

Year 12

Parents and Carers Information Evening



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.

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, 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"



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 C Vaughton
- Year 8 – Mr A Farrell
- Year 9 – Mr C Trigwell
- Year 10 – Mr J Cutting
- Year 11 – Mr L Crawford
- Year 12 – Ms Widolf
- Year 13 – Dr D Sate

Miss H Dean



Mr L Davies



Mr T Murray



Mrs A Hart

Pastoral/Welfare Manager/ Deputy DSL – Miss H Dean

SENDco – Mr L Davies 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 school website

- For most matters, the first port of call is your son's form tutor
- If your query relates to a particular subject, contact the teacher directly (email addresses on website)
- If you are struggling to make contact with the subject teacher, 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"



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
- No student parking on school grounds
- Parent Pay – finance@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)

From September 2026, there will be changes to who can and cannot receive Free School Meals (FSM).

End of transitional protection

Temporary protections that allowed children to continue to receive free school meals without rechecking eligibility will stop at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

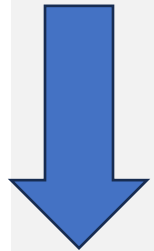
From September 2026, all families will need to meet the current eligibility rules to continue receiving free school meals.

Two types of benefit-based free school meals to be introduced

1. **Targeted Free School Meals** – your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit and has an annual household income of £7,400 or less (after tax, not including benefits).
2. **Expanded Free School Meals** – Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit.

If you are currently receiving FSMs, you do not need to take any action at this stage. Your school will check your eligibility and confirm if you will continue to qualify from September 2026.

Apply online using the link on SAC website



APPLY ONLINE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Apply online for Free School Meals here: [Online FSM Application](#)



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

SIXTH FORM BURSARY



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Saint **Ambrose** College

16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is money the government give to local authorities, school, colleges and other education and training providers (institutions) to give to disadvantaged students. Its purpose is to provide financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation, so they remain in education.

The bursary is money that students of St Ambrose College can use to pay for things like:

- Clothing
- Course Equipment
- Transport
- Books
- Visits and Trips
- Lunch on days you study



Full information on the bursary is available from our website, under Sixth form admissions.

<http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk>

Getting Involved...

- SAPA – first Thursday evening of the month
- Sports Committee
- 100 club
- Fundraising Committee – targeting the 80th anniversary
- See separate communication in the newsletter regarding opportunity to become a parent governor
- Trips & visits
- Speakers for PSHE/Careers
- Oxbridge mock interviews & 6th Form lectures
- Supporting work experience placements



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



The Sixth form team

Ms Widolf – Head of Year 12

Mrs Scott & Mr Brady – UCAS
leads

Mrs Hart – academic mentor

Miss Dean – welfare mentor

Mrs Grainger – Sixth Form Admin

Y12 form	
12A	Mrs Martin & Ms Harrison
12B	Dr Rousseau & Mr Gunning
12C	Miss McManus
12D	Ms Murphy & Mr Gunning
12E	Mrs Boulton
12F	Mr Rushton & Miss McCrory
12G	Mr Leisk



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



The voices of experience from Y13

- 'I didn't realise how steep the jump from GCSE was going to be.'
- 'I didn't appreciate the amount of work I'd need to do in my own time.'
- 'Although I did my homework, I didn't really do much more.'
- 'I started to work too late – I didn't start working until after Christmas.'
- 'The Year 12s should be made a lot more aware of how important work experience is when applying to universities.'
- 'I got a revised offer on the basis of my EPQ which made it worthwhile.'



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



The keys to success at A-level

1. Increased Motivation is essential, we can't coast at KS5
2. Time management – a skill which will help now and in the future
3. Self-directed study time, must be structured and disciplined
4. Effective studying – targeted and specific
5. Workspace / environment – avoid distractions
6. Revision – the sooner the better, remember the mocks will be here before we know it (December 2026)
7. Look at past papers and mark schemes and be doing past paper questions frequently



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Self-directed study time – not “frees”

- This is difficult for students at it is a new concept – didn't happen at KS4
- Make the most of these periods – Wider Reading available on MS Teams for all subjects
- Routine – create a revision timetable from the outset and know what they are doing in these periods
- Study in bite-sized chunks – go over key points of a lesson, for example, to consolidate and prepare for the next lesson
- Work with others within academic classes to support each other



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”

Partnership

Expectations

Rewards

Detentions – please don't ask us to reschedule

Intervention



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Revision skills and techniques

- Revision must be ongoing, not just something to be done immediately before external or end-of-year exams.
- Different people revise in different ways or prefer different techniques, and some techniques work better for some subjects than others, so it is important that students try out different revision techniques to figure out what works best for them.



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



On the website there are several resources to help the students. They can use these any time they have a short test or any time they have less homework / finish their homework early. It is good practice to use some of these strategies regularly to help them consolidate their learning.



