

Parent/Carer Information Evening

September 2025



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We gather this evening as a community to discuss issues which aim to allow the students of St Ambrose College to be the best they can be and ultimately bring about the betterment of society.

Please continue to send your spirit amongst us when we gather so that we can receive tonight's messages with clear understanding and wisdom.

We pray for the boys and their families, that they have a safe and settled academic year. We pray that the students take all the opportunities afforded to them, thereby ensuring they remain on track to succeed and make a positive impact on the modern world.

Amen



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



SAC Mission Statement

At St Ambrose College, we will follow the example of Blessed Edmund Rice and his vision for education as laid out in The Eight Essentials.

We will provide a **rounded, holistic and transformative** Catholic education enabling all boys to grow in faith and reach their full potential as well educated, disciplined, compassionate and empowered young men who strive for excellence and justice in all that they do.

With the Gospels and the spirit of Blessed Edmund at the heart of what we do, staff, pupils, and families will **partner together** to celebrate the talents and individuality of all in our community and produce resourceful and resilient Ambrosians, **equipped to make a positive impact in the modern world.**



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

The Iceberg Illusion

Success is an iceberg

SUCCESS!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE

WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

Persistence



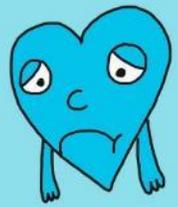
Failure



Sacrifice



Disappointment



Dedication



Hard work

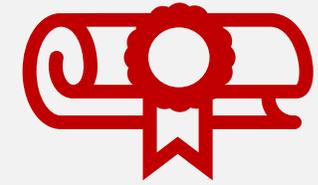


Discipline



@sylviaaduckworth

St Ambrose – “Trust us”



- GCSE
- Attainment 8 = 76.8%
- 9-8 grades = 50%
- 9-7 grades = 75%
- A'Level
- A*-A grades = 52%
- A*-B grades = 80%

“Pupils are proud to be an ‘Ambrosian’.

They understand their responsibility to contribute to the highly positive culture of behaviour at the school. They do this impeccably.”

(Ofsted 2025)



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Senior Leadership Team

Principal – Mr D Rainey

Vice Principal (Pastoral Care & Behaviour, DSL) – Mr P Groves

Vice Principal (Quality of Education) – Mrs R Wheelan

Assistant Principal (Director of KS5 & Enrichment) – Mr S Brady

Assistant Principal –(Inclusion) – Mrs L Reed

Assistant Principal (Curriculum & Assessment) - Mr D Sweeney



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Pastoral Leaders

Head of Year

- Year 7 – Mr A Farrell
- **Year 8 – Mr P Anderson**
- Year 9 – Mr J Cutting
- Year 10 – Mr L Crawford
- Year 11 – Mr C Vaughton
- Year 12 – Dr D Sate
- Year 13 – Miss C Widolf



Pastoral/Welfare Manager/ Deputy DSL – Miss H Dean

SENDco – Mrs K Keary

Chaplain – Mr T Murray

Achievement and intervention mentor – Mrs A Hart

St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Contacting Staff



Staff contact information is on the website

- For most matters, the first port of call is your son's form tutor.
- If your query relates to a particular subject, please contact the teacher directly
- If you are struggling to contact the subject teacher, please contact the Head of Department
- Absence requests – FAO Mrs Ollier – attendance@st-ambrose.org.uk



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Culture and Ethos around the College and Expectations



Building a Christian Community (Liturgical Life):

You have chosen to come to a catholic school and full participation of College liturgical life is expected.

Striving for Excellence:

Expectation that every students attends at least one physical enrichment club and one non-physical enrichment club. 65min lunch to facilitate clubs and enrichment.

When asked to represent the College there is an expectation that you will.

True **Ambrosians** live and breathe the Eight Essentials.



