

Saint **Ambrose** College



Celebrating 70 Years
1946-2016



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Message from the Principal

You may remember the last Gold Jubilee Brochure on the 50th Anniversary of Saint Ambrose College written by Sean Fleming, History Teacher and Deputy Head Master (1963-1996) with the assistance of former Head Master Eric Hester, which now forms part of the Saint Ambrose archives.

This fascinating and well written history of Saint Ambrose College gave us much material for thought and which was written by the longest serving teacher Mr Fleming, at that time.

Originally of independent status, Saint Ambrose College is now a Catholic State Funded Independent Grammar School and remains selective through an entrance examination.

Founded in 1946, Saint Ambrose College remains under the trusteeship of the Congregation of Christian Brothers and retains as its core ethos, the charism of its founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Saint Ambrose College is, first and foremost a Catholic College with a Catholic ethos that exists in our daily lives.

In September 2012 the College began a new era in a state-of-the-art £24 million pathfinder school which was designed and built fit for purpose in an innovative way reflecting the school's ethos.

The College is now rich in extra-curricular activities, both sporting and academic, with something for everyone. As in the past, the main games are rugby and cricket complimented by a regular swimming programme and nowadays boys are even able to practice their culinary expertise.

Boys are actively involved in liturgical life celebrating the Catholic spirituality during lessons and visiting retreats throughout their College careers.

To date, there are approximately 1000 boys on the College roll, including 200 Sixth Form students. We continue to celebrate our boys' achievements at our annual Speech Night event. With our examination results placing us amongst the highest achieving schools in the country for A level results, I am proud to say that most of our boys proceed to university, a number to Oxford and Cambridge.

The 50th Jubilee Brochure together with its historical account from 1946 -1996 showed how the College had grown, changed and developed. Now twenty years later and celebrating its 70th anniversary, the College has indeed continued to flourish and the following celebratory booklet demonstrates and continues the historical account to 2016. I look forward to writing to you again celebrating our 75th anniversary!

Thank you to the Christian Brothers, Governors, Associations, Staff, Parents and Boys for their support throughout the years, in contributing to its happiness and success, enabling St Ambrose College to be the outstanding institution it is today.

Long may Saint Ambrose College continue to flourish, developing our hearts and minds.

J M Keulemans
Principal



Prayer of Saint Ambrose



Lord teach me to seek Thee
And reveal Thyself to me
When I seek Thee

For I cannot seek Thee
Unless Thou teach me,
Not find Thee except
Thou reveal thyself

Let me seek Thee in longing,
Let me long for Thee in seeking;
Let me find Thee in love,
and love Thee in finding.

Letter from the Chairman of Governors

As a parent of two boys at St Ambrose College and now Chair of Governors, I feel blessed to have shared the opportunity to see St Ambrose College progress and flourish under the Edmund Rice tradition. Since its foundation in 1946, and this year celebrating its 70th Anniversary, St Ambrose College has grown from strength to strength with its vibrant and caring Christian community producing men of faith, concern and integrity who go forward living a Christian life, making a real difference to the world and those around them.

In 2012, St Ambrose College moved into its wonderful new home. Its physical structure is probably the most visible example of pioneering success, providing first class facilities for teaching and learning complemented by an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. Yet, whilst St Ambrose College looks different from the outside, its core principles remain faithful to the Edmund Rice tradition. St Ambrose College has always and continues to inspire academic excellence. In recent years, not only was the College rated 'outstanding' in all areas of teaching and learning by both Ofsted and the Diocese, but also continues to achieve excellent academic results.

St Ambrose College is now one of the country's top sporting schools with state of the art facilities. This modern day College makes a clear statement about belief in students and teachers. It is also a College that declares a conviction about transparency, collaboration, inter-dependence and above all a belief in faith-based education.

Students' involvement in Edmund Rice Camps and work with Asylum seekers and those suffering hardship have nurtured spiritual advancement, none of which could have happened without the blessing, active encouragement, and leadership of the Christian Brothers. I would like to show my appreciation to the Christian Brothers for their support as Governors and Teachers of St Ambrose College. On behalf of the local Christian Brothers' Community, I know that they too have always appreciated our close affiliation, involving them in events and extending invitations to participate in the rich life of the College.

As Chair of the Governing Body, I would also like to say how much I appreciate the professionalism of my fellow Governors and college staff over the years, which has not only shaped a new College, but the success of our next generation. I would like to pay special tribute to the outgoing Chair, Mr Paul Hatchman and Vice Chair, Mr Robin Haig, whose advice and wisdom is always treasured.

Finally, I would like to thank the present Principal and Leadership Team and those who have gone before them for their exceptional commitment to Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

May God bless St Ambrose College with success in the next phase of its journey.

Dr Peter Goodwin
Chair of Governors

Mrs Giovanna Centeleghe RIP Governor from 1960 to 2015



Governors

Mr J M Keulemans (Principal)

Dr P Goodwin (Chairman)

Mr A Lewis (Vice Chairman)

Mr C Dunn

Brother G Gordon

Mr P Hatchman

Mr R M Haig

Mr D Kavanagh

Mrs M Kerr

Mr M Lalley

Mrs H Norwood

Mr S Parkinson

Mrs P Ridgway

Cllr B Sharp

Fr Cogliolo - Governor Retired August 2016



Fr Anthony Cogliolo was ordained in 1969 at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Rome after studying for the priesthood at the Beda College, Rome 1965-1969.

He returned to the Diocese of Shrewsbury and served as Assistant Priest in Bromborough, Altrincham, and New Brighton, between 1969 and 1980. He then served as Parish Priest in Tarporley, Romiley, Ashton-on-Mersey and Weaverham before his becoming parish priest of The Sacred Heart and St Teresa Church Wilmslow on the 2nd September, 2005.

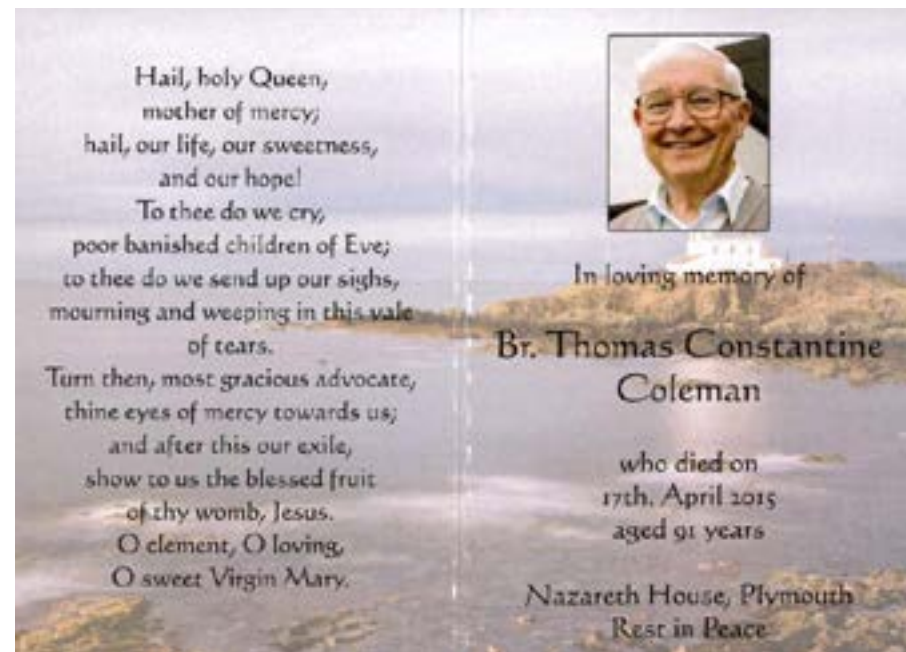
Fr. Cogliolo has the following degrees: B.A.(Politics and Modern History) M.A. (Theology) and has recently been awarded a Doctorate in Religious Studies by the University of Wales.

Fr Cogliolo was first appointed as a Governor of St Ambrose in 1980, serving as Governor until the year 2000. He was appointed as a Governor again in 2013 and continued until his retirement from the Governing Body this year. In addition to his work as Parish Priest of St Teresa's Church in Wilmslow he has faithfully celebrated Mass each week during term time with the Staff and Pupils at St Ambrose College for many years and throughout his time as Governor has provided religious and liturgical help and guidance in the College.

The Principal, Governors, Staff, Parents and Boys of St Ambrose College would like to thank Fr Cogliolo for his support as Governor and as a Priest and wish him health and happiness for the future.

Head Masters of St Ambrose College

1945 - 1948 : Br J J Dowling
 1948 - 1954 : Br E L Casey
 1954 - 1958 : Br D C Phelan
 1958 - 1962 : Br P C Carey
 1961 - 1967 : Br J G Gleeson
 1973 - 1979 : Br J C Ring
 1979 - 1983 : Br P F Rynne
 1983 - 1984 : Br J J Sheehan
 1984 - 1991 : Br T C Coleman
 1991 - 1999 : G E Hester
 1999 - 2000 : P Howard (Acting)
 2000 - 2015 : M D Thompson
 2015 - J M Keulemans



Brother Coleman (Head Master 1984-1991)



First lay Headmaster
G E Hester
(Head Master 1991-1999)

G.E Hester Headmaster 1991 - 1999

When I became headmaster of St Ambrose in 1991, I was myself making history as the first lay headmaster. My immediate predecessor, Brother Coleman, left the school in good order, fully staffed, with sound buildings, including a splendid new Prep School, and he had taken the school into the Headmasters' Conference, that society of the top independent boys' schools. I had attended a similar school, as a boy, and had taught in two boys' Catholic grammar schools. I had also been headmaster of an outstanding Catholic comprehensive school.

I must start by recording how exceptional the boys at St Ambrose were. I found them very clever and, with very few exceptions, very well behaved. They were pleasant, congenial and good-humoured. The boys were anxious to learn and to achieve high things - a joy to teach. It has been said that the word "gentlemen" is now an anachronism: this is not true of the St Ambrose Sixth Formers that I knew.

The governors when they appointed me, had indicated that they wanted a strong Catholic school. I decided that, as I had done in my previous headship, it was important to teach and to get to know each boy. So I taught on the sixth form Religious Education programme, which meant that in the course of an academic year I taught every sixth former, and, at the other end, I took each first form for one lesson per week, which was deemed to be part of Religious Education. During form assembly time, I regularly visited each form in the school, including the Prep School at first, during a class assembly to pray with them and to enable them to ask me questions or put points to me. Each first-former had a Simple Prayer Book and a copy of the latest edition of the Catholic Truth Society's Penny Catechism since, with boys coming from so many different schools, we wanted to ensure that at some time they were taught the fundamentals and basics of the Catholic faith. Religious education was a source of anxiety to me for most of my time as a head, with a dearth of good books and a lack of specialist teachers available. Catholics sometimes ask questions about Catholic schools and criticise what the schools do, or omit to do, not necessarily without foundation; but given the upheaval in the Catholic Church, since the 1960s, it would be unrealistic to think that the schools could have sailed on as if all were well. The various parishes had liturgies that were very different, sometimes idiosyncratic, and, though I am sure that primary schools did their best, some boys came up to secondary age knowing very little of the most basic truths of the Catholic faith.

The years were ones of great changes in almost all aspects of education. My own philosophy as head was that of St Thomas Aquinas who sharply cautioned against changing law - any law - even when some improvement is possible, unless there is some "urgent necessity...or substantial and obvious benefit" since "the mere fact of change in law itself can be adverse to the public welfare and lessen the restraining power of the law." But so much had of necessity to change, as ordered by various edicts from London and Brussels, that ironically - because I am not at all a changer - I was seen by some as a person who instituted change when I was merely ensuring that we were not breaking the law.

I have mentioned the boys, and I must, too, mention the parents who also constitute one of the great strengths of the school. They gave me personally, and the school, the greatest support. They wanted their boys to do well academically, but also to grow up as God-fearing Catholics and fine members of society; they had confidence that the school shared those aims. The parents were generous in their financial aid when asked, and wanted to assist the school without interfering in the daily details. The Parents' Association committee worked hard and involved Prep parents as well as senior parents. Parents had, to some extent, been neglected or taken for granted, as happened at many schools in the past. For instance, there was no evening for parents before the new boys started and the organisation of things such as Parents' Evenings was mainly from the point of view of the staff, not the parents.

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I was the first head to have his own son in the school. I simply wanted our youngest son to go to the best school, and that was St Ambrose. I was also the first head to be married and my wife was much seen in the school at parents' events and other occasions.

Being the first lay head of a Catholic school presented challenges: in a way, one was following not just one's immediate predecessor, but a historical line of great men who all belonged to the same order. A retired headmistress, and an outstanding one, gave me a copy of a higher degree thesis that she had written on that very subject - on the difficulties of being the first lay head.

The teaching staff, as was common in Catholic schools run by religious orders, were rather spoiled, tending to leave the religious side of the school to the brothers. I could scarcely believe that they did not even attend all school assemblies, or themselves take form assemblies. The best of the staff welcomed their greater involvement in the religious and pastoral side of the school. Most were well-qualified and had high standards. I do not intend to mention people by name, but if I did not mention Sean Fleming, deputy when I arrived until his retirement, and Philip Howard and Matthew Arthur, appointed deputies in my time, then the very walls of the buildings would cry out. I was most fortunate to work closely with such fine men, all of the highest Catholic and scholarly integrity. We strengthened the pastoral side of the school by appointing Heads of Year for most years. The administrative side was served throughout my time by the late Mrs Sheila Ball, a secretary of the greatest integrity and loyalty, who possessed that most uncommon virtue - common sense.

The curriculum was, in the main, a fine grammar school curriculum. In my time, we changed what happened in the Fourth and Fifth forms, so that all boys had the same opportunities. I was told when I arrived that Latin was dying. I replied that it was coming back to life. So all boys did Latin for at least two years and increasing numbers studied it up to GCSE level. Those few who said that Latin was no longer a spoken language and so should not be taught, were told that they had uttered a non sequitur.

I found the extra-curricular activities good in parts. Rugby and cricket were strong, as was cross-country, but some games fixtures seemed insufficiently challenging, and staff responded by adding some very strong sporting schools to the lists. Rugby reigned in winter: we were not opposed to soccer, and had occasional games, but St Ambrose is not big enough to do two main winter games and rugby has many advantages, not least that it enables 30 boys to be on the pitch rather than a mere 22. The Parents' Association generously paid for the cricket pitch to be upgraded, thus enabling the school to have an annual fixture against the MCC. Drama and music were both strong, involving many boys and with very high standards. We tried to have a Shakespeare production every other year, and, in my time there were outstanding performances of Richard III, Hamlet and Macbeth. Teachers who take sports teams on Saturdays deserve every praise and thanks.

Only for a brief time in my years did the school have a named chaplain but things did not work out. Canon Dwyer, then parish priest at Holy Angels, was most generous in helping the school, as was the ever-faithful Fr Cogliolo, the longest-serving of our governors and himself a Christian Brothers' old boy, of St Anselm's. During Lent, because of the help of these two priests and old boy priests, such as Fr Wild and Fr O'Connor, we evolved a system where, via form groups, the whole school was able to have the opportunity to go to Confession in Lent and Advent with a choice of priests. About two-thirds to three-quarters of the boys took advantage of this. While mentioning old boy priests, I must mention that we were also visited not infrequently by two old-boy priests now distinguished, the then Fr Philip Egan, now Bishop of Portsmouth, and Fr Philip Whitmore, now a Monsignor and rector of the English College in Rome. One of the boys of those years, has been ordained as a diocesan priest - and we are all proud of Fr Antony McGrath.

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The two bishops of Shrewsbury of that time were most supportive of the college. The same is not true of some of the diocesan officials who seemed to judge a school not by how the parents valued it, or by the strength of its Catholicity but by how it was rated by local politicians and bureaucrats. In the interests of truth, I have to say that some of those in charge of religious education in the diocese, discouraged the teaching of the faith and encouraged whimsical and fashionable beliefs. Fairness makes me add that when Fr Shaw was Assistant Director of Education of the diocese, he was most assiduous in visiting the school and helping us; he had been a teacher himself.

It was a surprise to me when I became headmaster that the school did not have an old boys' association. So I simply called a meeting of some we knew would be interested, and it is pleasing that the association has flourished ever since.

Not all was well in the time I was head. Some skeletons came out of their cupboards. I remember a wise old nun saying to me that some people took advantage of religious orders. This had happened at St Ambrose. The Christian Brothers themselves were going through great changes in England. The splendid old brothers - some of them among the best people I have ever met, with at least one brother that I should nominate for canonization - were retiring and were not being replaced.

I am not going to write about the Prep School except to say that when I was appointed I was head of the Prep as well as the Grammar School. This was unsatisfactory, and it was a relief to me when a separate head was appointed for the Prep. It was, in fact, more than a relief, it was a joy since the man appointed, Michael Lochery, proved an outstanding headmaster and raised the Prep to the highest standards. All the time I was at St Ambrose, I had the best possible co-operation with the Prep School. It was always a strength to the whole college. Some grammar school teachers taught in the Prep and I am sure this was to their advantage and that of the boys.

