

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted to announce that we have sent 53 UCAS applications to date. Please remind your sons that our ambition is to get all UCAS applications away by the end of November. This will enable our boys to concentrate on actually achieving their A level grades and prepare for their forthcoming mock examinations.

Our Head Boy represented the College at an Edmund Rice gathering in Liverpool on Thursday and he has written a précis about his experience. Today at lunch our Sixth Form leadership enjoyed the hospitality of our sister school Loreto and we focused on our mission this year which was based on 'loving thy neighbour'. A wonderful theme in which its application is so poignant in the world today.

'On Thursday, I had the privilege of attending the Edmund Rice School's Conference in Crewe. I would like to thank the Edmund Rice family, the keynoter speakers and the wonderful student ambassadors I met yesterday, who make the network such a joy to be a part of. I was not there on Head Boy duties though; instead, I spoke about the amazing work of Edmund Rice Camos and why I got involved in them. I initially didn't want to do camp this year. I anticipated that I would have a very busy summer full of coursework, work experience, and revision. Every minute I wasn't studying, felt like a minute wasted, taking me even further away from my goals. I was chasing things that I thought needed my full, undivided attention and taking a week out was a dangerous detour. I simply thought, "there isn't enough room." But it was actually while reflecting on those excuses that I found my motivation to do camp. Sitting in a classroom one afternoon, I noticed the Edmund Rice Prayer on the screen. It was then that it hit me: I had not "opened my heart to Christ present in those around me." I realised I had a problem that many of us share in this fast-paced, modern world – I couldn't make room. I used my schedule, my goals, and my deadlines as excuses not to make room for the more important things in life. I refused to slow down and make time for the vulnerable, the innocent, and those in need. Instead, I chased achievements and accomplishments. But what does it profit a man to gain the world, and lose his soul?

That's ultimately why I decided to participate in the camp. I realised a drastic change in my outlook was needed and camp was my opportunity to do that.

I gained so much from my camp experience: friends, a sense of peace and stillness, a discovery of what empathy means, and most importantly, I really felt what Christ called compassion. I was moved by the personal circumstances of the children I encountered, and seeing their smiles and their laughter in the face of it all gave me the courage to face challenges in my own life.

I was also inspired by many of the other stories from within the Edmund Rice Network like the Flexi-school system in Australia and the amazing work of other camps in the Wirral, Liverpool and Stoke.

I had an amazing day, and I am very grateful to have spent it with Mr Murray and Mr Rainey.'

Tobi A,
Head Boy

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025



One of my roles is to represent the leadership team on the parents society. At our AGM on Tuesday night Mrs Yaxley our treasurer and Mrs Bastin our Chairperson stepped down after three years in the role. Their tenure was magnificent in which the 'Cagney & Lacey' of the parents society world transformed our coffers and enabled so many additional purchases to enhance the education that our boys receive. Under their auspices we saw the purchase of a very special piano, a projector for the atrium, 16 tents and trackers for the DOE, a laser cutter for DT, a KS3 portable library, 30 mobile computer laptops, funding a Drama/History workshop on the Holocaust and a cabinet to house the prize giving silverware in our reception. Their dedication to ensure that we can get these 'extras' is phenomenal and we thank them for their dedication to St Ambrose.

Our Saturday I witnessed our 1st XV played against the Wirral on Saturday and we enjoyed a resounding victory. Joseph M has written a report about the game;

'St Ambrose hosted their first home Saturday fixture of the season against Wirral Grammar. Due to transport issues, the visitors could only bring one team, giving Ambrose a large squad and the chance to mix 1st and 2nd XV players – with several new combinations and several making their senior debuts. After a slow start, Ambrose grew into the game and never fell behind. The second half saw the home side hit their stride, running in a series of well-worked tries. Despite Wirral managing two scores, Ambrose proved too strong, finishing 36–10 winners with a confident and clinical display. A solid performance all round and a great platform to build on heading into the big cup fixture against King's Macclesfield after half term.'

The House system is in flourishing and I am delighted to announce the appointments of staff members who will now be Heads of House:

Mr Bancroft
Mr Trigwell
Mr Donnelly
Mr Medina

As they work with our Sixth Form Heads of House we look forward to many exciting House events throughout the year.

The data drop for Year 13 will be with you next week this will include currently working at grades. Whilst our year 12 will receive ATL grades. We will review these grades and if required will contact you if concerns have been raised. In the meantime if members of our Year 13 wish to remain in school after the teaching day has finished they are more than welcome. In my experience staying in school affords boys the opportunity to continue with their academic steadfastness as going home can be too distracting. The need to raid the fridge, go to the gym and play on the play station can be distractions that can be avoided. As a parent of a Year 13 boy at another school (Kings) I have encouraged him to remain in school and continue with his studies. To be honest I have already seen improvements and progress.

Joseph Baldwin our former Head Boy has written us a letter from Bath in which he is currently an undergraduate. I hope his words will encourage those in the process of applying to University to galvanise their spirits and get started in the next stage of their lives.

Finally I have been blessed with teaching our Year 11 a PSHRE lesson once a fortnight and on Thursday we discussed legacy. As I reach my mid 50's and look to the twilight of my professional career I often wonder what my legacy will be. In that vein I asked our young minds what they would want theirs to be and overwhelmingly they said kindness, diligence, friendship and endeavour. What an amazing job I have at such a wonderful school to hear such selfless views. The future is bright!