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Year 8

Mr Anderson
Head of Year

Year 8 is the formative year – grow and maintain good routines

Time to explore and try everything St Ambrose College offers

Build independence and friendships



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Attitude to Learning & Study Skills



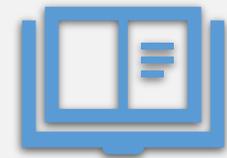
ATL celebrates effort and resilience



Building good habits now



Foundations for GCSE success



Reading around the subject and regular study



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Attitude to Learning - ATL

Underperforming Cause for concern 5	Working below AtL Expectations 4	Meeting AtL Expectations 3	Working above AtL Expectations 2	Exceptional 1
<p>Fails to engage and meet the learning expectations.</p> <p>Is disruptive and negatively impacts the learning of others.</p> <p>Lack of pride in work and presentation is below what is expected.</p> <p>Homework is often late, incomplete and often does not reflect their ability.</p> <p>Actively fails to follow rules, routines and responsibilities.</p> <p>Receives regular behaviour records and fails to correct and improve their choices after sanctions.</p> <p>Often forgets equipment.</p>	<p>Often engages with the learning expectations but can lose focus.</p> <p>Sometimes becomes involved in low level disruption.</p> <p>Work sometimes demonstrates a lack of pride and presentation is inconsistent.</p> <p>Homework activities are completed, but often fall short of the student's ability. They do not 'strive for excellence.'</p> <p>Fails to follow rules, routines and student responsibilities consistently.</p> <p>Sometimes receives behaviour records but takes accountability and tries to improve once sanctioned.</p> <p>Doesn't prepare / revise properly for tests.</p> <p>Sometimes forgets equipment.</p>	<p>Meeting the learning expectations.</p> <p>Pride in work is evident and presentation meets expectations.</p> <p>Homework tasks completed fully and submitted on time.</p> <p>Consistently follows rules, routines and student responsibilities with teacher direction.</p> <p>Prepares well for tests and assessments.</p> <p>Consistently follows rules, routines and student responsibilities.</p> <p>Rarely receives behaviour records.</p> <p>Revises for tests.</p> <p>Responds to feedback.</p> <p>Rarely forgets equipment.</p>	<p>Meets the learning expectations and goes beyond.</p> <p>Pride in work is evident and presentation is very good.</p> <p>Homework tasks completed fully and submitted on time with some evidence of wider research and reading.</p> <p>Consistently follows rules, routines and student responsibilities without teacher intervention.</p> <p>Prepares well for tests and assessments.</p> <p>Consistently follows rules, routines and student responsibilities.</p> <p>Very rarely, if ever, receives behaviour records.</p> <p>Very rarely, if ever, forgets equipment.</p>	<p>Always demonstrates full engagement with the learning expectations and leads by example aiming to create an outstanding culture of learning in lessons.</p> <p>Pride in work is clear with consistently outstanding presentation.</p> <p>Takes ownership and high accountability of their own learning with wider reading and independent study outside of lessons.</p> <p>Homework tasks display outstanding effort and evidence of wider reading and research.</p> <p>Consistently follows rules, routines and student responsibilities.</p> <p>Preparation for tests & assessments is exemplary.</p> <p>Never receives behaviour records.</p>

Language association 'best fit descriptors' for holistic attitude to learning grade:

Never pushes themselves. Avoids work.	Passive compliant. Sometimes doesn't complete tasks.	Works consistently well day to day. Meets teacher expectations.	Try their best. Want to do well.	Proactive in their learning. Strive for excellence.
--	---	--	-------------------------------------	--