The arrangements of the school, as an independent school belonging to the Headmasters' Conference, with the fees of Trafford boys paid by that local authority, was ideal since it gave the school all the advantages of being an independent school but without any burden to most of the parents. However, the Christian Brothers decided that all their independent schools should take advantage of the then Conservative government's scheme for grant-maintained schools. I had many anxieties about this, not least that the Labour Party had a new leader, a certain Tony Blair and opinion polls said he was going to win the coming general election and scrap assisted places. However, I decided that it was my duty to support the Christian Brothers and that I did. There was little parental objection, the main opposition coming from the staff who saw - correctly - that their conditions would be worse: for example, the school had to be in session for ten extra days a year and the school day had to be lengthened slightly. It is difficult not to feel now that all happened for the best, not least because my successor, Mr Thompson, was a fine head, a man after my own heart.

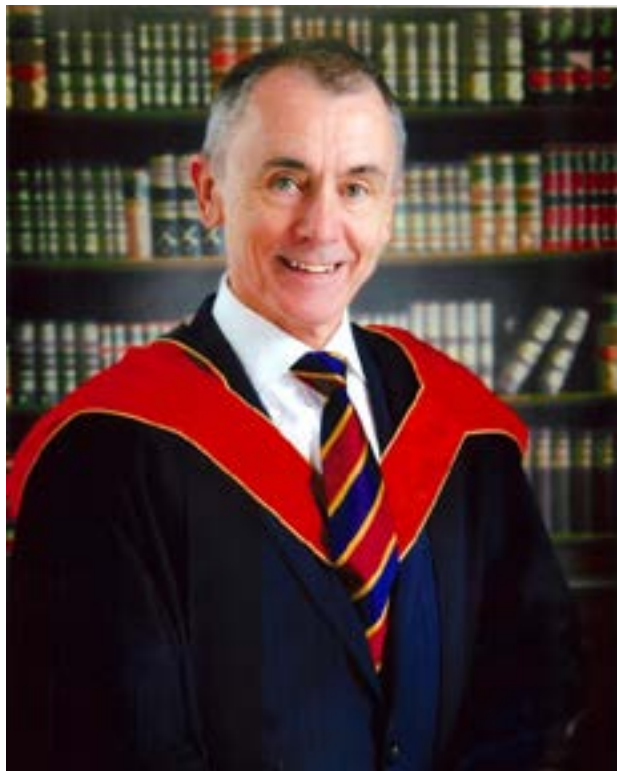
When I was headmaster of St Ambrose I was asked by the Headmasters' Conference - an organisation that has its own inspectors with different criteria from Ofsted - to lead inspections of some independent schools. In retirement, I carried on with this and, in all, led the inspections, and wrote the reports, of over fifty independent schools, some of them of national fame. I saw some schools with some better teaching than St Ambrose, some richer schools, with better buildings and facilities, schools with stronger sport, and with more academic success. But, in all truth, I never inspected a school that had pleasanter and more docile pupils, in the literal sense of that word, than the boys at St Ambrose.

I wish St Ambrose College continued success now and in the future.

G.E Hester



P Howard (Acting Head Master 1990-2000
officially retired as Deputy Head 2015)



M D Thompson MA FRSA
(Longest serving Head Master 2000-2015)

"The loftier the building, the deeper must the foundation be laid."

Thomas à Kempis

The many successes that St Ambrose College enjoyed during my fifteen years at the helm were only made possible by the solid foundations laid by previous Head Masters, not least by my immediate predecessor Mr. Eric Hester.

Continuing the tradition of my predecessors, I maintained membership of Headmasters' Conference, as I was charged with bringing the College fully into the State Education system whilst retaining the many traditions and standards which made the College unique and for which it was renowned throughout the country. When appointed, I regarded it an enormous privilege to be given the responsibility for the education and the spiritual formation of such wonderful young men; it was something that I was mindful of each and every day.

From 2000, the number of boys on roll increased and, along with many curriculum changes required by the newly introduced 'National Curriculum', we were faced with the challenges of a building built in the 60's for a school half the present size. It was interesting over the years to observe many new curriculum and pastoral initiatives proposed by numerous Secretaries of State for Education, only to realise that the College had already had them in place for years!

It took over six years to persuade the Department of Education to recognise the need for new buildings. Over that period we suffered many rejections in bids for new facilities. On one occasion we were criticised because our bid was "too Catholic". It was a badge we were proud to wear! In 2006, the Government granted us £24 million to become a Pathfinder School – to build a school like no other and one to set the example for others to follow.

We are indebted to our constituency MP and friend of the College, Graham Brady, who lobbied on our behalf and opened many doors when they presented as closed. It took a further six years to make the project a reality, as we were to face many obstacles. Opposition to the new build came from the most unexpected of quarters. The unswerving support, legal expertise and dogged determination of the then Chairman of Governors, Mr. Robin Haig, was invaluable during that time. The new building is a tribute to him as much as anyone.

The College is, of course, more than bricks and mortar, as indeed are its achievements. In 2003, the College was awarded the status of 'Mathematics & Computing College' and awarded extra funding in recognition of its advances and path-finding projects in both disciplines.

In recent years, reflecting back on our great traditions, we successfully reintroduced the House system and extended the range of extra curricular activities offered to the boys. The amazing new building, designed in the shape of a Celtic Cross, with its swimming pool, sports hall and fourth generation rugby pitch, afforded us the unique opportunity to widen the range of sport offered to the boys (without weakening the strong and successful tradition of rugby in the College!). The Duke of Edinburgh's award was introduced and became very popular, with many boys achieving the coveted Gold Award.

Over the fifteen years, the College rose through the national examination league tables to place itself in the top 3% of the country. In its latest Ofsted inspection, the College rightfully achieved the award of 'Outstanding', with special mention, unusually, being made of the importance of the Catholic life of the College. .

I was blessed with staff, both academic and support, who may not always have understood where my plans were leading to but nevertheless worked loyally and tirelessly to make them successful. They share in all those successes for, in reality, they were a greater part of them.

The only advice my predecessor gave to me when I took up post was to "make sure the boys kept the Faith". It was sound advice, for that is it the reason for which schools for such as St Ambrose College exists.

Whenever visitors asked of my aims for the boys, I would always answer that it was for them to become young Christian gentlemen who are 'Ambassadors for Christ'. Anyone who meets, or has met, our boys will have no doubt that they are exactly that.

I am enormously proud, and yet greatly humbled, by the small part that I may have played in the making of such a great school as ours and in the development, both spiritual, and academic, of such amazing young gentlemen.

M D Thompson

St Ambrose welcomes a new Principal & Assistant Principal



New Principal for St. Ambrose College, Hale Barns

As mentioned in the Edmund Rice Schools News "Schools Link" brochure: Christmas Edition 2015:-

St Ambrose College has appointed a leading modern educationalist and a former international rugby player as their new Principal.

As a family man, Mr James Keulemans, combines an award-winning teaching career in which he has helped to transform a series of urban schools often facing testing social challenges with playing rugby for Orrell, Liverpool, St Helens and the Dutch national side.

In line with the philosophy of the school's founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, Mr Keulemans wants the College to share its expertise and resources more proactively with the local community.

He said "...St Ambrose pupils have a proud tradition of helping those less fortunate. I can see how enthusiastic our young men are to give something back and I want to provide them with even more opportunities.....I want teaching that enables every child to realise their potential whether that is a clean sweep of A stars at A Level or maybe just a pass grade. To do that teachers must provide opportunities, must recognise the individuality of each pupil, must challenge each of those individuals in a way that best suits their talents and must be fair and consistent."

S Carter - Press Officer
September 2015



Dedicated Catholic Religious Studies teacher Patrick Groves chose to join St. Ambrose College's Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Principal because he knew he could "make a difference".

"Even though I was working in North London and had been educated first in Nottingham at the Beckett Catholic School and then at Durham University where I studied Theology, I knew about St. Ambrose College and its values. Everyone in Catholic education, certainly all my friends and colleagues in London, seemed to know about St. Ambrose and it was very much recommended."

He added: "It is one of the country's great Catholic schools because they inspire the boys to make a difference."

Married to Emma and father of two, the 34-year-old passionate Arsenal fan, has been appointed as one of two Assistant principals and joins the senior management team of Principal former Dutch international rugby player Mr J Keulemans, Deputy Principal Mr M Arthur and Director of Sixth Form and fellow Assistant Principal Mrs P Ridgway.

Patrick said: "Great teachers have to be flexible, dynamic and most importantly must relate to students; not just get through lessons, but seek to inspire every day and that's what I see in my colleagues here." "As an Arsenal fan, I seem to be very much on my own here, as it is either City or United, but I certainly won't be changing my colours now or at any time in the future."

James Keulemans said: "Patrick is an outstanding teacher and leader, who for one who is relatively young, has already has significant management experience and we know he will make a strong contribution to our team."

S Carter - Press Officer
September 2016

Senior Leadership Team (current and past members)

Featured Left to right: Mr J Toal (former Deputy Head now Head Master at De La Salle School, St Helens), Mr M Arthur (Vice Principal, joined 1990) Mrs P Ridgway (Assistant Principal/Director of Sixth Form, joined 2013), Mr P Howard, (former Acting/Deputy Head, joined 1979), Mr T Hutchinson (former Deputy Head now Head Master University Church of England Academy)





JUBILEE BROCHURE
ON THE
50th ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. AMBROSE COLLEGE
AT
HALE BARNS,
ALTRINCHAM
1946 - 1996

Journey into the Past

Although founded in 1946, Saint Ambrose College was originated during the Second World War, by a group of evacuee De la Salle Brothers.

Towards the end of June 1940, when the Channel Islands were about to be occupied by hostile forces, the parents of boys attending Les Vauxbelets College were asked to decide whether they should allow their sons to be evacuated to England or keep them at home with all the attendant risks (hunger, forced labour etc.).

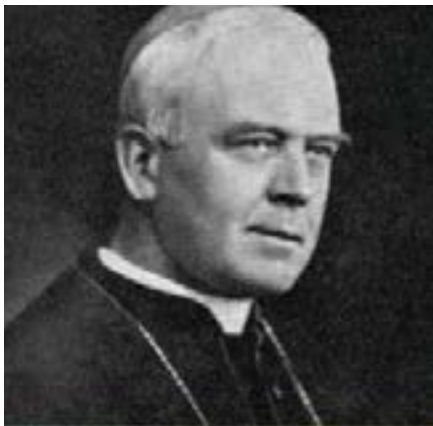
On 21 June 1940 an apprehensive party of seventy boys and ten De La Salle Brothers, led by Brother Clarence, the Deputy Head Master, safely completed a potentially hazardous voyage from St Peter Port to Weymouth, in England. Once in Weymouth, the evacuees were moved by train to various towns in Cheshire. The evacuees became parishioners of St. Vincents, Altrincham, and the Parish Priest, Canon Donnelly was quickly active on their behalf. With the approval of Dr. Ambrose Moriarty, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Canon Donnelly, acquired an attractive house on Dunham Road, 'Oakleigh', to serve as a school from October 1941.

The school was renamed "Saint Ambrose College" in September 1942 after Dr Ambrose Moriarty, The Lord Bishop of Shrewsbury (1934-1949) who had been so supportive. At the end of the war, in the late summer of 1945, the De La Salle Brothers returned to Guernsey and left a thriving school in the hands of the Irish Christian Brothers.

As they say, the rest is history.



A Walk down Memory Lane



Featured above: Former Les Vauxbelets College site now Blanchelande College Guernsey

Left: The Lord Bishop of Shrewsbury (1934-1949)

Below: Dunham Road, 'Oakleigh'



Above: Wooddeaves Below: Wicker Lane





Above: the School Dining Hall

Below: with compliments from Peter Riley
1st XV 1977-78 Rugby Photo



The 1970s

Above: School Hall

Below: School Gym





School Library



School Hall



Head Master and Staff Room Corridor

Old College Wicker Lane



Old School Building Pool



The Gym



Old School Front Entrance



The Green, Hale Barns



Above Hale Barns 1887
Below Modern Day Smithy Cafe



The local area

Holy Angels Church



Booths Local Store

St Ambrose Preparatory School

Head Master: Mr F Driscoll

Chairman: Mr M Holland

Previous Head Masters: Mr G E Hester and Mr M Lochery

St Ambrose Preparatory school was originally part of the College. However, in 1995 the Preparatory School became a separate school under the leadership of Michael Lochery who had been appointed as Headmaster of the Junior School in 1993. Mr Lochery remained as Headmaster until his retirement in 2012. During his time as Head the school flourished and developed into an all age primary school with an extensive building programme moving the school forward into the 21st Century.

In 2012 Mr Frank Driscoll was appointed as Headmaster and has continued the work of Mr Lochery.

Our mission statement reads:-

At St Ambrose Preparatory School, we strive together to do our very best to make this a safe, happy place, with Christ the centre of all we do"

The Preparatory School continues to flourish and is particularly proud of its academic, sport and musical successes.

We are proud to say that many of our students proceed to study at St Ambrose College, continuing the links between the two schools which we hope will continue for many years to come.

We would like to thank our Governors, Parents, Staff, boys and the local community for their continuing support.

God bless

St Ambrose Preparatory School
website address: <http://stambroseprep.org>



New Beginnings

Mr Thompson with
Architect David Ardill of
Sheppard Robson

Above left: Woodeaves

Above middle: aerial view of St Ambrose College prior to 2012

Below: aerial view of St Ambrose College new building August 2012

New College Official Opening & Blessing



Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester
Warren J Smith JP



Mass to bless the new building 2012
Bishop Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury
with Fr Cogliolo and Mgr Massey

Guests at the Opening Ceremony 2012



Mr Hatchman (former Chairman of Governors)



Mrs Kerr - Governor



Mrs Kath Lee former staff member



Councillor Bernard Sharp - Governor



Mr Parkinson (Finance Director) and Mrs Giovanna Centeleghe RIP



Mr Driscoll (Headmaster of St Ambrose Prep)
Brother Catterson (Christian Brother) &
David Kavanagh (Schools' Officer)



Supporters of the College, Mr W Firth, Former Mayoress of Trafford Councillor Mrs P Young & the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Bishop Mark Davies



Left Mrs Fletcher (former Head Master's PA) Middle: Mrs Keidish (former Head Master's PA)
Right: Mrs Howard (Head Master/Principal PA from 2011)



Mr and Mrs Lochery (former
Head of St Ambrose Prep)



Mrs Norwood (Governor and
Head of Loreto Prep)

Sporting History

If you were to ask a sample of residents in the Altrincham and local district what they associate with St Ambrose College, sporting excellence would surely be a popular answer. Over 70 relatively short years for a school to establish itself, St Ambrose pupils have used their sporting abilities to help create a reputation nationwide. I have been given the unenviable task to highlight just a few of those achievements but thanks to a previous Head of Physical education, David Hallas, we have managed to cover at least the last 50 years of Sport at the College, enjoying the memories of former and current student successes.



*Sports' Day
at Hale Barns in 1958*

The 60s and 70s

Barney Quinn and Mike Quinn lay the early foundations for the school's principal winter sport, rugby union, following on the Christian Brother school tradition, whilst Sean Fleming helped establish cricket in the summer term. The school in those early years was much smaller in number and all boys were encouraged to take an active role. In 1963 a new gymnasium completed phase 2 of a building programme which helped gymnastics and basketball develop as an alternative to cross-country, rugby, cricket and athletics.

The growth of the numbers in the school enabled a more competitive fixture list and by the end of the decade the school was providing county rugby and cricketers, notably John Mahoney, Nick Murphy, Arnold O'Connor and John O'Connor. In the early 70s Chris Gleave, Peter Riley, Steven Hennessy and Dave Jarvis continued a conveyor belt of county players in the school. Jarvis went on to establish himself as a first choice at Sale whilst Gleave was chosen for England Under 21s and 23s at prop forward whilst at Warrington Park. Peter Morris, Greg Morris and Paul Strzelecki also represented Cheshire at Cricket in a highly successful decade of sport. John Mahoney ironically became the College's first Senior international playing for Stoke City and Wales at football. Playing rugby clearly did not hamper his progress in the round ball game and the 80s saw a succession of footballing parents send their children to the College. If the staff football team wanted to play a fixture at that time they could have been faced by Stepney, Dunne, Stiles, Foulkes, Morgan, Docherty, Tueart, Corrigan and Watson. This sporting pedigree enhanced many sports across the curriculum with fine athletes and team players. The swimming pool (built in the early 70s) was now covered and regular swimming lessons were on the curriculum for the first time. By 1980 we had our first international competitors, with Paul, Sean and Alex McQuade all competing for Scotland.

