

Saint Ambrose College

Sixth Form Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th November 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you and your family had a fabulous half term. I sat writing this newsletter in my office 5.30 pm on a Thursday evening overlooking the dark night before me. For many the seasonal adjustment from summer to Autumn can be very discombobulating. We always celebrate the transition to Spring and Summer but never the advent of Winter. However, our greatest poet Keats reversed this narrative and wrote a poem expressing the arrival of this season. I thought I would share it with you all to cheer us all up as we pull the curtains and light our fires.

To Autumn (1820)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too –
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

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We had a rather interesting rugby game on Wednesday when our 1st XV played Kings Macclesfield in the National Cup. Since the fixture became apparent the question most of our boys asked me 'who do you want to win sir?' and I was steadfast in my view that I wanted 'rugby' to win. We were treated to the most attritional game which was fought on the narrowest of margins. The attritional game saw Kings edge a victory over St Ambrose both teams gave their all however, the penalty count against St Ambrose may have led to the College's defeat. We look forward to our fixture against Sandbach School.

Aside from the rugby players being in action on Wednesday our senior footballers travelled to Wilmslow High School for another National Cup game. Their fortunes were sadly unfavourable. Mr Cutting reported that the boys played attacking football but unfortunately their defence was found lacking.

On the Friday before half term Louis H and Xavier B flew to Krakow to attend the lessons from Auschwitz. Their report which will be presented to the College next week highlights the harrowing nature of the trip, and how we can learn from such horrors.

James O'B had a rather interesting half term when he was invited to visit Stamford University. James is in the process of writing an account of his visit which I look forward to sharing with you next week.

We are very fortunate that each year members of our community end up in the USA. This year JJ and Chigozie have already been to the USA to pursue this American adventure.

In addition, SAPA subsidised a theatre workshop focused on the 'final solution' it was attended by year groups throughout the school including the Sixth Form. It was a great collaboration between SAPA as well as the Drama & History departments. Well done to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Scott and a massive thanks to SAPA. Please enjoy perusing the pictures taken during the whole day event, more photos can be found on the main college newsletter.



On Sunday I will be joined by our Head Boy Tobi O, Deputy Head Boy Ben McB and Assistant Head Boys to attend a service of Remembrance in Hale Barns. Our leadership team will lay the wreath and read the names of the fallen.



On Thursday evening the Medics society enjoyed a two-hour session with Professor Donne. Dr Sate accounted for 16 Year 13 boys attending he described them as 'totally interactive and involved'. Professor Donne is Clinical Sub-Dean as well as a leading surgeon in ENT at the University Hospital Liverpool.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,
Stephen Brady



Head Boy Tobi A, Senior Deputy Head Boy Ben Mc and Assistant Head Boy Team