



# Saint Ambrose College

## Weekly News Bulletin

 @PrincipalSAC

Friday 15th March 2024

### A Message from the Principal

As we gather in reflection on this fifth Sunday of Lent, we find ourselves drawn to the profound messages embedded within this week's Gospel. The themes of repentance, redemption, and renewal resonate deeply as we continue our Lenten journey of spiritual growth and introspection.

In our school, the Lenten preparations persist with a steadfast focus on charity and service to others. This week, I am delighted to share that some of our Year 8 students embarked on a meaningful retreat in the chapel, guided by Mr. Murray. Such experiences offer invaluable opportunities for our students to deepen their faith and strengthen their bonds with one another.

Amidst our spiritual endeavours, I am thrilled to highlight the remarkable achievements of our sports teams. Despite the unfortunate cancellation of the Stonyhurst Sevens fixtures, our under 15 rugby sevens team showcased their talent by finishing second in the Cheshire Sevens tournament. Additionally, our under 15 water polo team claimed a commendable fifth place in the national cup final held at Eton, while the under 18 water polo team achieved a similar feat in the national plate final at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. As the prestigious Roslyn Park tournament commences, we extend our best wishes for success to all our participating teams.

This week, we had the privilege of welcoming Professor Adam Donne as our guest speaker, offering valuable insights to our aspiring medics. Furthermore, our Science Department organised an enriching trip to the Museum of Science and Industry for our Key Stage 3 pupils, igniting their curiosity and passion for discovery. Even at this stage in the year, new clubs and societies are being launched, with the Aviation Society, which promises to inspire and engage our students with the wonders of flight, the latest to have lift off.

Congratulations are in order for Jack E and Qiyi C in Year 12, who demonstrated exceptional prowess at the Oxford Debating Finals last weekend. They did themselves, their families and the school proud.

This weekend sees year 9 students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Peak District. I hope the weather holds for them and that temperatures increase slightly.

Easter supervised study was mentioned in the last edition of the newsletter. The jotform isn't quite ready yet but will be sent separately so please keep an eye out for it. The supervised study will take place from Monday to Thursday of the first week of the

school holidays.

In previous years we have been fortunate to have a number of parents and carers volunteer to invigilate during the external examination season. We appreciate that this is a considerable commitment and undertaking but our aim is to grow and assemble a large enough team to be able to have a rota whereby we don't need parents in day in, day out. I am often asked by parents about ways to support the school and this is a role which would not only enable us to secure the number of bodies we need given the increasing demands with exam supervision, but would also allow us to invest savings back in to the school budget for the benefit of the boys.

This week's assemblies addressed the critical issue of sextortion, reminding students yet again about online safety and appropriate online behaviours. The assembly and current PSHCE topics provide essential awareness and I would encourage you to have further dialogue at home.

As we observe St. Patrick's Day this coming Sunday, let us not only celebrate the rich traditions of Ireland, but, also Nigeria, where St Patrick is also the patron saint. An Irish tradition worth noting is the tradition that allows the Irish to 'break Lent' on this special day – I'm not sure of the technicalities of this and local priests might disagree but there is also a theory that Sundays don't count as part of the 40 days of Lent so with St Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday this year, the temptation is even greater!

Enjoy the finale of the Six Nations for those tuning in.

Warm regards,

**Mr D Rainey**  
**Principal**





# REMINDERS

## Dates for your diary

20th March	Year 13 Leavers Photographs (individual)
22nd March	End of term
8th April	School resumes
10th April	2023 A-Level Leavers Presentation Evening
19th April	Year 12 trip to Lancaster University

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)

## TEACHER SPONSERSHIPS

Our very own Miss Walton will be running the Manchester Marathon in April in support of Cancer Research UK.



If you would like to support Miss Walton and this worthy charity, you can donate on Miss Walton's Just Giving page by following the link <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jessicas-giving-page-152757> every penny donated goes towards beating cancer.



# 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 And 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 9<sup>th</sup> March, we welcome Wesley College, Dublin to St. Ambrose for a touring match against our U14 and U13 teams.



Great results for both teams with the U14 winning 29-21 and U13 winning 28-19



### **Rugby 7's**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March our U14s competed in their Cheshire 7s making it into the Cup ¼ final but sadly the progress ended there. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March our u16s took part in the All England 7s representing Cheshire. After winning their group convincingly with 4/4 wins they stumbled at the ¼ final stage.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March our U13s 7s due to take part in the Birkenhead school was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches.

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March our U15s took part in the Cheshire 7s reaching the Cup Final only to be closely beaten by King's Macclesfield

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March our U13s, U16s and u18s were supposed to travel to Stonyhurst to take part in the Stonyhurst 7s. Unfortunately, this too was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches.

## **Waterpolo**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March our U18's took part in the National plate Finals – they finished in the bronze position.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March Our U15's took part in the National Cup Finals – they finished a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> in the country!