Cross Country had always been a popular winter sport at the College with early teams coached by international athlete, Alan Blinston who combined his job as groundsman to great effect. The picturesque Bollin Valley cross country course provided an excellent test for runners and House Cross Country Championships were annual events. Mr Howard, Mr Cross and Mr Chadderton continued to promote the sport and victory in the national Heinz Relays with Loreto College established the College's name in this sport. Athletics benefitted in summer by the work of the long distance runners and John Stockdale, Ciaran Murphy, Paul and Andrew Martin, Mark Brehon and Michael Berry represented Greater Manchester in National championships. Ciaran Murphy joined a very elite group of runners to have run a sub 4 minute mile. David Savage was another very talented athlete who gained selection for English students in the 400m Hurdles following Michael Madden as a national representative. Michael was fortunate to have use of the excellent throwing facilities at Sale Harriers and became a Junior National Hammer Thrower. The success of athletics was enhanced by a grass 400m track and the fact that the school had available hurdles on site often led to our success in that event at Trafford and Christian Brother Athletic championships. These two annual events showcased the many talented athletes now in the school. House championships also were established and records from all House sports are listed and updated every Sports day.

80s and 90s

Tennis similarly was well established in the early years of the school with 3 full sized grass courts available for use in lessons and extra-curricular. The Parents' Association upgraded the courts to all weather in the 1980s and two short tennis courts were added to create further opportunities in the Preparatory School. Mr McAllister took charge of tennis in the 80s and established local fixtures. We welcomed back former student Jim Edgar as tennis coach for a brief period and Mark Furness was appointed to continue the sports' progress in the last years of the century.

The development of sporting success invariably established as numbers in the Senior School grew. By the turn of the century fixtures were established at A and B and sometimes C team level in Rugby and Cricket. The establishment of a Senior Football team coincided with an invite to the Gary Sobers cricket Festival, an annual competition held in Barbados. The invitation was obtained thanks to a parent and tour operator, David Cusani, himself a former England rugby international. To make the tour viable a football team accompanied the cricketers and fixtures were arranged between local clubs and schools. A hard working tour committee of Gerry Carey, John Pollard, Mike Blacoe and Jim Newbrook raised in excess of £10000 for the tour and Dennis Tueart arranged for Umbro to sponsor a brand new kit which included tracksuits and polo shirts for the tourists. This was to be the beginning of a touring tradition which has established the school's name across the globe. The tournament was played on top grounds across Barbados and culminated in a finals day at the Bridgetown Oval test ground where Andrew Blacoe represented an England X1 against a West Indies team selected from all touring sides in this tournament. Each team got to meet sporting cricketing legends including a team photograph (see below) with Sir Garfield himself. Some 15 years later another St Ambrose Senior X1 side were to return to enjoy similar experiences.



Tours created the carrot to encourage players to commit to School Sport. Every year Junior tours experience mini tours to Holland, Italy or Ireland and since the Barbados tour every two years a major Senior tour has been established. To date this has included Canada, South Africa [twice] Australia [twice], South America [twice] and a World tour including Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and America. The success of the experience has coincided with considerable success in County and National Competitions. The School have been County Rugby Champions in every age group in the current century. Similarly in sevens they have enjoyed many enviable successes, notably Stonyhurst, Birkenhead School, Cheshire and North of England Sevens. The success in the latter resulted in the side representing England in a United Kingdom Championship against winners of respective Irish, Welsh and Scottish Sevens tournaments. The side finished victorious and became UK Champions. The whole event was sponsored by the Royal Navy and all teams enjoyed fantastic hospitality which included a trip in a Sea King Helicopter.

ST AMBROSE COLLEGE TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA 2008



Back row left to right- Andrew Arnall, Jack Fitzwilliam Pipe, Giulio Forcolin, Niall Clancy, Elliot Blears, Robert Conville, Matthew Gray, Sean Wright, Tom Gomulko, Tim Edwards, Lawrence Hutchence, Peter Morrison, Adam Gray, Jon Newsham, Alex Roche, Joe Ingham and James Carr.
Second row left to right- James Marsden, Peter O'Connor, Michael Killeen, Jake Morris, Michael Turner, Alex Porter, Chris Loughlin, Daniel Dixon, James Conville, Liam Bleisty, Bernard Lennon, Pat Clear, Ben Quilligotti, Joe Hindmarch, Tom Gurrie, Dominic Gandy.
Front row left to right- Ruari Moylan, Chris Oldham, Declan Foley, Sam Waterhouse, Tom King, Mr M Elwell, Mr A Furlong, Mrs A Davies, Mr N Handy, Mr D Gwizdek, Luke Brown, Joe Murphy, Patrick Taylor, Declan Manning, Adrian Bevan, and Alex Hartley

The 1990s and the first decade of the 21st Century firmly established St Ambrose College on the Northern and indeed National Schools Sports Circuit. The school began to get recognised by national team selectors and many boys enjoyed International fame. Amongst them were pupils who went on to gain selection for Premiership sides. The array of shirts and photographs in the Sports Corridor bears testament to the achievements of so many College sides in this period. Dylan O'Grady and Michael Worsley played for Ireland and England National teams, whilst Tom Holloway, Robert Holloway, Simon Verbickas, Anthony Murphy, Tom King and Tom Saliba all played in World Cup qualifiers. In Schoolboy internationals, Brian Parsons, Michael Worsley, Alex Eaton, Tim Jeffers, Ciaran Parker, Matthew Simpson were all capped. For England, Sam and Tom Moncur were awarded Scottish Selection. We even boast an international referee; Dan Gwizdek officiating in the UAE and Dubai Sevens.

In other sports Richard Gaughan competed in the Varsity Boat Race, Michael Bishop was chosen to represent England at Under 18s cricket and later was offered a full time contract at Leicestershire. Martin Laing was selected for G.B in canoeing and Adrian Moorhead represented English Students at football. Daniel Wright became the first Double Blue representing Cambridge at Rugby Union and League. Sam Aspinwall represented Great Britain at Cross Country and was recently appointed to the College staff and continues to develop the rich Middle Distance talent as well as Cross Country.

The School continued to dominate local Trafford Athletics and Cross Country Championships in the last years of the old school. Football was also introduced competitively into the Senior School with 3 X1s playing regularly on Wednesday afternoons. Basketball leagues in Trafford offered a further three age groups a competitive sport and badminton, table tennis, water polo and swimming fixtures were established.

PGL Trips and Skiing trips had been annual events from the 1980s and thanks should go to Messrs, Mulrennan, Przybyla, Burns, Aspinwall, Holt, Cross, Chadderton, Toal and Mrs O'Donnell for their organisation of such trips. Hill Walking clubs established in the early 80s by Mr Friend continued and up to the present time with Mr O'Neill are always popular weekends away. The fitness and weight training rooms established in a changing room in the 1980s was well controlled by popular physics teacher, Mr Azzopardi. This facility was very modern in its day but is well and truly eclipsed by the Fitness Suite in the New School. Both provided a great opportunity for serious athletes to develop however, and their inception played a significant part of Sporting Success of students.



2010 and beyond

The latest decade has seen the building of a brand new facility which for sport has made a massive impact on the options now available to students. Before this a Sports Committee set up by Martin and Yvonne Moylan, Paul Gandy and Dave Eason provided additional funds to enable sport to continue, notably playing rugby fixtures at Ashton on Mersey Rugby Club and providing coaches to matches and refreshments at all fixtures whilst a new school was built. The new four court Sports Hall has enabled badminton matches to be played and taught in lessons along with trampolining, basketball, hockey and volleyball. The all-weather floodlit 4g is the envy of every school in the locality enabling multi sports and use for training in any conditions. This has benefitted the condition of 4 grass pitches which are now marked and looked after by a Sports Grounds Specialists, Bancrofts. The old all weather has been converted to a hockey astro and 3 full sized tennis court facility with the old pump house converted into a sports store.



The 6 lane swimming pool with competitive starting blocks remains the jewel in the crown and water polo goals purchased by the school Parents’ Association now ensures dual use between two very successful activities. A full time swimming teacher Mrs Chandler, has ensured no St Ambrose pupil is a non swimmer by the end of their first year at school. In Max Ashton we have also our first GB water polo player. He is joined by many students now involved at Manchester Aquatics following our recent success in a National Championship.

SPORTS DAY RECORDS

Event	1st [Y.7]	2nd [Y.8]	3rd [Y.9]	4th [Y.10]
100m	M.Worsley [1989] 12.3sec	C. Yu [2003] 12.3	C Yu [2004] 11.78	M Burke [1989] 11.24
200m	T.Saliba [1998] 27.3 sec	T. Saliba [1999] 25.53	S Worsley [1993] 24.5	G Duff [1996] 23.8
300m	O. Livings [2016] 51.44s	D Edmundson [2106] 43.75	J Backhouse [2016] 42.4s	R Quirke [2016] 41.41s
400m	S.Aspinwall [2000] 63.81 sec	S Laffly [1991] 60.9	D Jones [1991] 57.6	M McMurray [1976] 54.25
800m	C.Murphy [1984] 2min 24.25	C Murphy [1985] 2m 15 sec	M.Brehon [1989] 2m 08.38	C Murphy [1987] 2m 6.6
1500m	S.Aspinwall [2000] 5mins 4.41 sec	J Stockdale [1985] 4m 58.60	M Berry [1992] 4m 38.1s	P Martin [1989] 4m28.14
Hurdles	M.Derbyshire[2000] 11.06 sec	L O'Hara [2016] 11.33	J Ingram [1984] 11.95	W O'Reilly [1975] 11.8
4x100m	Stamford [1977] 56.6 sec	Ignatius [2016] 55.65s	Ashley 50.16	Stamford [2004] 49.22
4x 300m	Aquinas [2016] 3m19s	Ignatius [2016] 3m29.47s	Aquinas [2016] 3m08.49s	Newman [2016] 3m03.71s
High Jump	M Derbyshire [2000] 1m 45cm	S Dixon [2006] 1m52	P Clear [2006] 1m67	M Lee [1993] 1m71
Long Jump	D.Jones [1989] 4m78cm	J Lie [1998] 5m 24	M Burke [1988] 5m 82	G Argles [1989] 6m
Triple Jump	R.Ellis [1989] 10m08cm	J Durkan [2015] 10m49	A Leyden [2008] 11m 42	S Verbeckas [1990] 12m 03
Discus	M.Worsley [1989] 31m33cm	M Worsley [1990] 29m30	M Bradshaw [1987] 32m78	T O'Neill [1984] 33m40
Shot	L.Dyer [1985] 9m90cm	J Ingram [1983] 11m64	T Saliba [2000] 12m90	H Chambers [2005] 12m 20
Javelin	P.Amuzu [1988] 27m15cm	T Ward [1985] 31m	A Parkinson [1987] 40m 15	P Amuzu [1991] 43m75

This has been just one benefit of a wonderful sporting facility. Sports Presentation Dinners are now an annual event in our new Central Atrium. International guests and former students have included Luke and Tobias Adamson, Mark Atkinson, Billy Emerson, Charlie and Fergus Mulchrone, all of whom have enjoyed Premiership Rugby Union and League success. Domaine Rouse, Alex McQuade and Ben Hampson have also donated pictures which are on display following their signing of professional football contracts.

They were delighted to hear of the success and development of facilities since their time at school. As we go to press the current successes of recent students should not go unnoticed. Tom Walsh and Connor Doherty were awarded England caps at Under 16 level last season. They had been part of a Peter Whiting tens winning side as well as County and Preston Grasshoppers Festival winners. In a season where Under 14 and Under 13 sides had also reached County finals the latter losing narrowly the former defeating Wirral G.S their success was emulated by a Senior College team at Under 18 making history themselves. They became the first College team to reach Twickenham in the Nat West Vase Final. This had followed success in the Semi Final at the Allianz Stadium. Despite a narrow loss to Northampton G.S for Boys the memories of an epic journey will remain with all. Hopefully it will not be the end of St Ambrose sporting success but if it is it won't be a bad way to remember our Sporting History.

The current Sports Day Records have been kept since 1970 and to this day cause great excitement before the annual event.

Until the next update celebrating 75 years, congratulations to all of our old and current boys for their sporting commitment, dedication and achievements.

Mr N Handy Director of Sport (joined 1984)



Outstanding Results and Success Year on Year



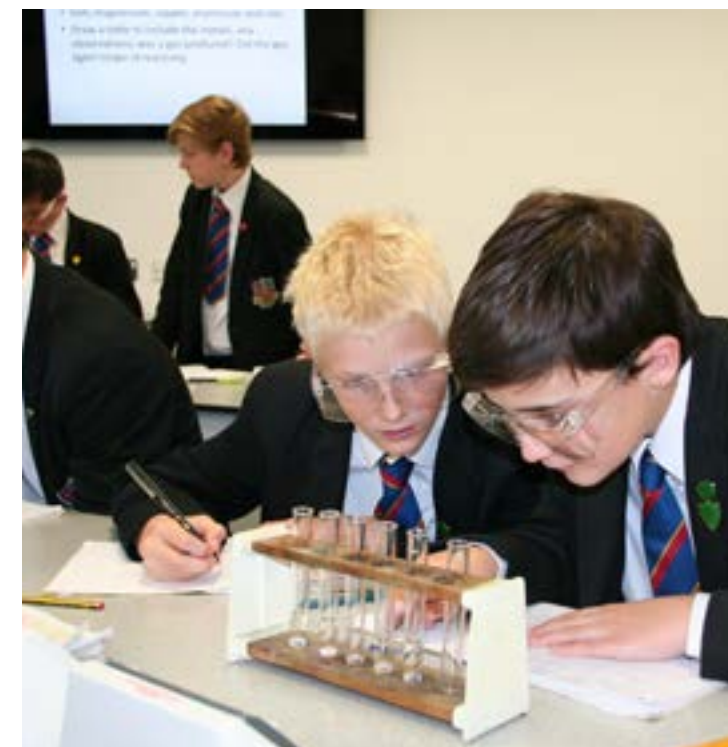
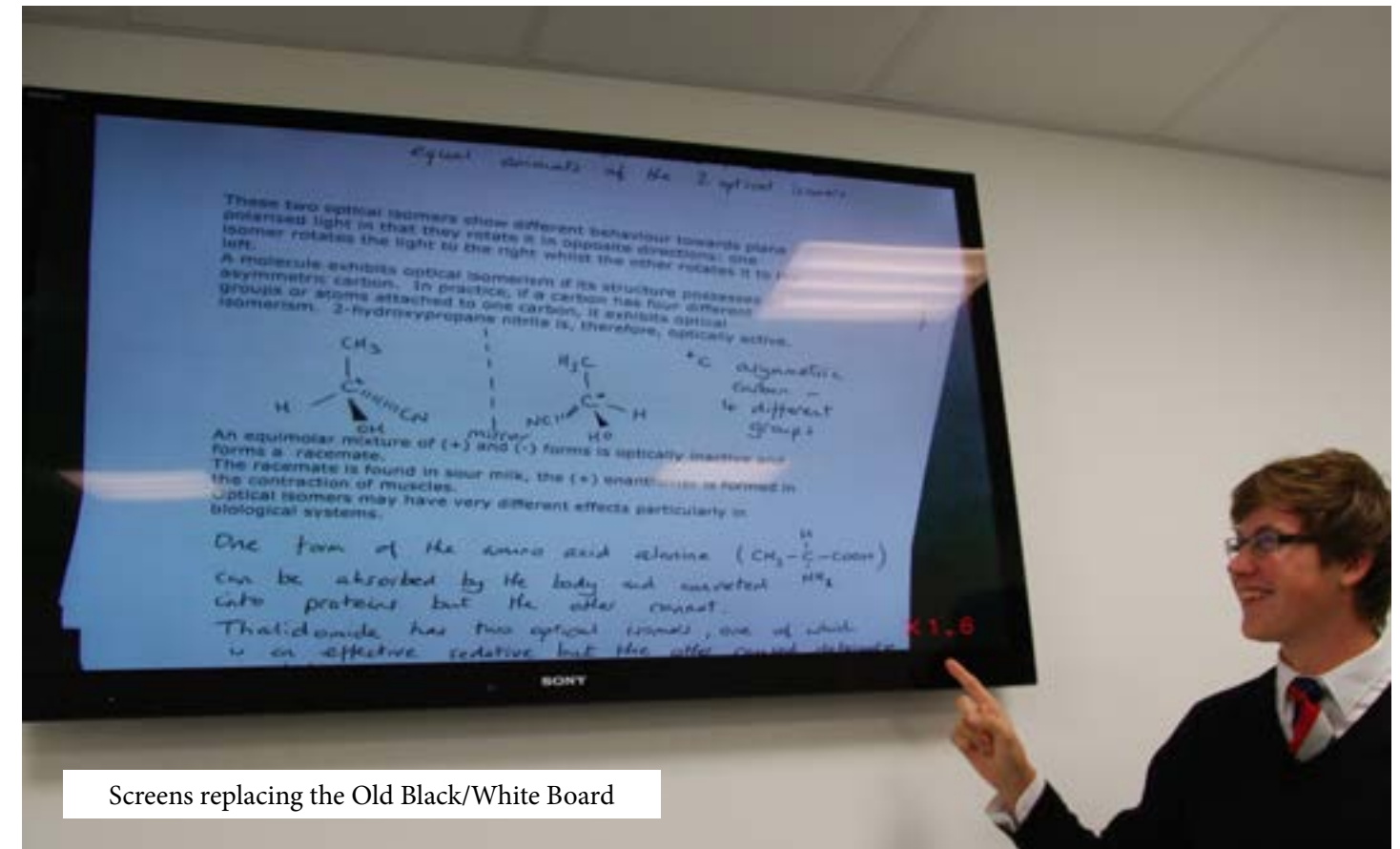
Modern Facilities



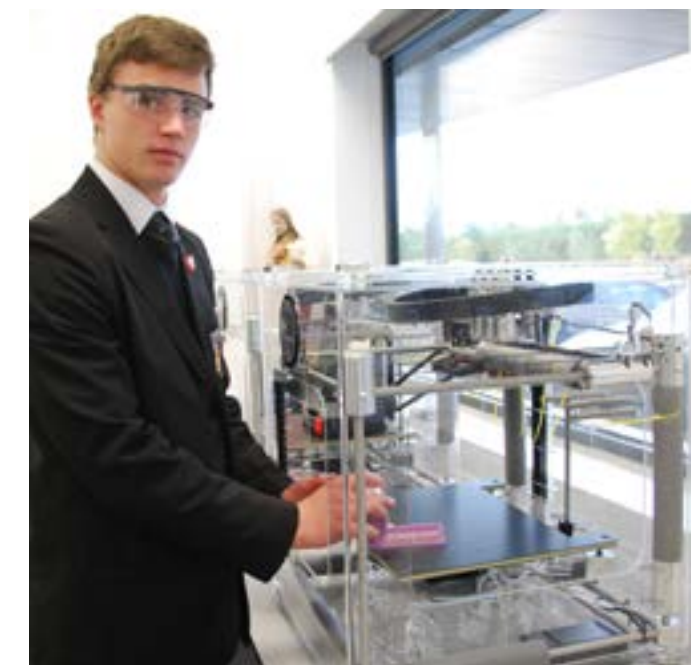
Prep for University Life - Cooking Classes with Mrs Alford



Areas for Study



Science Class



State of the art - DT equipment





The Edmund Rice Network

Continuing the good works of Blessed Edmund Rice through its Global Network.

