until 5pm for their practices and year 10/11 basketball (although basketball will be an option in the year 10&11 games lessons) Boys can wear appropriate non-school kit for practices to enable parents time to wash Games and PE kit which should be worn in curricular lessons. Any boys unable to take part in those lessons should bring a note or alternatively join teachers in the swimming pool or Fitness suite where an appropriate activity will be given to assist their injury. Please make sure your son has the appropriate kit for all lessons.

A reminder - kit is as follows:

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

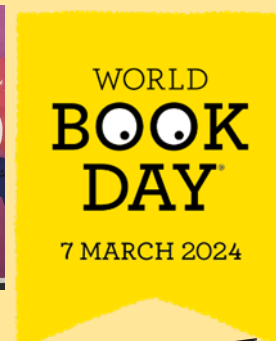
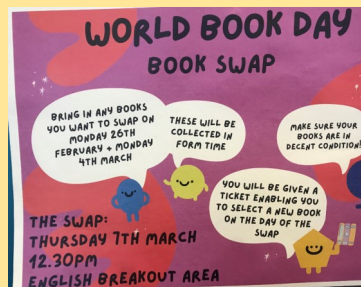
PE: lessons, white polo shirt or blue PE shirt, blue shorts, white socks , trainers. (for some outside sports your teacher may ask you to bring your games kit)

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



WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day, the English department hosted a number of events celebrating all things literary. From decorated classroom doors inspired by beloved books to book cover scavenger hunts, it was a true celebration of reading and books.



Each classroom door became a canvas of creativity as teachers transformed them into portals to various literary worlds. For our Key Stage 3 students, a specially curated World Book Day lesson awaited, designed to inspire a love for literature and encourage exploration of new texts. Meanwhile, story-themed baked treats were tasted as participants showcased their culinary skills in the World Book Day themed Bake Off.

The Book Swap was hugely successful, with students eagerly exchanging books and recommendations. Adding an element of challenge, teachers donned badges featuring a range of different authors, prompting students to match them with the correct literary works in the Find the Book Title activity.

Engagement continued with a Book Cover scavenger hunt and our Teachers' Favourite Book Posters adorning staff doors. Key Stage 4 students delved into literary extracts during form time, while their Key Stage 3 counterparts tested their knowledge in a lively quiz.

Our regular creative writers entered the Creative Writing Competition held during lunch, where budding wordsmiths unleashed their imagination in the hopes of winning a prize.

Miss Walton





CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

Weekly Mass Theme

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.' Psalm 94

This week's Prayer of the week focuses on charity and the responsibility to reach out to those in need:

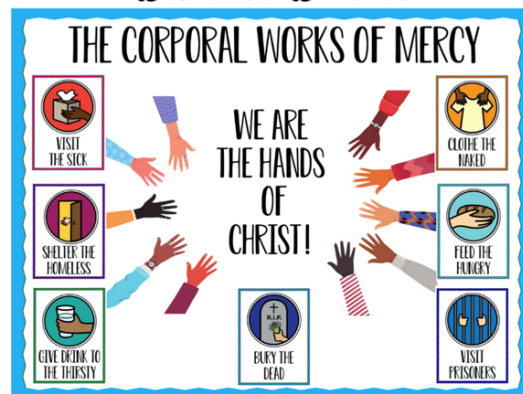
Loving Father,
You so loved the world that you
sent your son Jesus so that we
might love through him.
Help us to respond to your
love.
Grant us understanding of the
loving ways of Jesus.
Teach us to see others with his
eyes and, through your Holy
Spirit, guide us in our efforts to
show love in our daily actions.
Amen



Form Prayer

Our Form Prayer this week looked at how Lent is a time when we are called to provide for those in our communities whose needs are not being met. Students considered the Corporal Works of Mercy, charitable actions by which we help our neighbours by responding to the basic needs of humanity. They are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise . . .

Bulletin Board



LENTEN CHARITY ACTION

This Lent we are encouraging students to fundraise for Caritas Shrewsbury's annual Good Shepherd Appeal. Please support them in their efforts as they join their classmates in promoting this valuable cause. If you would like to find out more about the appeal, as well as creative fundraising ideas, please follow this link: <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/get-involved/good-shepherd-collection/>



Catholic Social Teaching at St Ambrose

Recently, a group of Y8 and Y9 students attended mini DASH, a youth conference organised by the Diocese of Shrewsbury. They have been part of these workshops for the past two years and have begun exploring Catholic Social Teaching and its importance.

They were challenged to return to school and audit how successfully Catholic Social Teaching is embedded in school life. Their first port of call was Mr Rainey who generously gave his time to meet the group.