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Work in Partnership



Expectations: Uniform, hard work, conduct in and outside of the College

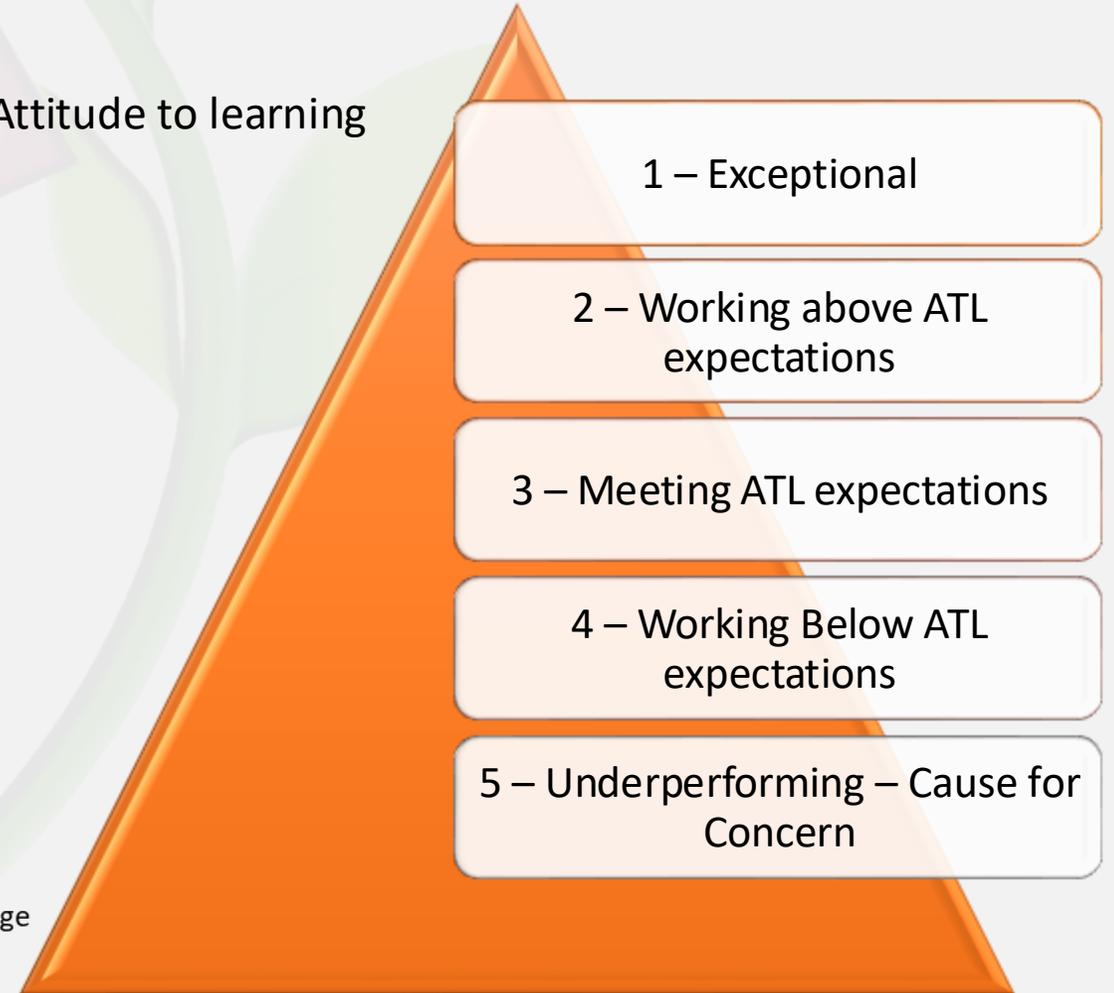
Rewards: Alton Towers, Year Rewards Day, Trips and Excursions

Detentions: To ensure fairness and consistency, detentions are always completed at the time they are set. This means they cannot be rescheduled or replaced with lunchtime alternatives.

Having a clear system helps every pupil know what to expect and supports good routines for the whole year group.

Interventions: If a pupils is in need of some extra help, then interventions are there to get them back on track.

- Attitude to learning



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Attendance & Enrichment

98% target

- Everyday matters. Each day missed is 5 lessons.
- 95% attendance means he has missed 9 days – 45 lessons!