Thank you to Mr Kavanagh, School's Officer (who retires this year) and his team (Mrs Shelagh Lochery & Mr Tom Murray) for their dedication and hard work.

The Edmund Rice Office Administrator provides support, contacts, and liaison for all Network activities, co-ordinates adult immersion and spirituality groups, administers this website, and edits the 'Schools Link' newsletter. The Edmund Rice Office, Woodeaves, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 0HF. Tel. 0161 904 0786 Email: ero.cfc@virgin.net

The Schools Officer

The Schools Officer provides help and guidance on education matters, liaises with the Governing Bodies of Edmund Rice schools, acts for the Trustees in the appointment of school governors, organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff, arranges inter-school conferences for Heads and for staff, assists with school development planning, and advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff. Email: erschoolsuk@hotmail.co.uk. Below shows a photo of this year's New Staff Induction Day 2016.



The Youth Development Officer

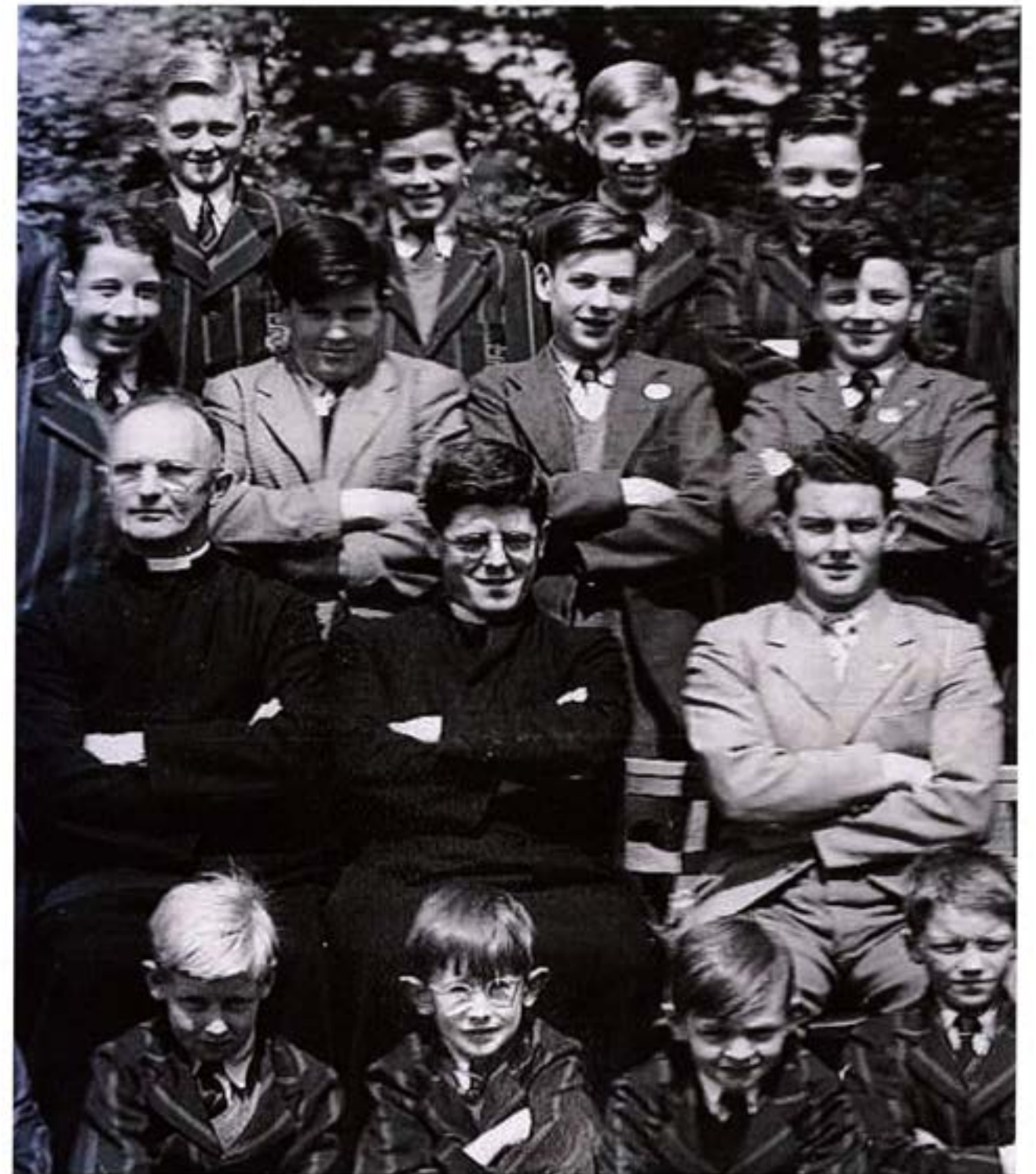
The Youth Development Officer co-ordinates student immersion schemes, organises Edmund Rice Camps and other youth ministries and opportunities, and administers the Edmund Rice awards scheme. Email: thomasmurray.ero@hotmail.co.uk

Edmund Rice Schools

Edmund Rice was a spectacularly successful merchant who in 1802 gave up his wealth, founded a religious order dedicated to teaching, and opened his first schools in New Street and on Mount Sion in Waterford, Ireland.

By 1825 Edmund had built eleven schools in Ireland, with 4,000 pupils. In that year he crossed to Liverpool and founded the first Christian Brother school in England, in Fox Street, Preston. Between 1825 and 1880 a total of 22 Christian Brother schools were established in England, pioneering education for the children of the poor in the major industrial towns. During the same period Edmund's network became global, and soon there were Edmund Rice schools in every continent.

There are currently 12 schools in the Edmund Rice family in England. We continue to be connected with the world-wide family of Edmund Rice communities and schools throughout Africa, and in Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, India, and South and North America.



Brother Joe O'Sullivan (Centre)
Saint Ambrose College 1951

Brother Joe fondly remembers his time at Woodeaves from 1948 and is now retired in his 80s. Brother Joe became a Christian Brother in his late teens in 1945 and began his teaching career at St Ambrose College and later went to teach at other Christian Brother schools in Crosby and Bristol. Brother Joe also taught as Deputy Head at St Aidan's, Sunderland and was appointed Headteacher in Gibraltar.

Brother Joe says: "St Ambrose College has flourished and gone from strength to strength, producing men of faith, intelligence and integrity."

God bless
Brother Joe O'Sullivan

St Ambrose Old Boys' Association

Our Association originally came into being in 1996 when the Headmaster of St Ambrose, Mr Eric Hester, called an Inaugural meeting of a group of Old Boys, held on 21st January 1996. Twenty-six Old Boys of various ages attended, of 29 contacted by Mr Hester. Those attending included Roger DaForno, who had been involved with a previous St Ambrose Old Boys' organisation. Mr Hester opened the meeting and so began an open discussion outlining what we wanted to achieve. Significantly, John Kennedy was proposed and seconded as acting Chairman, a role in which he continued to serve for 20 years until late 2015. A score of names volunteered to form a founding Committee. It was agreed to set up a database to grow the organisation, to formulate a Constitution, and to reconvene the following month.

A name was chosen for the organisation: St Ambrose Old Boys' Association (SAOBA). This was in preference to Mr Hester's suggestion of "Old Ambrosians". The finalised SAOBA Constitution formally stated the Association's aims, the forms and terms of Membership (initially we charged £5 a year!), along with the arrangements for finance and management. SAOBA exists as a Members' Club. It is a social organisation with close links to the school, yet retains its independence from the school. SAOBA is not registered as a charity, but has made regular donations to relevant charities and to support the work of the school (both Prep and Senior).

A programme of events was discussed, including a "Murder Mystery" Evening, a Summer Barbecue Event, a Hill Walk, an Old Boys' Dinner, and an Old Boys' Mass. A Newsletter (SAOBA News) was developed and mailed out to members, with contributions from Brother Foley and Matthew Norton (SKCV). A website was set up (www.saoba.org) which continues to this day. Membership rapidly grew, from 300 to 600 and beyond. The first Annual Dinner set the benchmark for all those that followed. Dr Kieran Moriarty was our principal speaker and 250 old boys attended, the maximum allowed in the school hall. In 1998 John Kelsey organised the first SAOBA Golf Day at Reddish Vale Golf Club, and this went on to become an annual event. With the widespread use of email communication, membership changes were abolished and SAOBA membership became free. Our Facebook groups, run by Adam Mitcheson, have broadened our base further. Bernard Stafford was the driving force behind the creation of the SAOBA tie. This developed from a standard tie in 1996, to a luxury silk version, and more recently a designer silk version (designed of course by our very own internationally recognised designer, old boy Peter Saville). These are available at the dinners and via the school.

Over the years since, SAOBA activities have focused on the annual dinner, which is held every November. Speakers and guests have included Dr Kieran Moriarty, Shaun Grady, Frances Edmonds, Sean D Fleming (History Teacher and Deputy Headmaster 1963-96), Peter Riley, Dave Hallas, Sir Alex Ferguson, Dr Brendan Moriarty, Des Charleson, Peter Saville, Brendan Charleson, Paul Maynard MP, and Sean Fitzpatrick. Master of Ceremonies Peter Riley has run the show with distinction for several years now, successfully making the transition from the venue of the old school to the new school in 2012 with another record attendance. Since 2011, two or three groups of "Loreto Old Girls" have attended the dinner, adding some much-needed glamour to the occasion! Recent SAOBA dinners have featured in Cheshire Life. Details of every dinner are included on our website, and every single one has been different.

At last year's dinner, November 2015, our star guest was the former All Black rugby Captain Sean Fitzpatrick, who gave the current St Ambrose Rugby Squad an unforgettable lesson in performing the famous "Haka", in advance of their forthcoming tour of South East Asia.



All our activities are driven by the enthusiasm and hard work of our Committee. We are essentially a team of volunteers, our meetings are rewarding and enjoyable, and we are open for new members to join our team. Any Old Boys who are interested in joining the SAOBA Committee are invited to contact us via our Chairman Adam Mitcheson (email the Committee via our website) to find out more.

The current committee consists of Adam Mitcheson (Hon Chairman and Facebook link), Paul Howarth (Hon Vice Chairman and College Liaison), Tony Dixon (Hon Secretary), Simon Harrop (Hon Treasurer), Paul Clarkin (Website, Paypal, College Web Liaison), John Kennedy (now as Life President), Peter Riley (Entertainment), Bernard Stafford (Tie Sales), Connor Moylan (Dinner Co-ordinator, Table Planning and Membership Secretary), plus Matt Dempsey, Simon Gallimore, with further support from Martin Corrigan (prizes), Peter Fitzpatrick (Golf), Mark Gallimore and Chris Tofalos (Photography).

Membership of SAOBA is free, and is open to former pupils, their fathers, past and present members of staff and members of the clergy who wish to join. Joining is a simple matter of completing a form on our website www.saoba.org. This year's SAOBA dinner will be held on Saturday 19th November at the school. Please look on the Old Boy website for updates at www.saoba.org.

As Chairman and with the support of the committee I will strive to uphold the standards of the last 20 years. We are also looking at ways to take the association forward and welcome new members to the committee. Being a member of the committee has had an extremely positive effect on me and I would encourage any Old Boy to get involved.

A Mitcheson

Old Boy Adam Mitcheson assists the next generation

Chairman of the Old Boys' Association

Internet entrepreneur and old boy Adam Mitcheson returned to St. Ambrose College to give future job seekers the inside track on his new social media site designed to revolutionise the careers market. Adam, 29, gave up his career in banking to focus on his my2be interactive web site.

Adam said "My vision is to revolutionise both job seeking and recruitment by helping people understand the steps required to go from where they are to where they want to be in their career no matter what stage they are currently at by connecting with those who have already been there and done it and to see what steps they took. He added: "Connecting those who are looking for jobs, mapping their career, or looking for a change to existing professionals and potential employers, who can offer advice and mentor the perspective candidate.

Adam said: "The object is to sign up students, businesses and professionals who want to advance their career but are also able to give other users advice. This allows the advisee to understand the steps they need to take but gives the advisor or the business the opportunity to mentor the next generation of their company and secure staff that actually want to work for them. This applies to the full spectrum of the employment market, whether in scientific research, city life, sales and marketing, procurement, education, simply anything."

"Anyone can sign up to offer advice and profile the opportunities they might have and anyone seeking a job or guidance can sign up to search for the opportunities on offer and get guidance from those with more experience, whether they are seasoned professionals nearing the end of the careers or younger people who have recently gone through the same process and know the pitfalls." Adam added: "It allows more senior professionals to give something back and fulfil their corporate social responsibilities and it gives young people an insider's perspective."

Adam, who is Chairman of the St. Ambrose Old Boys' Association, said: "I had the idea when I was looking to further my own career but didn't know how to go from A to B until, through a Mentor I had the opportunity to speak to someone in the area I was looking at. I had my answers in five minutes from one conversation, which I couldn't find in months of searching internally, online, or externally via things like LinkedIn. This produced the 'lightbulb moment' to create an online resource where others could do the same". He added: "I loved my time at St. Ambrose, am delighted to be involved with the college again and even more pleased they have signed up to the new system."

St. Ambrose College Deputy Headmaster Matthew Arthur said: "Like all great ideas, my2be has a wonderful simplicity and clarity and both as employers ourselves and with a ready made army of young people thinking about their futures, we can see the fantastic potential."

S Carter Press Release



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Tuesday, November 5, 2002

Obituaries

Lonnie Donegan

Skiffle guitarist who inspired the Rolling Stones and the Beatles but lost out to the styl

Lonnie Donegan, who died on Sunday aged 71, played a decisive role in the development of British rock music, yet is probably best remembered for novelty songs such as *My Old Man's a Dustman*.

Almost every major rock artist who emerged in the 1960s acknowledged the influence of Donegan, whose pioneering skiffle music provided the inspiration for the whole British beat boom that followed, creating the means for ordinary working-class teenagers to form bands with minimal finances, equipment or even talent.

With a succession of hits in 1956 and 1957 – such as *Rock Island Line*, *Cumberland Gap* and *Putting on the Style* – based on old American folk and blues songs, he effectively became Britain's earliest pop idol as teenagers discovered a culture of their own.

Eventually Donegan, a dynamic performer on stage and a tempestuous character off it, was to become a victim of his own inspiration, swamped by the deluge of more inventive electric bands who were suddenly writing their own material and appealing more directly to the new pop awareness of the young.