## **Basketball**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March our Year 8/9 team took on Stretford High in the Trafford final. Unfortunately the team lost 39-16 to a strong Stretford team, the first defeat of the year.

## **FIXTURES THIS WEEK**

### **Rugby 7's**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> this week our 1<sup>st</sup> XV are taking part in the National School 7s at Rosslyn Park.



On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> this week our U16s are taking part in the National School 7s at Rosslyn Park.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Our U15s take part in the Audenshaw 7s.

## **Waterpolo**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March our u13 water polo team travel to Walsall for the first round of the National water polo Championships.

## **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**



# SPORTS REPORT

## WATERPOLO U15's—ESSA Championship

A huge congratulations to St Ambrose U15s for placing 5th in the whole country in the ESSA championship finals down in Haberdashers boys school on Wednesday 13th. We are so proud of the achievement and gives us great confidence moving in to next year when most of our boys will be at the top end of the age group. Lots to work on over the next year. A huge thank you for the support from the sports committee.



## WATERPOLO U18's ESSA PLATE FINAL

On Monday 11th March, the U18 water polo team competed down in Eton, at the college, for the plate finals. They deservedly placed 3rd amongst tough opposition on a day where anyone could have beaten anyone. A great learning experience for a young side and we look forward to developing further moving in to next year.

I am so proud of you all!

**Mrs Chandler**  
Swimming teacher





# STUDENTS SUCCESS



Our Augustine House Captain, Daniel Green was honoured to be selected to travel to France last weekend, with the England U18 Rugby Union Squad, gaining his first cap as he came off the bench to play out the last 15 minutes of the game. Dan is our first dual international, having played for both Ireland and England in the same year! Here is Dan speaking about his experience in his own words,

*"Receiving my first England cap was an experience I will never forget, although the result didn't go our way, wearing the rose for the first time was an absolute honour and a childhood dream come true. Playing in France was another experience I will remember for a long time, in such a rugby proud nation playing in front of 5000 fans was an experience in itself and one I certainly won't forget soon. I certainly wouldn't be in the position I would be today without the help from the likes of Mr Howarth, Mr David and Mr Crawford and all the PE staff at St Ambrose. It was a very proud moment for me and my family and I hope to have the opportunity to represent again soon"*





# CHAPLAINCY NEWS

**Weekly Mass Theme:** *O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people (Psalm 105)*

Thank you to 8D for hosting weekly Mass, and to Fr Tom for celebrating with us!



**This week's Prayer of the week focuses welcoming strangers into our communities:**

*'Befriending the Stranger' by Jean Vanier*

In the midst of all the violence and corruption of the world God invites us to create new places of belonging, places of sharing, of peace and of kindness, places where no-one needs to defend himself or herself; places where each one is loved and accepted with one's own fragility, abilities and disabilities. This is my vision for our churches: that they become places of belonging, places of sharing.



## Mahamadou's Story

- Before Half Term, members of our ERI Group went to meet Mahamadou, an asylum seeker from Niger who is currently being supported by the Edmund Rice Network
- Mahamadou's claim to asylum in the UK has been rejected, despite the danger he would face if deported back to Niger. His rejection meant he became street homeless in Manchester



## Form Prayer

Our Form Prayer this week focused on supporting the work of the Christian Brothers in Salford. They work with refugees and asylum seekers. Our students are advocating on behalf of an asylum seeker from Ni-

ger, Mahamadou. We have been lobbying law firms in London to take up Mahamadou's case. You can find out more about his case by clicking the following link:

<https://padlet.com/annnicholsero/help-mahamadou-er-advocacy-groups-qfzpcor7hc48gizy>

## And finally . . .

Our students will have the opportunity to attend Confession next week. Fr Owen has kindly agreed to join us on Monday and the up-take, as ever, has been fantastic!

## 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/>



"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me..."

John 10:24



## Y8 Lenten Retreats

All Y8 Forms are taking part in Lenten Retreats in the Chapel. They are thinking



about Jesus' journey towards the cross during Holy Week, but also finding out a little bit about themselves and each other! The highlight so far has undoubtedly been the Lenten Pub Quiz with prizes!





# SCHOOL NEWS

## KS3 Reading Resources

*"If you are going to go anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books"*  
**Rold Dahl**



*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go!"*  
**Dr. Seuss**

We hope the boys are still enjoying their books from the WBD book swap last week. Please continue to encourage your son(s) to read, here are some resources they can use to access books.

Use Book Finder to search for books and quizzes within your reading range (Year 7 only).

[Accelerated Reader Bookfinder UK & Ireland - Quick Search \(arbookfind.co.uk\)](https://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

Once you have found a book that you want to read, you can take check on Simple Little Library to see if we have it in our school pop up Library.

[Home - Simple Little Library System \(slls.online\)](https://slls.online)

Alternatively, why not have a look in your local Library.