I wish you all a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025



A message from Joe...

Hello again everyone,

I hope everyone has been keeping well and had a brilliant summer. I am sure the College is continuing to thrive, with an influx of new faces in both Year 7 and Year 12 – as well as all the other Ambrosians in between who get to live out another year at St Ambrose (I am not jealous at all). And lastly with Tobi already a month into his new duty as Head Boy, I am sure you are all in safe hands and I cannot wait to see all his ideas be put into action.

I know what you are all thinking... Not this guy again! I do apologise, but I really couldn't stay away for long could I? After a lovely check in email from Mr Brady – he very easily persuaded me to do a little column for the Newsletter this week about 'University life' which I am all sure you couldn't care too much about, but here I am.

It is probably best to skip my summer and get straight into academic life which started this September. However, without getting into too much detail – this summer was easily the best summer of my life, from 'lads holidays' (which I'm sure you can all imagine what that was like) to more chilled out wholesome trips or simply just enjoying life at home. For all the year 11s and year 13s this year. You will all absolutely be fine! Little bits of hard work each day from now – and you will be more than prepared for May. Although your teachers are right about the exams being here before you know it, if you work hard and stay consistent – it will most definitely be worthwhile as you can finally relax when summer arrives and live out your best life.

As summer came to an end, University began where I am studying Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Bath. After a long drive down on the 21st September, I would be lying to say it wasn't a sad and bittersweet goodbye to both my mum and step-dad. You really do underestimate the comfort of your own home, and believe it or not, those little comments from your parents about how much they do for you, are absolutely right! And it didn't take me long to realise that at Uni. Suddenly, I was by myself in a random university room, 4 hours away from home, having to cook and clean for myself. The first couple weeks were tough, with lots of calls home and lots of checking up with the Ambrose boys who have gone elsewhere. So to all the sixth formers now – it is absolutely okay to feel a bit lost during the first couple weeks of Uni, from my experience that is completely normal. But that's where you learn to grow up. All of a sudden, dirty clothes haven't appeared back in your wardrobe ironed and clean, dinner has not been made for you when you come back home, and everything starts getting absolutely filthy. I won't describe the state of my room because my mum might explode reading this, but it's a bit messy!

With rugby training at 7am 4 days a week, it was a bit of a struggle to properly enjoy freshers week as much as I know some of my other friends from home have, but when we did have a day off - it was great! Then as lectures started and I finally got into a bit of a routine, and had less free time, I began to accommodate to this massive shift in my life, and felt more comfortable being away from home. Now here I am, a month into Uni this Sunday, and already I feel so much older (believe it or not). Not only have I learnt how to live away from home, I am also 100 times more grateful for my mum. So to any of the boys reading this, please take the time some point this weekend to thank your mum and dad/guardian/siblings whoever may help around the house, because although you might not realise it yet – they really do, do a lot.

And for any of the boys going to Uni next. Let me give you some tips that I have found. Number 1, making friends. Do not put pressure on yourself to make friends instantly. At the end of the day everyone is in the same situation, in a new environment, away from home and not knowing many people if not any. So go up to people and introduce yourself whether it's on your course, in your flat or just simply 'out and about'. Its okay if you walk away from some conversations and think that they weren't really your 'cup of tea' but other conversations you might think they were really nice. Yes it does feel repetitive. Yes It does feel like you are making the same conversation with everyone – "Hi my name is Joe, Manchester, Sport Science etc. etc." but just trust the process. After a few conversations with the same people you'll soon learn if you want to hang around with them more or not. I kept having to say to myself, if it makes me feel a bit uncomfortable, DO IT! Whether its asking to sit next to someone in a lecture and introducing yourself, or texting someone you have only just met asking if they want to go for a drink. Because before you know it, however long it takes, you may have made lifelong friends. It may not happen straight away and you might feel lonely, but University is a big step and sometimes it just takes time to begin to feel comfortable. We have all been so comfortable and all been so lucky to be at St Ambrose, so although a new environment may seem daunting, you just have to go for it, because at the end of the day you get out what you put in.

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025



So there are my little tips for University, take from it what you will, feel free to not listen to any!

Lastly, to all the boys who think university is absolutely miles away. Speaking from experience, my time at Ambrose absolutely flew by, so please if you could take anything away from this – make the absolute most of it. Get involved in class, get involved in sports and societies, and more simply just enjoy it because I would do absolutely anything in the world to have one more day at St Ambrose. Most importantly, get involved with other Ambrosians outside of your year because that's what Ambrose is all about, one big community. It was only this summer when my girlfriend and I were in Palma having a meal in the square when Theo L (now in year 12) and his mum walked past. Before you know it they were stood by our table and we were chatting for an hour. For me, that's what Ambrose is all about. A tight community where everyone looks out for one another, not just their own group but every single student, whether they are year 7 or year 13.

Enough from me, I got a bit carried away there. But I really do wish you all a blessed weekend, and wish all the students a safe and exciting year at the College. To all the year 7s, welcome to the best school around! And to the year 11s and year 13s I wish you the best of luck for the upcoming summer. Go smash it!

It wouldn't be a finished column without a Quote of the Week would it?

"A boat is always safe at the comfort of the harbour, but that's not what it is built for"

Joseph Baldwin
Former St Ambrose Head Boy