Yet the best of them – including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones – always acknowledged the critical part he played in their own musical educations, and he remained an enduring icon to many superstars. Elton John, Paul McCartney, Ringo

Jazz Band, becoming friendly with the trombonist Chris Barber, and searching out records by the likes of Woody Guthrie, Muddy Waters and Leadbelly.

On leaving the Army he formed his own band and got a support slot at London's Royal Festival Hall with one of his heroes, the American blues guitarist Lonnie Johnson. A confused MC introduced him as "Lonnie Donegan", and the name stuck.

By now his friend Chris Barber was playing with the Ken Colyer Jazz Band, and Donegan joined him there playing guitar and banjo, though it was his enthusiasm for folk and urban blues styles that had wider ramifications. When Barber left to form his own band in 1954, he took the entire rhythm section with him, including Donegan, and events rapidly overtook them.

Just as he had done with the Colyer band, Donegan provided the interval music, playing his favoured blues and work songs in a primitive manner, backed by Barber himself on bass and Beryl Bryden on washboard. This unfamiliar style was dubbed "skiffle", after the Chicago jug bands of the 1920s which used any household implements they could find as instruments; soon the interval music became as popular as the main set. Chris Barber's first LP, *New Orleans Joy*, subsequently featured two songs, *Rock Island Line* and *John Henry*, credited to the Lon-



Donegan: dynamic performer who became Britain's first teenage j

Gap, *Putting on the Style* and, most famously, *My Old Man's a Dustman*. This last, a comic song which hit the top of the charts in its first week of release in 1960, was a significant shift in style away from American folk song to the British music hall. Donegan was, it became apparent, as much a part of the British musical scene as the American ones. magnetism, and made him bly fascinating figure to suc generations of musician wasn't any worse than any o star," said one of his old comrades, Chas McDevitt. you have that many hits, entitled to be a bit big-head

Lonnie Donegan R.I.P

29.4.1931 – 3.11.2002

Anthony (Lonnie) Donegan attended St Ambrose College at its Dunham Road site in 1945. He is probably our "most famous" Old Boy, although to be fair he left school the following year and wasn't on the 1947 school photograph. He was still producing new music at the age of 67. A true legend.

The BBC News website reports:-

Musician Lonnie Donegan MBE, known as the "king of skiffle", has died aged 71.

The Glasgow-born singer was midway through a UK tour after recovering from a heart operation earlier this year and was due to play a concert in Stoke, Staffordshire, on Monday. One of the most successful recording artists of the pre-Beatles era, he had three UK number one hits and numerous top 10 entries in the 1950s and 60s.

The star was with his wife and son when he died in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, on Sunday at about 0230 GMT. He had been complaining of back trouble shortly before he fell ill.

Bernard Stafford (Old Boy attending 1947-52), born in 1935

Bernard joined the school in September 1947 at Woodeaves at age 12.

Bernard was a student of the early days of the school. Originally his Headmaster was Brother Dowling but in 1948 Brother Casey took over as Headmaster.

Schools hours back then were 9.30 am - 3.30 pm and fees were eight guineas per term. The annual holiday of St Ambrose was celebrated on 7 December. In the first year, rugby and cricket were played on Saturday afternoons and attendance was compulsory. From 1948 onwards there was a new Headmaster, Brother Casey, he said rugby and cricket would thereafter be played as part of the school games curriculum. House teams were formed, taking the names of Bowdon, Rostherne, Dunham and Tatton.

Married to Pat in 1961 and father to a son, daughter and grandfather of five. Following National Service, Bernard concentrated on his career in engineering/sales.

Nowadays, Bernard has regularly enjoyed attending the Old Boys' reunions and annual dinner. Bernard is also of great assistance in selling the Old Boy Ties.



**Bernard Stafford (top middle)
1948**

Old Boy Tim Wildman looks back

I attended the old boys' association dinner recently and saw the letter about the celebratory booklet.

My name is Tim Wildman and I attended the prep school and the main school from 1970 to 1980.

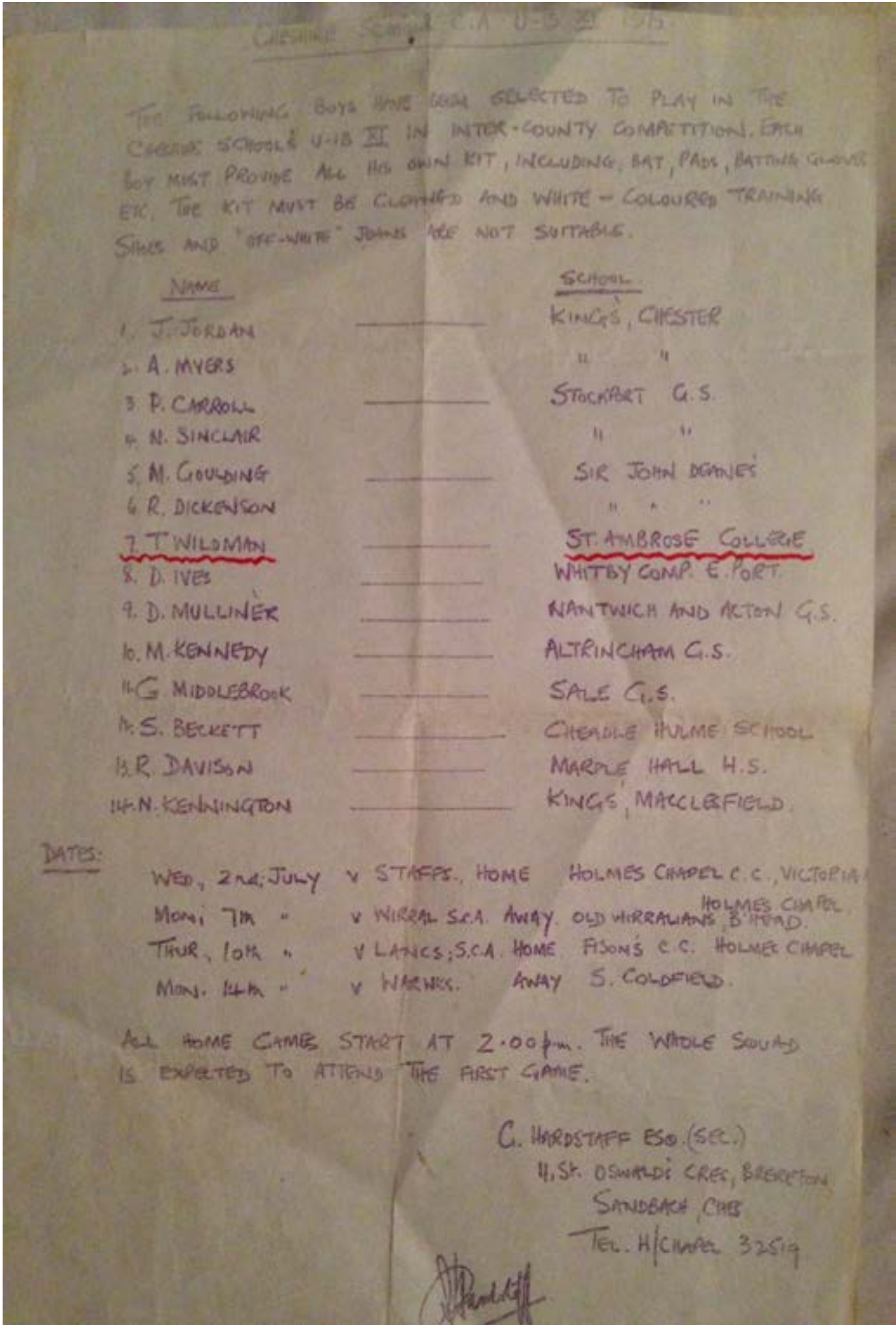
In 1975 I was selected to play for Cheshire Schools Cricket under 13 and as far as I am aware I was the first from St Ambrose to play any sort of representative cricket but sure the School would know.

Please see copy letter that I received from the Cheshire selectors confirming my selection. I received a Cheshire Schools Cricket Association cap with the wheat sheaf on and tie plus St Ambrose presented me with a school cap at Assembly for my cricket. Below is a photo of the caps and tie which I have in a display at home.

I played two games against Staffordshire and Lancashire Schools.

Happy Days.

Kind Regards
Tim



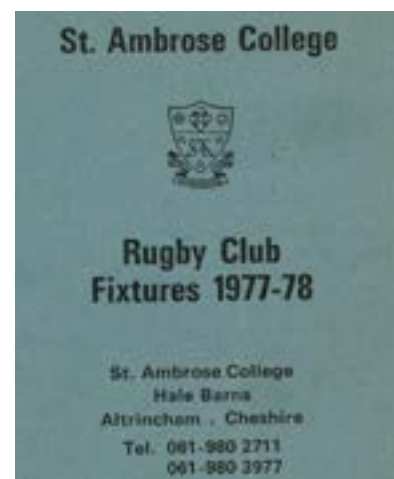
The Good Old Days

I attended St Ambrose as my home town Warrington did not have a catholic grammar school and my parents were keen that I continued with a catholic education. Attempts to get me in to De La Salle in Salford and West Park in St Helens failed so their loss became St Ambrose's gain and I attended the school from 1970 through to 1978. Perhaps not all the teachers would think of it as any form of gain at all and after some early promise I fell educationally into the "could have done better if he'd tried harder" category, comforting myself that I was sure the same could have been said about Einstein! My refuge was sport- athletics to some degree, but predominately rugby - and I was proud to become the School Rugby captain in my last year at the school. Dave Hallas was of course a huge influence in how I developed as a player but Adrian "Billy" Knight also made great efforts with me. The school gave me an ever increasing confidence and several close friends for life - even now, some 36 years after leaving 8 of us gather each year in Montpellier, France to play golf and talk fondly of our great and treasured memories at the school.

I didn't enjoy any of the science lessons, possibly because everything was too difficult for me to understand. There again if I had actually listened it might have meant something? In the Sixth Form History and Geography became my specialist subjects with Sean Fleming's teaching, dry wit and genuine interest in my sporting obsession leaving a lasting impression upon me.

Sadly, it only feels like five minutes since the Warrington Bus was pulling up on Wicker Lane and we were all making the long walk up the school drive. I have so much to thank my parents for in sending me to St Ambrose and I will always be grateful for that. As with all things in life everything moves on and with the new building comes a new era - I am sure though that the spirit of the old school building and that of Woodeaves before it will remain to make St Ambrose College the school that it is

Regards
Peter J Riley - Form 1H 1970
1970-1978



"Woodeaves" - Hale Barns' first St Ambrose

When I was a small boy at St Ambrose College, my father once remarked that he had played billiards with Mr Waugh (the owner of Woodeaves) at the house, during the War. (This would have been in the room which subsequently became Prep A, where Brother Healey was the Form Master.)

I imagine my father got to know Leo Waugh either through Ringway Golf Club - where my father was a member - or as a regular at the Unicorn Hotel or Bull's Head. He was said to have been a wealthy silk merchant with interests in the Far East.

Prompted by this recollection, and having the present day advantage of the Internet, I thought it would be interesting to research more about Woodeaves and, if possible, the Waughs.

I discovered that the house was built in 1915, and was occupied by Mr and Mrs Waugh and their large family (seven children) from 1929 until his death in December 1944: then being then sold (with 22 acres of land) to a consortium of local Catholic parishes, led by Canon Donnelly of St Vincent's, Altrincham, and subsequently passed to the Christian Brothers in 1946.

Mrs Waugh also donated 5 acres of land - on which the 1878 ruined Manor House stood - to St Vincent's, as the future site for a new church in memory of their eldest daughter, Mary, who died at Woodeaves in 1941.

Reference to the death of William Leo Waugh appeared in the London Gazette of May 1945 where his two residences were given as Woodeaves, Hale Barns, and 82, Princess Street, Manchester. The latter is a palatial Victorian warehouse - built by Refuge Assurance in 1909 and occupied by a variety of overseas shipping companies - aptly called Asia House.

A much earlier entry in the London Gazette (February 1930) cites William Leo Waugh as the receiver of all debts of the former Merchant Shippers, BURT, MYRTLE & CO of Java, they having been prominent Manchester merchants with strong links to the Dutch East Indies: shippers of Indonesian silks, cottons and other textiles.

It would appear, therefore, that my father was accurate in his recollection of Mr Waugh's business interests.

Waugh's offices in Manchester are now private apartments but the building can still be seen in its full splendour. In addition, some examples of the colourful textile shipping labels of Burt, Myrtle & Co are currently circulating as collectors' items.

It is strange to step back in time, so many years, and catch a faint glimpse of Woodeaves' former owner, thinking how much has happened to the house since then, especially since I and my fellow pupils subsequently spent so much of our youth there.

ANTHONY O'NEIL

Old Boys' Tie

Thank you to Peter Saville for his design of the Old Boys' Tie and to Bernard Stafford for managing tie sales

In 2010 a new St Ambrose Old Boys' tie was designed by former student and now established art director and graphic designer Peter Saville. It was a great honour to have a tie designed by the person responsible for many iconic record sleeve designs for artists such as Joy Division, New Order and Pulp.

Peter Saville (born 9 October 1955) is an English art director and graphic designer. He came to fame for the many record sleeves he designed for Factory Records, of which he was a director.

Peter Saville was born in Manchester and attended St Ambrose College. He studied graphic design at Manchester Polytechnic from 1975 to 1978.

Saville entered the music scene after meeting Tony Wilson, the journalist and television presenter, whom he approached at a Patti Smith show in 1978. The meeting resulted in Wilson commissioning the first Factory Records poster (FAC 1). Saville became a partner in Factory Records along with Wilson, Martin Hannett, Rob Gretton and Alan Erasmus.

In 2004 Saville became Creative Director of the City of Manchester, as a consultant. In 2010 Saville designed the England football team home shirt. In 2012 Saville collaborated with Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh in celebration of their centenary to create a large scale tapestry of his work after Monarch of the Glen.



Design Peter Saville and Michael Thompson

Keith Breeden RP Old Boy (born 25 March 1956)

Graphic designer and portraitist. He is a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. Keith now live with his wife & children in Mid Wales.

Keith says "I have always drawn & painted. I have no formal art education: what I know, I know through working & studying the work of others I painted and drew all the time. I carried on drawing and painting – small illustrations, drawings of houses – whilst working as a gardener, gravedigger, forklift driver and cellarman. By 1977 I was in London. Punk was opening doors for untrained enthusiasts in all the arts. My old schoolfriend, Malcolm Garrett, was working as a designer in the music industry. I will always be grateful to Malcolm for helping me onto the rails by teaching me the basics of design for print and giving me work. I worked with him at assorted iMaGes, producing record sleeves and posters. Another member of my old school art class, Peter Saville, was at Dindisc Records and I did some work for him too. In 1984 I set up my own studio: DKB, and joined by Peter Curzon and Martin Jenkins, did work for ABC, Bryan Ferry, The Cult, FYC, Gang of Four, The Mission, Alison Moyet, Scritti Politti, and many others."

Noteworthy pieces include his work on the covers of Duran Duran's Seven and the Ragged Tiger album (along with Malcolm Garrett), The Mission's Carved in Sand album and related singles, and The Cult's 1987 Electric album (along with Storm Thorgerson) and its first two singles ("Love Removal Machine" and "Lil' Devil").



Old Boy, Sir John Bernard Pethica, FRS, FREng Knighthood in the 2014 Birthday Honours for services to science.

Born 1953, is Science Foundation Ireland (S.F.I.) professor of material science at Trinity College, Dublin, Chief Scientific Advisor at the UK's National Physical Laboratory, and a visiting professor at Oxford University. Pethica is most noted for his work on the development of nanoindentation and atom resolution atomic force microscopy.

Education

John Pethica was a pupil at St Ambrose College, Trafford, Manchester. He received a PhD from the University of Cambridge in the late 1970s.

Career

In 2001, Pethica was one of the first ten people awarded an S.F.I. principal investigator award. Following the award, he transferred his activities from Oxford to Dublin.

In February 2005, it was announced that Pethica will be the director of the Naughton Institute which will house CRANN, a new purpose built nanotechnology centre in Trinity College Dublin.

In October 2007, Pethica was made the Chief Scientific Advisor at the UK's National Physical Laboratory, the UK's National Measurement Institute.

Honours and awards

In 1999, John was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). He has also served as Vice-President and Physical Secretary of the Royal Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (FREng) in 2013. He was elected an honorary fellow of St Cross College, Oxford in 2014.

John was the 2001 recipient of the Hughes Medal of the Royal Society of London, and the 2002 recipient of the Holweck Prize from the Institute of Physics.

Pethica was knighted in the 2014 Birthday Honours for services to science.

Personal life

John is an accomplished musician - playing violin and other instruments - with a particular interest in Irish and British folk music.



Dear St. Ambrose,

I attended the college 2000-2007 and received my first taste of business studies in my sixth form years. With help from a couple of friends I have successfully launched a business in the area. I have attached below our press below and any support would be greatly appreciated.