[Welcome to Trafford Libraries](https://www.tr Trafford Libraries)

Find books and resources from your library online using BorrowBox

[BorrowBox – Your library in one app](https://www.borrowbox.co.uk)

## 6th Form Charity Cake Sale

Well done to Joseph C, Tom G, Will F, Johnny M and Connor D who organised charity cake sales this week during breaks in order to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. Thanks also to Sohaib A, Stephen P and Rocco J who volunteered their time to help sell cakes during break. The total amount raised was £147.60!



## U12's and U13 enjoy Super League match!

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 28 rugby players from Year 7&8 were treated to a big Super League Clash at the AJ Bell Stadium where Salford Red Devils took on the World Club Champions Wigan Warriors. As part of the Red Devils 'Building the Future' Strategy.

In an exciting game Salford were edged out in the final minutes after looking likely to get the win. Thank you to all the parents for 'dropping off' and picking the boys up at full time.





# OXFORD FINALS DAY

Leading on from our success in the regional round of the Oxford Schools debating competition, held at Manchester Grammar School, Qi Yi C and I, Jack E, joined as a team to represent the school at the Oxford Union in the National Finals.

The day began in the chambers of the Union. The atmosphere was inspiring and the label of 'one of the largest student debating competitions in the world' hinted at the breadth of the event, only to be confirmed by the list of schools who were also competing, ranging from Eton College and St Paul's Girls to teams from numerous nations, reaching as far as the Philippines.



In four rounds of debates, we argued topics as diverse as 'parents should not teach children about their own conceptions of the afterlife' to the 'glorification of the career longevity of dominant sports persons'. The day was one of unbelievable access to the 200-year-old Oxford Union (with all its creaky floorboards) and allowed us to walk down the same historic halls as influential figures, including political heads, spiritual leaders and artistic icons.



The day ended with the Grand Final, and while we did not reach this stage, being able to take a step back from our own speaking and witness this culmination of debating was in itself an inspirational moment and one which we will never forget.



'The city of dreaming spires'? Definitely.

By Jack E







# 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.*

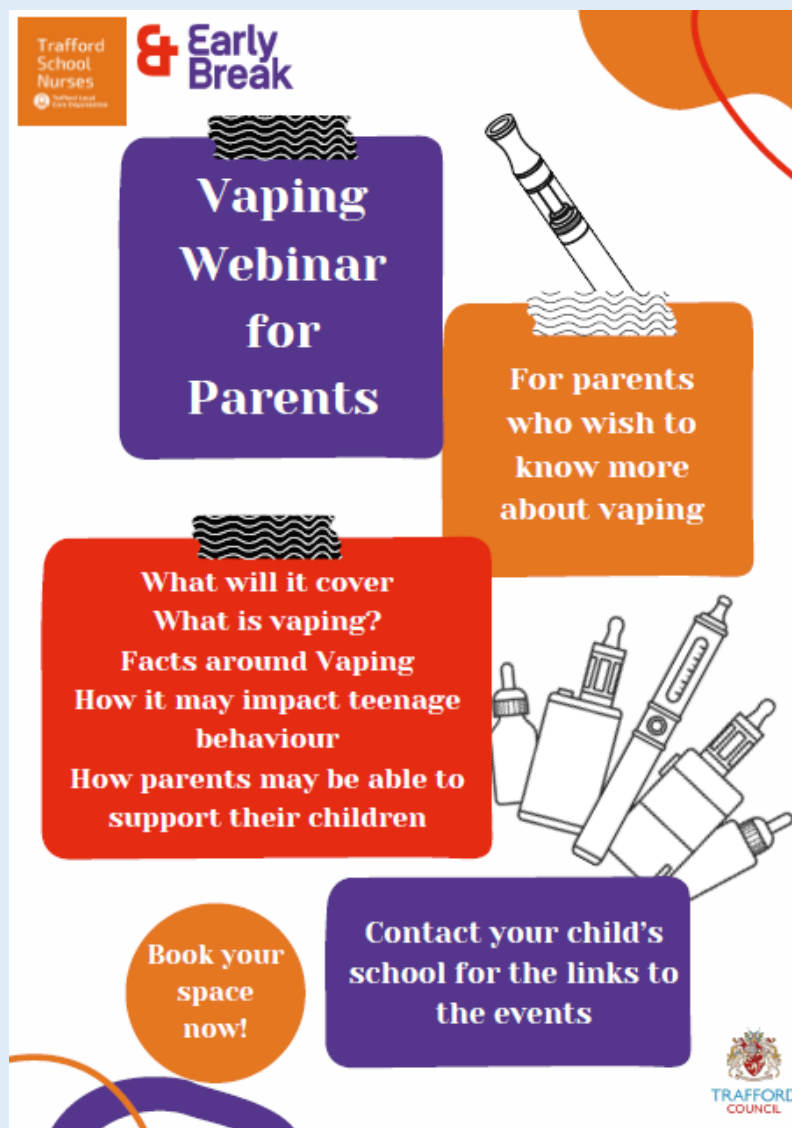
We will continue to share further information and updates with you throughout the year. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](mailto:careers@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk).

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/>