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"





CURRICULUM AT ST
AMBROSE COLLEGE

DEPARTMENTS

EXAMINATIONS

CARL

Click on Curriculum, then Examinations



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



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

Language association

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

- Never pushes themselves. - Avoids work. - Disruptive and has a negative. impact on others. - Lacks consideration for others. - Rude and argues back. - Poorly organised. - Rarely completes work. - Lack of pride in work completed. - Disengaged. - Fixed mind-set. - Comes to lesson without equipment. - Student does not prepare or revise outside of school. - Is often laten late to lessons.	- Passive compliant. - Sometimes doesn't complete tasks. - Happy to 'coast'. - Keeps just under the radar. - Happy with doing 'just enough'. - No urgency with their work. - Does the minimum required. - Fixed mind-set. - Lack of pride in work completed. - Lack of preparation and revision is evident. 	- Works consistently well day to day. - Meets teacher expectations. - Follows instructions. - Deadline are met. - Does not have a negative impact on others. St Ambrose College  "Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice" 	- Try their best. - Want to do well. - Fully engages in lesson. - Responds well to feedback and acts on it to improve. - Polite, respectful & well mannered. - Displays Christian values and the Eight Essentials. - Prepares and revises for tests and assessments. - Positive impact on others.	- Proactive in their learning. - Strives for excellence. - Growth mind-set. - Always aims for continuous improvement. - Learns from failure and sees failure an opportunity to learn and improve. - Polite, respectful & well mannered. - Displays Christian values and the Eight Essentials. - Articulate. - Scholarly. - Exceptional. - Aspirational. - Well organised. - Prepares well and revises diligently. - Leader, puts themselves forward. - Goes the 'extra-mile.
---	--	---	--	--

Opportunities for personal development – VITAL at KS5

- Extra-curricular
- Activities Carousel
- Student Leadership Team
- Edmund Rice and advocacy
- Volunteering
- Societies
- Essay competitions
- Social mobility support organisations
- Webinars, lectures and podcasts



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Work Experience 2027

Work experience will be available to all Year 12 students in 2027.

Placements will take place during the final week of the academic year (12-16 July 2027). Students will complete a five-day placement.

While the school will share any placement opportunities that arise, students, parents and carers will generally be responsible for securing a suitable placement. All placements must be recorded and **approved through the Unifrog platform.**

Further details will be shared in due course.



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Careers and next steps

- Mr Gunning + student leadership
- Careers appointments available on Thursdays – speak to Mrs Grainger in the office
- Higher Education Fair
- UCAS convention
- Work experience
- Careers Fair
- UNIFROG



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Medics and Oxbridge

- Dr Sate/Prof Adam Donne (Paediatric Surgeon at Alder Hey and Academic at University of Liverpool) will be leading the 2 year support programme for Medics and Dentists. We also support Veterinary school candidates
- Work experience is absolutely key for Medicine, Dentistry and Vets
- UCAT is also a huge influencing factor in being accepted for Medical school, that and GCSEs – students must be aware of this
- We are seeing a big increase in the number of successful candidates year on year



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Standards and expectations

- Behaviour and conduct
Students must read Sixth form handbook – parents also
Behaviour contract – as above
- Within the building
Phones, headphones, eating, chewing and appearance – we set the standard
- In the community – students are given more freedom, for example allowed out at lunch, driving etc. but must still realise they represent the college



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Thursday Thought

- A requirement of attending our sixth form
- Excellent to develop confidence and presentation skills for interview
- Rota sent out by Mrs Grainger
- No excuses for not presenting
- Non-compliance will be followed up with SLT detention and rearranged presentation date



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"



Attendance and Punctuality

- Students must be in and on time every day!
- Sign in and out – no excuses (both lunchtime and period 5)
- Wednesday afternoon attendance is compulsory - truancy is a Saturday morning detention
- Any appointments outside of school must be discussed with Mr Brady or Ms Widolf – we must also have evidence via a letter or email
- Driving lessons are to be done outside of school time



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



General RE, EPQ, Core Maths and Activities.

- Wed afternoon activities: sign up in forms
- Core Maths and EPQ
 - Timetabled
 - Compulsory
- General RE
 - Timetabled
 - Compulsory



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Activities – Wednesday afternoons

- Period 4 (TBC)
 - Mock Trial/Debating
 - Young Enterprise
 - Oxbridge
 - Medics/Dentists/Vets
 - Cooking
 - World United Nations
- Period 5
 - Sports hall
 - Football
 - Rugby
 - Fitness Suite
 - Swimming Pool



St Ambrose College



“Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice”



Thank you!

- Parents and carers you now have the option to meet form tutors



St Ambrose College



"Walking in the footsteps of Edmund Rice"