Clubs

- Skills, Passions, Friendships
- One Physical and One Academic club

School life is richer
when boys get involved

St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

St. Ambrose College

Co-Curricular Events 2024-25



Clubs and Societies Fair

- Time: Lunch
- Locations: Lecture Theatre and Lecture Theatre Corridor
- Date: Monday 15th September
- QR codes to login/expectations = 2 clubs minimum
- (1 physical and 1 super-curricular/academic)



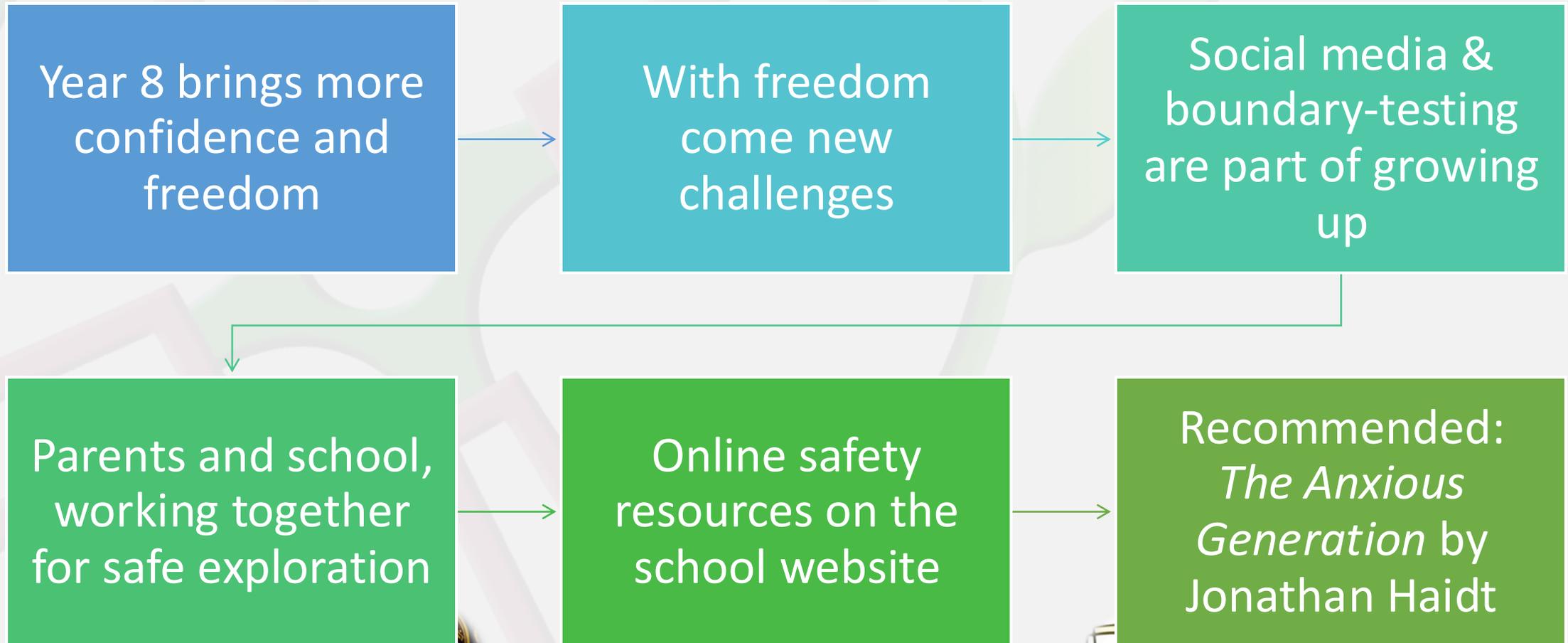
St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Growing Independence & Online Safety



“Our curriculum enables every student to leave St Ambrose College with the qualifications, skills, knowledge and character to access aspirational pathways/opportunities and to lead a life that includes positive relationships, resilience, strong mental health and financial independence.”