They asked him which principles of CST were being lived out fully, and which ones we could do better with.

The students have pledged to take the reins in animating CST activity in school!





CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Every Form will visit the Chapel during Lent to take part in the Stations of the Cross, a series of prayers and reflections focusing on 14 images of Jesus' Passion. Given we are on Easter Holidays during Holy Week and Eastertide, it's really important to us that students are given the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of this pivotal season in the Liturgical calendar. Here's one of our Year 7 Forms taking part in the Stations with Mrs Doyle . . .



Article 18: The Right to Asylum

At St Ambrose we stand together with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, particularly those whose human rights are compromised. The Christian Brothers at Salford Edmund Rice Volunteers work tirelessly to allow endure people seeking asylum in the UK have their cases fairly considered. One of their service users, Mahamadou, is fleeing persecution in his home country, Niger. Some of our Edmund Rice International Group went to meet him last week and have begun lobbying for him to be allowed leave to remain in the UK. To find out more about Mahamadou's case, check out Edmund Rice England's Facebook and Twitter!



Immersion Update

We have now selected our next two Immersion Groups for 2025 and 2026! Congratulations to all those from Y11 and Y12 who have been selected. We are so proud of our connection with our sister school, St Ambrose Academy in Sierra Leone. Here are two of last year's Immersion Group, Benny and Gabriel, speaking to the students from the Prep this week about their time in Sierra Leone.



And finally . . .

Ramadan begins next week, and a number of our Muslim students will be observing this period of deep spiritual reflection and fasting that takes place every year. One of our Y13 students, Rayan A, shared these information videos during Thursday's Form Prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2SWnDo0PK4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1mlaJml3Lc>



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.

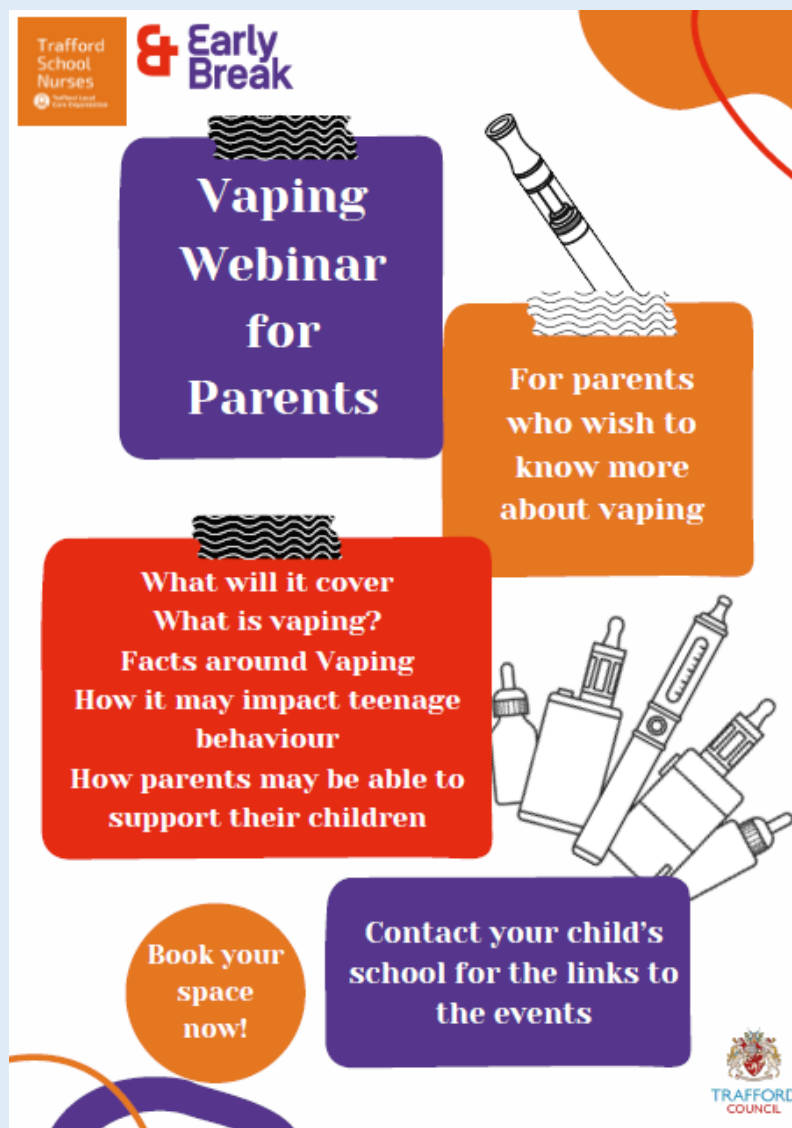
We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk.

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 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 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/>