All the best to the Old Boys,
Sean Walsh

Press Release:-

Three young hospitality professionals created an online service for the hotels of Manchester to use to recommend quality restaurants to guests visiting the city. Sean Walsh, 24 with the help of Jack Appleton, 25 & Tom Ansbro, 23 all from Manchester have created the site HotShepherd.com after working for top hotel brands such as The Landis Ritz Taipei, Hilton Worldwide and The Lowry Hotel.

The website, which successfully launched to Hotels in Manchester City Centre back in June this year is completely free and has been rewarding hospitality professionals at the heart of full service, upscale properties across the city for recommending restaurants and attractions listed on the site, with an incentive programme fully funded by HotShepherd.com. The site is now open and ready for the public to register free and use, rewarding the consumer for dining out with 25p cash-back per person they book. This balance is funded by HotShepherd.com and users then 'cash-out' for restaurant or store vouchers.

"Have you ever been in a new city on holiday or on a business trip and wanted a real, local meal somewhere new and special? When you ask for a recommendation at the front desk you don't want a restaurant that's part of a chain – you can get that anywhere, you want somewhere different and memorable, somewhere that's unique to where you are" says Founder and Managing Director Sean Walsh, "not all team members have the same knowledge of the local area so a site that offers this information for free to hotels is extremely valuable."

Hot Shepherd gives back to the hospitality industry in another way, by donating 10% of all profits to hospitality related charities and by offering a charity donation as a reward. This year the site is supporting the Springboard UK Charity helping young people get a start in the industry. "Even with a good degree, I had to move to Taiwan to get a good start in hospitality, so helping Springboard create employment opportunities for people less fortunate was always top priority" explains Sean Walsh.

The site is always free to use for everyone in Manchester with top restaurants such as Neighbourhood, Grill on the Alley, and Australasia listing and all rewards are covered by Hot Shepherd. The service now features attractions and other services that hotels recommend, and will reach more cities soon but for now the team are focussed on highlighting the hidden gem restaurants that Manchester has in abundance.

For more information visit www.hotshepherd.com or email Manchester@hotshepherd.com.



Old Boy MPs and Graham Brady MP



Damian Hinds MP



Paul Maynard MP



Greg Mulholland MP



Graham Brady MP

St Ambrose College is an outstanding school, producing remarkable results. It provides an excellent, rounded education with a Christian ethos. Boys achieve impressive results at GCSE and at A level and progress to top universities.

Apart from Eton, there are very few schools with such a remarkable record when it comes to producing Members of Parliament. Three old boys currently grace the green benches in Parliament - it's a remarkable record and I doubt there is another state school to match it. But no-one who has visited St Ambrose College would doubt it is special. The top notch academic education is matched by an outstanding extra-curricular provision.

I was delighted to meet Mr Keulemans as he took over as Principal and he continues the tradition of excellent head teachers at St Ambrose. A few years back I joined Michael Thompson - both wearing hard hats, to oversee the building work. I had approached the then government to support St Ambrose's case that a replacement for the unsafe and unsuitable school buildings was long overdue. It was a privilege to work alongside the Head and Governors to help provide the building that such a fine school deserves. The new building is truly remarkable; the structure is innovative and there is a sense of purpose, peace and quiet. I know that St Ambrose College will go from strength to strength.

Who knows, we may even see more St Ambrose old boys on the 'green benches' before too long!

Graham Brady MP

Greg Mulholland MP Liberal MP for Leeds North West

My interest in politics came from growing up in a political family and especially from my father, who stood for Parliament four times including in the 1962 Stockton by-election. However it was when I started A level politics in the 6th form at St. Ambrose College that my ambition to become an MP was crystallised (though in those days my plan was to be a rock star then an MP, but one out of two isn't bad!). I remember (and still have) my first essay, on being the candidate in a by-election. I won, against the odds, for the then Liberal SDP Alliance. My first ever election was standing for the school 6th form committee and I cut up some of my dad's old posters and leaflets to create 'Vote Mulholland' posters that I put up in the 6th form common room. I also remember getting some tips from Damian Hinds who had been elected the year before! When the results were announced, I was elected but one of the staff let slip that I had gained two and half times as many votes as the next nearest candidate! I immediately launched my first campaign to bring some democracy to the school as told the Deputy Head and staff that I had clearly reviewed a mandate to be named Head Boy as the choice of my peers. Alas, that fell on deaf ears but I had made my point and I am pleased that now at least House Captains are elected!

I got the chance to get involved in politics after some years moving around with work and was elected to Leeds City Council in 2003. Two years later, I fulfilled the dream and was elected as Member of Parliament for Leeds North West and I found out that I was the first MP ever from St. Ambrose. Damian followed me 5 years later and has since become the first Minister from the school! I remain the first and the foundations for my political career and three winning general elections were laid in the classrooms and common rooms of St. Ambrose! It is great to have three of us and Damian, Paul and I always greet each other and cooperate when we can. I wonder who will be next to follow us?

Damian Hinds Conservative MP for East Hampshire

St. Ambrose is a fantastic school and I am absolutely sure I did not appreciate it enough at the time (1980-87). I suppose that that is inevitable with being at school - but I certainly know now we were very lucky to have the education we did, in that setting and with those great teachers. Of course we all remember the school characters most from Mrs. Handford to Mr. O'Regan. I also especially remember my A-level teachers, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Butler and Mr. Friend. When I decided - more in wild hope than any sort of expectation - that I was going to apply for Oxford, I got great support, particularly from Mr. Fleming. When, unexpectedly, I got there I probably understood for the first time the real quality of my secondary education, though it was probably only afterwards that I fully valued the grounding we had had and the caring atmosphere of the school. Public service and care for others were always part of the ethos, with charitable activity playing an important role alongside the strong sporting emphasis (though I was rubbish at sport).

It was in the nascent St. Ambrose Debating Society that I had my first experience of public speaking, which made me at least a little less nervous the first time I stood up to speak at the Oxford Union. Now, in Parliament, I am proud to sit alongside Greg Mulholland and Paul Maynard. There may not be quite as many Old Ambrosians here as there are Old Etonians but it's certainly a lot more than most schools.

Paul Maynard MP Conservative Blackpool North & Cleveleys

My time at St Ambrose was a very happy one - whether it was captaining the school quiz team in national competition, annoying the teachers with political questions, my long-serving role as a 'librarian' or learning how to debate at the late Mr Crawford's school debating society. If I had to name favourite teachers, it would always be Charlie Crawford who gave me a chance to be creative and learn how to debate and argue in public. But that would be to overlook the many other wonderful characters who shaped my view of the world and the person I have sought to become, some of whom I am still in contact with to this day. It certainly gave me a sense of purpose that we were sent out in the world to do things, and not just be things. For a school originally set up to ensure that the children of the local Catholic community had a chance to get into the professions, St Ambrose has succeeded magnificently. I bet there are few similar schools who can boast three MPs in the current Parliament.

Mr Toal

(Former pupil, professional tenor and now job-sharing Head of Languages)

For me, St Ambrose College has played and continues to play an influential part in my life. Starting at the college as a proud but anxious 11-year-old in 1975, I quickly felt at home and ended up spending seven very happy years here, culminating in me being made Deputy Head Boy. Thanks to the inspiring teaching of French by a young and dynamic Philip Howard, I headed off to Leicester University where I gained a 2:1 degree in French with Italian.

After a few years perfecting my French language in the French Alps, I finally took a PGCE and in 1991, found myself back at the school but this time as a French teacher. I remember the interview very well as it involved the retiring Headmaster Brother Coleman asking me just one question: "I know you can teach French but can you teach some RE too?" Slightly bemused, I replied that of course I could and particularly at a school where I had spent 7 years as a boy. "The job's yours!" proclaimed Brother Coleman, "Welcome back to Ambrose!".

Over the next 13 years, I became the Head of Languages and Head of First Year. It was a time of great change at the college as the school changed from Independent to Grant Maintained, then to Voluntary Aided. It was not an easy time for the school but the overriding memory I have of these years was the incredible sense of community and loyalty that the staff and boys felt to the school. I remember when Ofsted made its first ever inspection of the college, the woman who was charged with inspecting the languages department saying to me as she left the school for the final time before compiling her report: "Off the record, this is the loveliest school I have ever been in!"

In 2004, I left the college to pursue my dream as a full-time professional tenor and the experiences and memories I have from the next 8 years are some that I will treasure for life: singing at Twickenham; singing the national anthem for the Queen and Prince Phillip and subsequently meeting them both; and being invited by the FA to perform the national anthem for the England football team including at a packed Wembley stadium. In all, I have sung the national anthem 5 times for England with the team winning all 5 of these games without conceding a single goal!! As England's Winning Tenor I'm still waiting for the FA to take me to a major tournament!



2011 was a terrible year for me as I lost both my father and grandfather within the space of 8 days. Whilst my singing helped me deal with the sense of loss and emptiness that I felt, it was not a steady or secure profession as the work was very sporadic. However, it was as a result of two 2011 professional singing engagements that St Ambrose College and the teachings of Edmund Rice came unexpectedly back into my life. The first was after singing at a Lord's Taverners event in Guernsey when in the taxi on the way to the airport the driver started telling me a little about the history of island and in particular the school Blanchelande. Realising he was talking about the school from where the Christian Brothers who set up St Ambrose College came, I felt compelled to stop at the school and experience and see with my own eyes the origins of a school that had given me so much in life.



It was, however, in the September of 2011 that I felt a real calling back to St Ambrose. I had been employed as the guest entertainer on a week's Silversea cruise travelling from Southampton to Newfoundland in Canada. On route, the ship docked at Waterford and I decided to take a closer look at the Irish city. Whilst ashore, I saw the sign "Edmund Rice Heritage Centre" and immediately remembered that I was in the city where Edmund had carried out most of his charitable work. I remember walking into the centre and to the chapel where I stayed for quite a time feeling a great sense of comfort and belonging. I knew at that moment that my days as a teacher were not over and less than twelve months later, I was back at the college where I now job share the Head of Languages.

To sum up, St Ambrose College has given me everything that makes me what I am today; the languages that I use both as a teacher and singer, the organisational skills needed to produce musical shows and run trips to France, the sense of loyalty and fairness in everything I do, and the great sense of love of family, which I feel both as a proud parent and teacher at the college. On the day I re-joined the college, former Headmaster Michael Thompson asked me how I felt at being back. I replied that it was like coming home to a family, to the St Ambrose family of which I have now been part of for over 40 years!



Left:
Mr Toal (with Mr Mankarious who has now retired in 2016 after 24 years with the College).

Old Boys - Men of Faith



Old Boy and Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Westbury on Trym & St Antony's Henbury

I arrived at Saint Ambrose in March 1962, having been a pupil at Saint Joseph's College Blackpool. I went into the top of the prep school and so in September 62, I was one of the first pupils in form 1 alpha in what was then the new college. In those days Brother Foley was the Head. In my first term I had the honour of being the captain of the under 12's for their first match. My friend Kieran Moriarty took over after that and lead us for many years.

I left after A levels to study Computer Science (in those days it was cutting edge technology) at Portsmouth Polytechnic where the main frame computer took up a special, air conditioned room about 50 sq metres and had a main memory of 256k.

After leaving the college I kept in touch with some of my year as we went through our student days. However later lived in Bristol and generally lost contact with a number of my old class mates. I hadn't informed College of my ordination to the priesthood back in 1988 but in many ways I lost contact with them over the years. A few years ago I discovered that my 'new school' was soon to become an 'old school' with the opening of the current building so I got in touch and asked if it was possible that I could come to the opening at the new location.

From there a friendship blossomed, as I got the opportunity to meet not only exceptional members of staff, but also some fine pupils who have shown me their great potential. I was also delighted to be invited to 'Speech Night' to see first hand the great wealth of musical talent that is in the school as well as seeing the awards given to current and past pupils.

So over the past few years I have on average attended at least once annually to say Mass for St Ambrose Day or the end of the academic year. It's almost 250 mile round trip but I have always found it a worth while experience. Also through my reading of the Catholic press I am able to keep up-to-date with the continuing success of St Ambrose College. I find it inspirational to see the broad range of success in the academic pastoral and spiritual formation of what I'm sure will prove to be the leaders of industry and Church in the years ahead.

God bless
Mgr Bernard Massey

Bishop Philip Egan VG BA, STL, PhD
Bishop of Portsmouth



Born in Altrincham, Cheshire. Educated at St. Vincent's Primary School and St. Ambrose College, and a graduate of University of London (King's College), he undertook his formation for the priesthood at Allen Hall, London and the Venerable English College, Rome, and was awarded his Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University. Subsequently, he gained a doctorate in theology (PhD) from the University of Birmingham.

He was ordained to the sacred priesthood in August 1984 and served as an Assistant Priest at St. Anthony's, Woodhouse Park (1985-8), before becoming assistant chaplain at Fisher House to the University of Cambridge (1988-91). He was appointed Chaplain to Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral (1991-4) before doing further studies at Boston College, Ma. For twelve years, he was on the formation staff of St. Mary's College, Oscott, the major seminary in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, where he was the College's Dean of Studies and Professor of Fundamental Theology. He returned to Boston College as a post-doctoral research fellow of the Lonergan Institute in 2007, before being appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Christopher's, Romiley, near Stockport in 2008.

In 2010 he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and in 2011 a Prelate of Honour to his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and in 2012 a Canon of Shrewsbury Cathedral. Bishop Philip is frequently asked to speak at theological symposia and at catechetical gatherings and he has regularly contributed to religious journals and magazines. He has written about the thought of Newman and Lonergan and recently published *Philosophy and Catholic Theology: A Primer* (Collegeville, 2009).

Gratefully building on the pastoral work of Bishop Crispian and fellow clergy he humbly asks for your prayers as he receives this call from the Holy Father to serve as Bishop.

Old Boy Mgr Philip Whitmore
(Monsignor and Rector of the English College in Rome)



Old Boy Fr Simon O'Connor
Parish Priest of St Joseph's Church, Winsford

Old Boy Fr Anthony McGrath
Assistant Priest at Our Lady and St Christopher's Church, Romiley
Fr Anthony McGrath was ordained to the Priesthood on 19th July 2014 at his home parish of St Josephs, Sale. Fr Tony completed 7 years of formation at the English college in Rome, and his first appointment in the Shrewsbury Diocese is with Our Lady & St Christopher's.





Annual Commemoration of Remembrance Day

Matthew Arthur Vice Principal of St. Ambrose College said: "The service is particularly important for today's young men as they remember those who were little more than boys themselves who lost their lives in a barbaric conflict. It is up to the older generation to ensure we minimise bloodshed but stand firm against those who would do us harm."

Reverend Roger Clark of All Saints Church said: "One of the very special things about Hale Barns is how we celebrate our diversity on common ground and can come together for a single service of remembrance."

Rabbi Amir Elituv said the fellowship seen in Hale Barns was a fitting example for the nation: "This Act of Remembrance has great inspiration for the wider country, showing how communities can live in harmony and peace understanding each person's individual identity but moulded together as a country through the worship." Councillor Bernard Sharp, Governor of St Ambrose College, "I remain incredibly proud of this ward especially when I see so many faiths come together and have full respect for one another." Nasser Kurdy, who was representing the Muslim community, added: "It is very important to remember the sacrifice of those who have gave their loves, because we are enjoying what they created for us today." Bill Firth Vice President Royal Society of St. George "I am so delighted to see so many English people representing so many different attitudes and faith. It gets better every year. England is a multi faith country and very much one community."



Old Boy Michael McDonagh remembers his Brother Antony (also an old boy) who sadly passed away in 2012

Dr. Anthony Francis McDonagh PhD (aged 74)
Born September 30, 1938 in Manchester England.
Died October 22, 2012 in San Francisco.
May he Rest in Peace

Loving brother of Patricia McDonagh. Bernadette McDonagh and Michael McDonagh and several nieces, cousins and their children.

Michael was astonished when he heard that his brother who died unexpectedly was a genius who harnessed the rainbow to extract the blue light and as a result of his scientific discoveries between 14 and 20 million new born babies are saved each year from brain damage or death.

Tony who had lived in San Francisco since 1971 was Adjunct Professor Emeritus Gastroenterology at the Medical Centre of the University of California, where, through his extensive research into cancer phototherapy and jaundice in infants he was considered to be the world authority in this complex field. Through his work and pioneering discoveries the health and wellbeing of hundreds and thousands of new-born jaundiced babies has been enhanced.

On Saturday October 20th two days before his sad death he flew to New Orleans from a recent trip to England and was honoured to receive the National Landmark Award in recognition of significant contribution to Neonatal Medicine, the gift of the American Academy of Paediatrics'.

One senior professor said his loss to medical research is irreplaceable. He will be truly missed.

He was also known in San Francisco for his enthusiasm for running marathons and joining numerous "fun runs" in the city and other places in America. He was an accomplished 'boogie' pianist and enjoyed attending many of the music venues in the city and he was also a much liked friend and neighbour in the area of Crown Heights.