(St Ambrose College Curriculum strategy)

“With the Gospels...at the heart of what we do...produce resourceful and resilient Ambrosians, equipped to make a positive difference in the modern world” (St Ambrose College mission statement)



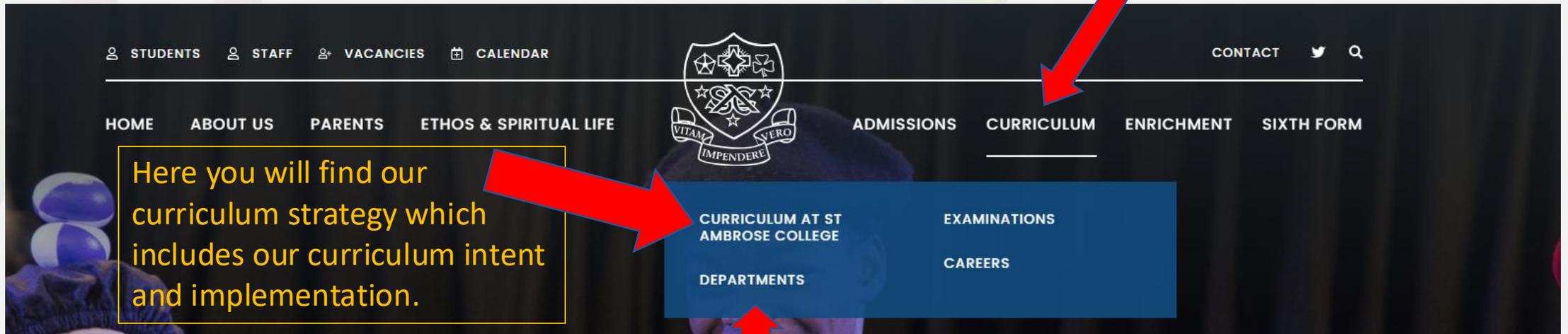
St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Curriculum information

Click on the curriculum section of the website:



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu. At the top, there are links for STUDENTS, STAFF, VACANCIES, and CALENDAR. Below these are HOME, ABOUT US, PARENTS, ETHOS & SPIRITUAL LIFE, ADMISSIONS, CURRICULUM, ENRICHMENT, and SIXTH FORM. The CURRICULUM link is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to it from the text above. Below the CURRICULUM link, a dropdown menu is visible with options: CURRICULUM AT ST AMBROSE COLLEGE, EXAMINATIONS, DEPARTMENTS, and CAREERS. A red arrow points from the text below to the DEPARTMENTS option. Another red arrow points from the text above to the CURRICULUM link. A yellow box with text is overlaid on the left side of the menu.

Here you will find our curriculum strategy which includes our curriculum intent and implementation.

Under the *departments* section, you will find the curriculum intent for each subject as well as an overview of topics for each year group. You will also find individual knowledge organisers. The knowledge organisers contain useful information such as key facts and skills, stretch and challenge tasks and literacy terms.

St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Homework



All homework is set on **ClassCharts** (with the exception of Art, which is set via the SACART website). Please ensure you have the **ClassCharts app** and check regularly for homework that has been assigned to your son.



Some subjects may also use additional online platforms or resources through Microsoft Teams.



Later this year, homework will also be on **Bromcom**, where all information will be available in one place.



If you have any issues with login details, please contact our technicians at support@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk who will be happy to help.



For more details, please see the Homework Policy on our school website.



Revision skills and techniques



Click on Curriculum, then Examinations



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Revision skills and techniques

IN THIS SECTION

- PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS
- END OF YEAR/MOCK EXAMINATIONS
- REVISION RESOURCES & STRATEGIES**

EXAMINATIONS

> HOME > PARENTS > EXAMINATIONS

Saint Ambrose College is a large examination centre with students sitting a wide range of public examinations.

Public examinations are usually conducted in the school sports hall. The Examinations Officer is responsible for the organisation of all internal and external examinations. If students or parents/carers have any queries or need advice before, during or after the examinations please contact the Examinations Officer.

Click on revision resources and strategies

“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

REVISION RESOURCES & STRATEGIES

> HOME > PARENTS > EXAMINATIONS > REVISION RESOURCES & STRATEGIES

Teachers will provide students with tailored revision resources and tasks for each subject. Additionally, here are extra resources and strategies to support their revision across all subjects.

