

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025



Good evening Parents & Carers,

Huge apologies for not getting my newsletter to you for Friday evening but circumstances prevailed which meant we have had a slight delay to the publication of the Sixth Form newsletter.

We had an amazing day in Oxford with the sun's rays bouncing off the hallowed spires. We took 55 boys down who absorbed the whole atmosphere of the day and spent much of their time asking salient questions of admissions tutors and current undergraduate students. I thank Mrs Scott for accompanying us on the trip and for her sage like advice that was adhered to by the boys.

Whilst we wallowed in the intellectual and dreamy spires of Oxford many of our fellow year 12 and year 13 students spent much of their Saturday morning helping the next generation undertake their entrance examination. This was a massive undertaking with over 800 boys from primary schools around the region sitting the exam. Our thanks to all the boys who assisted on the day and huge thanks to Mrs Hamnet our indomitable Head of Admissions who made it all possible.



Our first rugby fixture of the year was against Kirkham Grammar School. This was true 'test' as Kirkham pride themselves as being one of the most able rugby schools in the North of England. This year we are delighted to have Joseph M replace Joseph Baldwin as our reporter on all senior rugby games and senior sport. There was no fixture this week but I believe the club circuit was very busy for many of the boys.

'The first game of the season is always a tough test with a trip to face Kirkham and last weekend proved no different. With a number of First XV debuts and new partnerships across the squad, this was a valuable opportunity to lay down early foundations for the year ahead.'

'From the outset, Kirkham with a powerful and well-organised Headmaster's side, put our defence under a lot of pressure. To their credit, our boys held out superbly in the opening exchanges, showing real commitment at the breakdown and resilience on the line. Despite long spells without the ball, we went into the break only 7-0 down, very much still in the contest.'

'The second half began similarly to the first, and a clinical Kirkham managed to extend their lead with a well-taken score. We responded with real spirit, and it was hooker, Valdis C, who powered over to get us on the board and swing momentum back our way. At that point, it felt as though the game might turn, but despite building phases and finding more territory, we couldn't quite make our possession count. A late Kirkham try pushed the score out to 17-7, and that's how it finished.'

'While the defeat was disappointing, there was plenty to admire in the performance including the fight in defence, the way new combinations are already gelling, and the energy from debutants stepping up to the First XV stage. With the first run-out now behind us, the group can start looking forward to the opening cup fixture against Eynm next week.'

Last Wednesday we welcomed back our current Oxbridge students to give the final assistance to our Year 13 early entry cohort. We are grateful for all their help and by Monday 22nd all personal statement should be completed affording Mrs Scott and I the opportunity to send the UCAS applications.

The boys may have noticed that we have had an absence from our Sixth Form Team. Mrs Grainger had a nasty fall over a week ago resulting in breaking her elbow. We have sent flowers on behalf of our Sixth Form and wish her a speedy recovery.

Have a good week and I wish the boys playing in the National Cup every success.

Kind regards

Stephen Brady

Head of Sixth Form