Friends and family attended a requiem mass at St Brendan's Catholic Church 29 Rockaway Avenue San Francisco at 11am on Wednesday Nov. 7th, from there his remains flown to London for a memorial at St Etheldreda's 14 Ely Place, Holborn at 11 am on Thursday Nov 15th (his father's birthday). He was laid to rest the following day with his beloved parents at Dunham Lawn Cemetery, Cheshire following a committal mass at St Vincent's Altrincham, Cheshire.



Ambrosian for Life Gone but Not forgotten



*Mr. B. Quinn with pipe,
Senior Master and English teacher
in conversation with George Wilcox
and Peter Woods.*



Brother D C Phelan became Headmaster from 1954 until 1958 (died in 1972) was a very popular man with the parents. He made a significant appointment in 1958, when he persuaded Mr B P (Barney) Quinn to join the teaching staff in 1958. Previously at North Cestrian Grammar School, Mr Quinn played an important role in the development of St Ambrose College.

Requiem Mass for
Bernard Patrick
"Barney"
Quinn

1916 – 2014

R.I.P Sheila Ball (Dec'd) 2014



Sheila was at the College for over 25 years and worked as Bursar, Admissions Secretary, School Secretary and Head Master's Secretary at various times.

Sheila was held in high regard by all at St Ambrose College. Sheila was very dependable and a lady of integrity. She was a prodigious worker and would do anything for the school.

She always did everything so cheerfully and maintained her sense of humour. Both Eric Hester and Mr Thompson valued, not just all the work she did but also her advice, since she had a great deal of that most uncommon quality, common sense!

To all of our Old Boys and Staff Members
who have gone before us

Eternal Rest
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen



R.I.P Mr Ged Stone (Dec'd) Head of Physics and Parent of St Ambrose College.

St Ambrose Parents' Association

Message from Mrs Alford, Retired Chair

The St Ambrose Parents Association (known as SAPA) was formed one year after the school opened and throughout the years very many parents from the school community have helped SAPA raise in excess of one million pounds. To this day, we are fortunate to have such a supportive parent body who willingly donated their time to either run functions or to support the large programme of events that SAPA devise to raise funds. These funds are then distributed on an annual basis to the Principal and Headmaster to be used to benefit all boys in both the College and Preparatory School. The money raised over the years have enabled the purchase of many items, from musical instruments to minibuses. Our more recent purchases included flooring for the College gym so that it can be used for exams and functions, cricket nets for the College, play equipment for the Prep playgrounds and sufficient funds to build the new swimming pool in the College.

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the committee members past and present who have supported SAPA during its many years. The great thing about SAPA is that many of our helpers stay with us as their family passes through both schools so there are always familiar faces at functions. Sometimes we see helpers return as their grandchildren take their place in school. So far we believe the longest serving SAPA member was Samantha Hall who left the committee last year after an amazing 18 years of service. Many previous committee members can be found still attending meetings and helping at events even when they have no boys left in school. Retiring committee members are made honorary members of the committee and are always welcome to attend meetings and functions whenever they wish. Our Honorary Members are Sam Hall, Liz Keeling, Julie Hindmarsh, Tony Webster, Peter O'Connor, Andy Egan and Chris Hutchinson. Honorary Vice Presidents are Mike Hetherington, Margaret Kerr (College Governor), Mike Foley and Giovanna Centeleghe (dec'd). Thank you to Trish Collantine (former Chair) in post for the previous academic year and also Elaine Cannon the Secretary and Dave Godsmark the Treasurer who have given a stalwart service over a number of years. Welcome to our new Chair Will Bonning and Deputy Chair Joanne McEntee. We are always pleased to see a new face or two amongst the regular helpers and welcomed a number of new parents at September's meeting. As the saying goes "many hands make light work" and we welcome everyone's contribution no matter how big or small. Imagine what can be achieved if every family in the school takes a turn at helping or supporting events. We thank you for your support and look forward to some new helpers. SAPA also would like to say thank you to the Principal, Headmaster, parents, staff and all our boys for their cooperation and support. Their ever welcoming smiles and willingness to help at our events throughout the year ensures that SAPA events are such a success. Without their continuing support, events would definitely not run so smoothly.

Our programme of events is published within the school calendar and also on the SAPA website. The usual autumn Car Boot Sale will actually now be held next Spring. This time being ably organised by Will Bonning. Our Annual Ball has proved a successful addition to the diary producing valuable funds and a social atmosphere and networking opportunity for our parents. Once again Annette Glynn and the Top Table team did a fantastic job last summer providing excellent service and superb food as we celebrated the college's 70th Anniversary with a Ball. The Christmas Fair continues to be a popular event. Temporarily relocated to the Prep School Hall whilst the college was unavailable it has now resumed in the College allowing more stalls and space for patrons. The college music department provide a varied programme of entertainment and boys are involved in running house stalls. The 'special' role at the Christmas fair has a vacancy, so please get in touch if you are willing and available on 27 November.

Our Fashion Show is very well attended, especially by the ladies, and is brilliantly organised by Elaine Cannon. It is an excellent addition to the SAPA programme and the next one is due to take place in February 2017. Second hand uniforms sales have always been popular, providing good quality uniform at reasonable prices. If you have any items your boys have grown out of these may be left at the school office.

We marked the end of Mr Thompson's tenure as Headmaster (2000 - 2015) by the planting of an oak tree at the end of the summer term in 2015. The English Oak is flourishing at the edge of the rugby pitch and playground where it will provide shade for future generations of Ambrosians. We were able to gather a number of SAPA members, as well as past, present and future chairs, The Chair and Vice Chair of the College Governors to the formal planting.

It has been a pleasure being involved with SAPA for the last 10 years and as Chair for 3 of them. I have made many friends and worked with some wonderful people. I look forward to watching the continuing success of the SAPA team in the future.

Sam Alford



Speech Night - Celebrating Achievements



John Bercow MP
Speaker of the House of Commons



Mr Warren J Smith
Her Majesty the Queen's representative
Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester



Dr J Whitehead (old boy)
Head Master Downside School, Bath



Inter-Faith Community Relations



Above: Dominic Butler, Helen Roberts (Baptist community), Father Cogliolo (Catholic parish priest of St Teresa's Wilmslow and St Ambrose school chaplain), Clair Jaquiss (Assistant Priest for the All Saints Anglican Church, Hale Barns), Saduf Chaudhri (from the Muslim community), Rabbi Dovid Lewis (Rabbi for South Manchester Synagogue), Brother Andrew Rock (Christian Brother), Thomas Butler.

March 2016

St. Ambrose College head boys and identical twins Dominic and Thomas Butler staged their second multi-faith conference to bring together the religious community, showing the younger generation "we have so much more in common than divides us."

Mr Azzopardi retires

Guest Speaker at this Year's Old Boys' Dinner

St. Ambrose College bid a fond farewell to their immensely popular, veteran teacher Mr Frank Azzopardi who though nearly 70-years of age, says the secret has always been 'to be young at heart.' Born and educated in Gibraltar at the Sacred Heart Grammar School, a Christian Brothers school, Mr Azzopardi trained with the Royal Navy as an electrical technician, before being sent to the Chatham Training Base in Kent and ultimately studying Physics at London South Bank University.

He taught in Kent, back home in Gibraltar for nine years, then Liverpool before joining the Catholic grammar school in Hale Barns 31 years ago. A brilliant teacher, he was Head of Year and published a seminal A Level Physics text book, 'Accessible Physics', which has been a teacher's reference book for two decades and is still used worldwide.

Mr Azzopardi said: "What I have really loved about St. Ambrose and why I have stayed so long is the attitude of the boys. One of the qualities of St Ambrose pupils which has always impressed me, is their caring behaviour towards each other. The stronger, more able, more confident boys look after the more vulnerable and I think that really is a product of the Catholic Christian ethos. The staff have been simply wonderful, kind, compassionate, professional people and it's been a privilege to be part of such a team."

St Ambrose College Principal Mr Keulemans said: "Frank is the archetypal senior professional and has been a much respected and valued member of our school. So many teachers, especially newcomers, gravitated towards him to pick his brains, and ask for advice and guidance and he will be greatly missed."

S Carter Press Release July 2016



Edmund Rice Ministries

The charism of Blessed Edmund Rice is alive and well at St Ambrose College and is manifested in the many different Edmund Rice 'ministries' that many of the students and staff of the College are involved with. The following is a brief overview of all of these ministries.

Edmund Rice International

'Edmund Rice International' is an NGO within the United Nations in Geneva that lobbies governments and international agencies on issues of justice and human rights. The NGO was established in 2008 and has a number of success stories in recent times including persuading the country of St Lucia to adapt its criminal justice system to more fully respect the unique God-given dignity of each individual. There are seven Edmund Rice secondary schools in England and each school has an 'Edmund Rice International Group' (often abbreviated simply to 'ERI') open to all Sixth Form students and led by a Senior Teacher. These groups support the current campaigns co-ordinated in Geneva and provide opportunities for Sixth Formers to be 'doers for justice' and agents of change. Two members of the ERI group are annually elected as 'Youth Ambassadors' and travel to Geneva each January, along with all other Edmund Rice secondary schools' Youth Ambassadors and Lead Teachers, to have a first-hand experience of the work that is undertaken by ERI at the UN. On returning to school the Youth Ambassadors disseminate their experiences to the rest of their ERI group as well as begin work with younger students to further the work in Advocacy and Human Rights that is being done. Led by Mr Krause, last year the ERI Group at St Ambrose College accomplished the following:

- Written to MPs and Bishops to raise the issue of persecution of Christians in Syria
- Worked with St Ambrose Prep School in collecting clothing for Asylum Seekers
- Arranged for Mike Kane, a Catholic, Labour MP to visit the College
- Coordinated a food collection for the Wythenshawe Food Bank Hub
- Engaged in the ERI & Caritas letter writing campaign for children born with HIV
- Studied an 'Advocacy' course delivered by the ER Youth Development Coordinator
- Arranged for a First Class Relic of Blessed Edmund Rice to be fitted in the Chapel
- Regularly sent a student to work with Miss Water's Edmund Rice Group at the Prep
- Helped with an appeal for Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School in Partington

Edmund Rice Awards Scheme

The Edmund Rice Awards Scheme was established in 1994 in Ireland in order to encourage young people to respond to the needs of their local community in the spirit of Edmund Rice. The scheme, led by Mr Krause, encourages students to deliver a valuable service to their community, and expose them to the realities of social injustice and marginalisation. It provides a rare opportunity for young people to make a significant difference to the lives of local community members. The scheme involves reflection sessions to be conducted in school and provides the opportunity for the students to assess their own voluntary work. Such sessions are also aimed at educating students about the life and work of Edmund Rice. Voluntary work may be undertaken individually or in groups; all that is asked is that students conduct at least 20 hours of voluntary service over the course of the year. They are then awarded a certificate at the Annual Speech Night.

As Ofsted said during a previous inspection:

"Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. The school has a positive, caring ethos which fosters respect for others. The boys develop a rich understanding of other faiths and communities, and a sense of social justice, through a range of activities, such as voluntary work with vulnerable groups in local communities and extensive fundraising".



Edmund Rice @ Revive

There are seven Edmund Rice secondary schools in England and each school's Sixth Form works closely with the marginalised of their local communities. St Ambrose College is no different; the 'Revive' group, led by Mr Roche, has been working with 'Revive' in Salford for the last five years in helping Asylum Seekers who use the centre. Every Wednesday afternoon students from St Ambrose College travel to 'Revive' to teach English language skills and British values to the users of the centre. Our group also helps annually with clothing and food collections for the centre. Helping each Wednesday at 'Revive' qualifies you as a Sixth Former for the 'Edmund Rice Awards' scheme. Mr Roche takes the students to 'Revive' every Wednesday lunchtime for the entire afternoon.





Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

Since 1802, when the first school began in Waterford, Ireland, Edmund Rice education has grown in over 20 countries. Across the world, over 170,000 students are educated in Edmund Rice schools. Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB) is an international network of Catholic schools educating young people from many different faiths and cultures. In over 20 countries we endeavour to promote global solidarity and offer a transformational education for justice and liberation. EREBB was inaugurated in May 2014 when leaders representing Edmund Rice Education gathered in Kenya to establish an inclusive international network of Edmund Rice educational communities. The teacher who leads EREBB at St Ambrose College is Mr O'Neill. As a follow up to the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders conference for Lead Schools (St Ambrose College is a 'Lead School' in the EREBB network) in South Africa in October 2015 Lead Teachers from the Lead Schools in the European Province met in Dublin on the 21st and 22nd January 2016. Seventeen schools together with representatives from the Edmund Rice Office came together with the aim of reflecting on the six 'Lead School Priorities'. There was another gathering in Dublin in May 2016 for which each current Lead School extended a personal invitation to one or two other schools with whom they would like to develop a relationship in order to extend the scope of the initiative. This then led onto an EREBB Congress in Kolkata, India, in October 2016, attended by Miss McCrory. EREBB is a great opportunity for St Ambrose College students and staff to look beyond the school gates and realise that they are part of a huge global network of Edmund Rice schools.

Edmund Rice Immersion Programme

The Developing World Immersion Programme is an initiative of the Christian Brothers that encourages schools in the Edmund Rice Network in Europe to connect with Christian Brother communities and projects in the Developing World. A Student Immersion experience is not designed to be a 'poverty relief mission'. Of course, it is true that potential destinations will have great economic and social need, but to expect a small group of inexperienced 6th Formers to change the world in 2 weeks is clearly unrealistic. The true purpose of Immersion is "not to change Africa, but to let Africa change you" Students and their schools are encouraged to examine their places within the global community, and to look within themselves in an attempt to make sense of their emotional and spiritual selves. Practically, an immersion experience is intended to fully expose candidates to the social and cultural realities of another continent. The emphasis is on experiencing diverse aspects of the community in which they are 'immersed', including work, domestic life, education, social outreach, poverty, recreation and religion.

Our last Immersion Trip was to Sierra Leone, in November 2011; Mr O'Neill is currently in the process of planning for the next trip.



Edmund Rice Development

'Edmund Rice Development' is a development organisation based in Dublin inspired by the life and vision of Edmund Rice. ERD works with people living in the world's poorest communities and aims to transform their lives for the better. Inspired by the vision and legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice, Edmund Rice Development is today working with people living in poverty in India, Bolivia, Peru, the Philippines and nine countries across Africa. ERD seeks to tackle the root causes of poverty and oppression through informal education programmes and schools, human rights and advocacy initiatives, HIV and AIDS programmes, and income generation and livelihoods projects. ERD is well supported by all twelve Edmund Rice schools in England; in January 2016 St Edward's College gave a fantastic £25,000 to ERD.

Because of funds donated to them by us, the community of St Ambrose College, ERD has recently been able to build a wonderful new extension at St Ambrose Academy in Sierra Leone. St Ambrose Academy is our 'sister school' in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The best thing about ERD is that a minimum of 90% of donations to ERD goes directly to the projects in the field with the remainder used to contribute to administration, governance and fundraising costs. In this age of seemingly endless cold-calling from charities and understandable public suspicion as to the destination of charity donations, it is important to recognise that ERD uses only the bare minimum of donations on admin. ERD are absolutely committed to using donations that they receive to work with people in the world's poorest communities to transform their lives and so at St Ambrose College we are always looking for ways to donate to ERD and help them continue their good work.

Examples of help that we have given to ERD:

- We donate the money raised by pupils and staff from the Annual Sponsored Walk to ERD which goes towards running costs at St Ambrose Academy in Sierra Leone and to providing clean water for their students.
- Regular cake sales at lunchtimes to raise money for ERD.
- Our resident Chef, Mrs Alford, and her son Ken, coordinated the delivery of gifts for orphaned children at St Ambrose Academy in Sierra Leone at Christmas 2015.

Aquinas House

St Thomas Aquinas is seen the founder of modern Catholic theology. A man who rejected a career in the military in order to study God and live a monastic life, he spent many of his years philosophising over the universe, God, and the very nature of human life. This was contained within his masterpiece 'Summa Theologica,' a work so great that the church described it as a miracle during his canonisation. This work, which set arguments in favour of the existence of God (known as the Cosmological and Teleological Arguments) and the idea of a Natural Moral Ethical Law existing within the universe, remains unfinished. Despite this, as any of our A-Level Philosophers will tell you, his work is challenging yet incredibly fascinating. His writings have continued to influence and spark debate, even in this modern age we live in. Recently, former Pope Benedict XVI said that the Dominican Order, 'acquired new lustre when the Church declared the teaching of Thomas to be her own and that Doctor, honoured with the special praises of the Pontiffs, the master and patron of Catholic schools.'

Since 2010, Dunham house (commonly known as blue house) has been named Aquinas House in honour of the great man. This means that the key principle of the house is to not only to promote generosity, kindness, and excellence in line with the examples of Blessed Edmund Rice and St Ambrose, but to promote intellectual curiosity and thought. These are things which Aquinas had in abundance and we take his inquisitiveness as inspiration in our studies, whether it be in his own areas of philosophical or political thought, or in any other subject or activity one takes part in.