COGNITIVE STRATEGIES FOR INDEPENDENT LEA	DOWNLOAD
FLASHCARDS INFO SHEET <small>DOCX</small>	DOWNLOAD
MEMORY FOR LEARNING ARTICLE 10 TOP TIPS <small>DOC</small>	DOWNLOAD
MINDMAP REVISION TECHNIQUE <small>DOCX</small>	DOWNLOAD
REVISION TECHNIQUES BEST OPTIONS FOR STU	DOWNLOAD
SEEKING THE WISDOM OF YOUR ABLE STUDENT!	DOWNLOAD
SIX KEY REVISION STRATEGIES TO EMBED KNOW	DOWNLOAD
THE CORNELL NOTE TAKING METHOD <small>DOCX</small>	DOWNLOAD

END OF YEAR/MOCK EXAMINATIONS

> [REVISION RESOURCES & STRATEGIES](#)

Here you will find various documents and articles to support students with revision.

All students had an extended form time last year to explore various revision strategies with their form tutor. A booklet containing numerous strategies was shared with all students and can be found on our website [Saint Ambrose College - Revision resources & strategies](#)

Key Stage 3 Assessment

Band	Descriptor
Exceeding	Where a student consistently demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills <i>above and beyond</i> what is expected of them in a subject at this stage of the curriculum.
Secure	Where a student consistently demonstrates the knowledge, understanding and skills expected of them in a subject at this stage of the curriculum.
Developing	Where a student is not yet secure in the knowledge, understanding and skills expected of them in a subject at this stage of the curriculum.

St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

How you can help your son:

- Encourage your son to work in a quiet space, ideally **without his phone**.
- You do not need to be a subject expert. Simply check that the homework completed matches what was set on ClassCharts.
 - Support/revision materials are on the department section on the website
- Use of portals –Bromcom, Mychildatschool, form tutors – communication with the school
- Help him build a routine: planning time effectively so that work is done thoroughly and he still has time for **extra-curricular** activities and sleep!
 - Is the games console/phone in his room? Maybe move to a shared space – certainly at night. Take the power cable away!
- Please support us if we need to follow the behaviour policy for homework that is not completed.
- If you have concerns about homework (including if it is not being set), contact the subject teacher in the first instance, or the Head of Faculty if needed.
- Encourage your son to **revise regularly** and to treat revision as a normal part of good study habits.



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Top tips for parents and carers...

- Read widely and often
 - Reading is a vital skill that unlocks the curriculum
 - Remains one of our whole school priorities
 - Students will be set regular reading tasks across subjects
 - Please ensure your son always has a reading book - Monday is essential!
 - Encourage him to read for pleasure at home
- Reinforce high expectations – equipment, attendance and behaviour
- Know where the support/revision materials are and use them
- Support Healthy Eating
- Positive Messages



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Getting Involved...

- SAPA – first Thursday evening of the month <https://www.sapa.org.uk/>
- Sports Committee
- 100 Club [SAPA 100 Club | Sapa Saint Ambrose](#)
- Fundraising Committee – targeting the 80th anniversary
- See separate communication in the newsletter regarding opportunity to become a parent governor
- Speakers for PSHE/Careers
- Oxbridge mock interviews & 6th Form lectures
- Supporting work experience placements



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)

Your child may be entitled to receive FSM if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

A letter will be sent to all Parents/Carers with further details should you think you qualify for FSM.

If you feel your son is a Young Carer (YC) – please let us know, an example of (YC) is taking care of a parent who is unwell or having a sibling at home who is unwell or needs their support.



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



General Points

- No access to the college grounds for drop off and/or pick up unless in possession of a blue pass supplied by the main office
- Parent Pay – finance@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”





Closing Message

- A year of opportunity
- A year of Growth, confidence, and character
- A safe space to explore and take on challenges
- Build a strong partnership: pupils, parents, and teachers together

“

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.



Michael Jordan

If you wish..meet your son's Form Tutor:
Follow the green steps

A - Mr Fitzsimon Room 2402

B – Mr McKenna Room 2403

C – McIntosh Room 2404

D – Miss Stead Room 2405

E – Mr McFadden Room 2406

F – Mr Highton Room 2407



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”