We have had many a great student wear the coveted blue badge of Aquinas, with a vast array of successes seen in all sorts of areas of life. 'Aquinians' (or Thomites as the followers of Aquinas were known) have excelled in martial arts, public speaking, and on the rugby pitch to name but a few of a whole host of triumphs.

Our weekly assemblies and 'Wednesday Words' in particular, provide thought provoking topics and spark great intellectual debate, even in the lower years. Aquinas house encourages discussion of topical issues even in the lower years and it is astounding to witness some of the poignant points raised in these debates.

The House System also aims to provide a cohesive school environment for all. Put simply, year groups are mixed into 'forms' to encourage communication from all ages. As well as sitting with their allocated form groups, Aquinas Sixth Formers visit their Form group once a week to present the Bible reading from the previous Sunday and a topic presentation and discussion. Students are elected as Form Captains and their role is to represent their forms in Monthly meetings with our elected House Captain (a Sixth Former) and the Head of House. These meetings discuss issues the students are having, as well as potential suggestions for improvements or new initiatives.

The idea of all this is to give students a means to communicate their troubles and feel represented and listened to. The Form Tutors are always on hand to provide pastoral care to students who need guidance or support in the school life. Aquinas house, and indeed any house within St Ambrose, place the needs of students at the heart of what they do, and aim to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for those within. For all our knowledge and drive, Aquinas said that, 'There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.' Promoting morality and kindness goes hand in hand with attaining personal greatness.

P Rush - Aquinas House Leader

Augustine House

The House system in its present format was introduced into St Ambrose in 2010. Careful thought was given as to the exact nature of the vertically integrated Tutor Groups and the final decision has proved to be highly successful. First and Second year boys integrate well and the system allows the newcomers to have a 'buddy' from an older year who can help overcome any transitions from Primary School.

Third, Fourth and Fifth year students are also combined effectively with sufficient numbers of each year group (six or seven) to allow existing friendships to be maintained and simultaneously develop a wider circle of companions. The Sixth Form retain a link with previous Tutor Groups by delivering a 'Wednesday Word' once a week and by sitting with their lower school groups in the House Assemblies.

I must admit that initially I was upset that the old House names, Ashley (Red), Dunham (Blue), Stamford (Green) and Tatton (Yellow) were to be replaced, as being an historian, I have an affinity with links to the past. I am sure that many of our older Ambrosians would perhaps agree as they might also with the demise of the names of the academic groups: M (Sir Thomas More), G (Gregory the Great), F (Francis of Assisi), R (Blessed Edmund Rice) and J (St Joseph) being replaced by the more mundane A,B,C,D,E,F. Nevertheless with the new School build and a new House System in place, it is up to the current Ambrosians to create a rich history and sense of tradition for future generations to follow.

During my own education I had always been a member of the Green fraternities and so I chose to become House Leader of Augustine House when asked to continue in a Pastoral leadership role at the college. As the more learned amongst you may realise, Augustine serves to provide the boys with a fine example to follow. Many students of the 21st Century have a wide range of distractions to contend with when pursuing academic and spiritual excellence. In Augustine's own early life he was somewhat distracted with attractions of self-interest and fame with perhaps an inclination towards pride in his own cleverness. A brilliant scholar, particularly adept in his use of eloquent language to manipulate audiences, he moved from Carthage to Rome before arriving in Milan. Here St Ambrose had a key influence on Augustine and he soon turned to Christianity and was indeed baptised by Ambrose in 386AD. On returning to his native Africa, he both preached and wrote extensively using his influence to convert many into the Christian faith. I feel sure that many young Augustinians at St Ambrose will go on similarly to embody intellectual acumen, alongside a deep sense of moral leadership as they progress into positions of influence in society.

The boys of Augustine House have shown great resourcefulness in the first five years of the House System. They have been House Champions on three occasions, always giving of their best in the various extra-curricular competitions on offer at the college. Augustine, for example, have been victorious in the staff/pupil 'University Challenge' style quiz; are consistently high achievers in the Geography Society quizzes and perform with fine ability across the wide range of sporting competitions. Individually Tom Higham deserves credit for his outstanding 6-32 against the MCC in 2014, whilst Alex Eaton and Tim Jeffers both represented England Under 18s at rugby. Sam Hindmarch gained a place at Cambridge to read Computer Studies and Tom Hutchinson was an approachable and effective Head Boy.

Augustine House have consistently raised thousands of pounds each year for a diverse range of charities and the boys are truly conscious of their responsibilities in a world that remains deeply troubled. I have been pleased that Augustinians have pride in their appearance and a courtesy towards each member of the community. On the whole they seem to be proud to be Augustinians and as one pupil commented to me on leaving the college, "Cut me and I will bleed green". Such devotion to a cause is something to which we all aspire in these challenging times.

C Aspinwall - Augustine House Leader

Ignatius House

St Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish Knight from a local Basque Noble Family, hermit, priest since 1537, and theologian, who found the Society of Jesus and, on 19 April 1541, became its first Superior General. Ignatius emerged as a Religious Leader during the Counter Reformation. Loyola's devotion to the Catholic Church was characterised by an absolute obedience to the Pope.

Ignatian Ethos

Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), founder of the Society of Jesus (also known as the Jesuits) and College Patron, lived a life of Giving Glory to God through prayer and service to others. Our house ethos is based on the Ignatian tradition. Inspired by the spiritual and educational philosophy of Saint Ignatius our house seeks excellence in the fourfold dynamic of Catholic, Care, Curriculum and Co-Curriculum, developing articulate, adaptable, discerning and confident graduates of conscience committed to living the values of Jesus Christ in a global community. Distinctive characteristics of the Ignatian tradition include: commitment to a faith that does justice. Awareness of needs of others and readiness to place one's talents at their service. Personal concern for the whole person (*cura personalis*)

Pastoral Care

Our student wellbeing policies, structures and programs, assist in the creation of an environment in which young people feel connected to school life and come to acknowledge, reflect on and understand the value of being men of competence, conscience and compassion. A vertical form management process is in place, recognising the rights and responsibilities of all in the house community. This structure is underpinned by the excellent form tutors coupled with the philosophy of St Ignatius which embraces a discipline that encompasses clear expectations, limits and consequences, responsibility and accountability for one's actions, as well as a high degree of support and nurturing. It is based on the belief that when relationships are harmed we must work with all involved to restore the relationships. We view quality relationships as pivotal to good teaching and learning, and that the relationship between the teacher, student and parent is paramount to positive change.

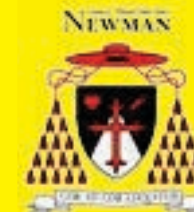
Student Wellbeing

The bedrock of Ignatius House is developing the unique potential of each student, and in doing so, supporting students' growth spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically. This is clearly seen in our house badge "The two wolves eating at a cauldron are taken from the heraldic crest carved in the lintel on Saint Ignatius' family home in Loyola, Spain. The imagery refers to the prosperity and hospitality of the Loyola family who, after feeding family, retainers and soldiers, had food enough to feed the animals. with the vertical Mentor groupings and our programs, support and enhance our commitment to student wellbeing."

Fostering positive relationships is pivotal to our philosophy, underpinning all that we do in ensuring that all students feel connected to school life.

J Cutting - Head of Newman House

Newman House



Whilst most of us realise that in the 1940s St Ambrose College was named as a thank you to Bishop Ambrose Moriarty for his support in the formation of the College, many people will be unaware that we were almost called "Newman College". The Newman name however was felt to have delusions of grandeurs and was deemed unsuitable by the Brothers in charge at that time!

I started at St Ambrose College in 2003 and have been at times amazed by the transformations that have taken place, not least the physical change of the building. There are no longer any Christian Brothers working here and I have seen many faces come and go. In 2010, after a number of years as Head of Year 10 & Year 11, I was interested to hear that we would be establishing a 'House Structure' and that my role would be changing somewhat. Former member of staff Mr McGrath, Assistant Head at the time, worked tirelessly in bringing this House Structure in and for this I am grateful. In July 2010 I was asked by Mr McGrath, "Mr Krause, which House would you like to be in charge of?". After careful consideration I chose Newman House, named in honour of Cardinal John Henry Newman: a man of deep spirituality, good humour, intellect, and who knew that the price of success was hard work. And so at the start of the 2010/2011 academic year the House Structure was brought in; pleasingly my House's patron, Cardinal John Henry Newman, was beatified and declared 'Blessed John Henry Newman' in October 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI upon his historic visit to England. That particular academic year was particularly successful for Newman House; in summer 2011 we won the inaugural 'House Prize' for attaining the most House Points in the school. Surprisingly, Mr Thompson agreed to my request for permission to reward Newman House for their success with a trip to Altrincham Cinema to watch 'Bad Teacher' (only for the older boys, of course) and 'The Green Lantern'. What followed was an extraordinary week of shuttling Newman boys and staff back and forth to Altrincham Cinema and eating popcorn by the bucket load.

Here we are in 2016 and celebrating the 70th Anniversary of St Ambrose College. It has been an absolute pleasure being in charge of Newman House; whilst we have not topped the House Points table since 2011 (perhaps my account of the cinema prize year will serve to spur on the Newmanites to strive for this lofty achievement) we are consistently in second place whilst also regularly being the Best Behaved House, with the least disciplinary infractions. If I had to sum up what is so nice about Newman House, I would say it is that the House exhibits the characteristics of Blessed John Henry Newman that I mentioned: deep spirituality, good humour, intellect, and a strong work ethic. The House is truly a collection of wonderful individuals and we have developed quite the tradition of Newmanites heading to Oxford or Cambridge; our latest Oxbridge success is Josh Travers, former Newman House Vice-Captain. Members of Newman House seem to learn from their mistakes and seem keen to work on all aspects of their characters. As my predecessor, the fabled Don Hibbert, former Master of the St Ambrose College Woodwork Department often would famously put it, "There are no mistakes, only readjustments". Fundraising is an area that the Newmanites are excellent at too and I gained a lot of advice from Mrs Davies, sadly retired now, on the coordination of fundraising efforts at St Ambrose College.

Our new Principal, Mr Keulemans, has brought energy, spirituality, knowledge, and experience to St Ambrose College and I feel that each House in the school, especially Newman House, has benefitted from his overarching vision of 'Compassion, Evangelisation, Excellence' and desire for high standards in all areas of College life. I will conclude with a poignant quote of Blessed John Henry Newman: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about." Through the intercession of Blessed John Henry Newman may God continue to bestow many blessings upon Newman House and indeed the entire St Ambrose College community.

D J Krause - Head of Newman House

Blainville

The trip that happens every year!

Annual 1st Year St Ambrose trip to Normandy, France

For more than 20 years, the Languages Faculty has organised a summer term trip to Normandy exclusively for the 1st Year boys of St Ambrose. Up to 160 boys accompanied by 16 members of staff stay at "Le Senequet" holiday village in Blainville-sur-mer which offers a good standard of accommodation and facilities, and is well located for the excursions across Normandy. Above all, the centre is a safe and secure environment for the boys.

During the stay, the boys and staff visit the Bayeux tapestry, the Memorial War Museum in Caen as well as the famous Mont St Michel on the Normandy/Brittany border. Whilst the Memorial Museum in Caen teaches the boys about the causes and consequences of the 2nd World War, the Bayeux Tapestry allows them to see for their own eyes the famous tapestry which recounts the conflict between William the Conqueror and King Harold, thus consolidating a period of History that they study in class in the First Year.

As well as visiting key tourist sites in the region, the boys enjoy the facilities at the holiday centre and, weather permitting, a visit to the local beach. It is hoped, of course, that they also take advantage of where they are to practise the French that they have learned during the year!

Finally, the boys are required to complete a project of their visit to the region and following the trip, a Cheese and Wine evening is organised at the College for the parents and boys (soft drinks for the boys!) during which a DVD of the trip is shown and prizes are awarded to the boys who have produced the best projects. Each boy is also given the option to purchase a copy of the souvenir DVD. Educational, cultural, linguistic, and pastoral, the 1st Year St Ambrose trip to Normandy continues to give every 1st Year the opportunity to visit France and experience its rich language and culture at first hand in a safe and organised environment, and is an ideal way to celebrate completing their first year at the College with their fellow 1st Years and members of staff who have taught them. With 175 boys in the current 1st year, the 2017 trip promises to be the biggest one to date ... Vive la France!!



Lourdes

The annual old boys Lourdes's pilgrimage celebrates 30 years this year and continues to attract ambrosians, old and new every year.

The pilgrimage is led by former old boys Alistair Mc George and Michael Reeves. They have been attending Lourdes for the past 9 years and have led the pilgrimage for the past two years. They continue to invite sixth form boys every summer to join the pilgrimage and there is a large uptake every year. The past few years have been very successful, with many of the more recent old boys attending their third pilgrimage this year, and therefore becoming part of the Lourdes Hospitality.

The Ambrose group are well known for their hard work and commitment on pilgrimage, particularly in assisting the elderly and disabled within the diocese of Shrewsbury. Many of the volunteers within the sixth form have went on to apply for roles in medicine as a result of their experience in Lourdes. We hope that the pilgrimage will continue to be successful in future years and are very much looking forward to the 30th anniversary celebrations in the upcoming pilgrimage which runs from 27th July to 4th august 2017.



Drama Productions

The annual college production has always united the Ambrosian community. The excitement and buzz of the forthcoming 'show week' resonates around school, bridging all subjects and year groups. The performances are an opportunity for all to be involved, whether it's in front of the bright lights on the stage itself, or as part of the huge backstage team operating all the lighting and technical equipment needed for shows of such magnitude.

The confidence and team-skills learnt through this process are invaluable for college life and beyond. The creative and innovative thinking required for all areas of the performance makes the experience thoroughly challenging but whole-heartedly rewarding. Finally, the memories of adrenaline and relief when the final curtain closes are ones that stay with our Ambrosians all their lives; cherished and fondly retold.

For us, we nostalgically remember some of the college's most recent performances. Beginning with a visionary feast in 2010, when the Drama and Music Societies performed 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat', featuring a very young Nicholas Gartland, stunning the audience with his powerful singing voice as the eponymous lead of this well-known and loved family musical.

In 2011 the hall in the old building became a Speakeasy in 1920s New York, as Loreto Grammar School joined us to perform the smash hit stage version of Bugsy Malone. The hilarious Joe Pedan and Darragh Cowley performed as Fat Sam and Bugsy Malone, opposite Ella Embleton as Bugsy's old flame, Tallulah and Rose Byrne as the sweet Blousey Brown.

Before a final move from the old college building, the stage became the scene of a shipwreck as Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' was performed in 2012. Jonah Rzeskiewicz, Kieran McNally, Finlay Eaton, Nicholas Gartland and Dylan Burgess were amongst the large cast who enthralled audiences with the humour of Shakespeare's classic tale of magic and revenge.

The opening production in the brand new college building was 'Wonderland' in summer 2013. This was a version of Lewis Carroll's fantasy tale 'Alice in Wonderland' performed in the new amphitheatre space in the central atrium of the college. The magic and absurd humour entranced the college taking over the huge central space and transforming it into a delightful woodland tea party where poor Alistair (Jonathon Connelly) tries to comprehend the confusing stories of the Mad Hatter (Jonah Rzeskiewicz), the March Hare (Alex Mackenzie) and the ever late White Rabbit (Rory Devereux). Whilst surviving the unpredictable wrath of Rory Boyle and Myles O'Driscoll as the hilarious, but deadly, King and Queen of Hearts!



In November 2014 the central atrium was transformed once again, but this time into the Dickensian streets of London for our production of 'Oliver'. The story of the poor orphan boy was brought to life through the fantastic performances of Patrick Waldron as Oliver, Sean Gallagher Gill as Mr Bumble, Jonah Rzeskiewicz as the elderly antagonist Fagan and the hilarious Michael O'Brien as the loveable rogue, the Artful Dodger.

Most recently, the college became an uninhabited island for William Golding's dark and powerful 'Lord of the Flies' in January 2016. James Mackenzie, Sean Gallagher Gill and Daniel Peach expertly staged the awkward Piggy, the confident but overthrown Ralph and the sadistic and frightening Jack. The allegory was a creative and explosive version of the battle of good versus evil. Huge scale projections across three zones of the space transformed the atrium into the near future, to the island where the boys were left stranded following a terrorist attack on their plane.

This academic year, we have started creating another inventive, challenging and most importantly, enjoyable production, with our forthcoming show 'The Hunting of the Snark'. This play is based on Lewis Carroll's poem of the same name, and takes the comical crew on a journey to seek the mysterious creature, the Snark. Aimed at primary school children and their families, this witty and absurd piece will be staged on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 January 2017 at 6pm. There will be a special free performance of our dress rehearsal for primary schools on Tuesday 24 January at 4pm. Tickets can be purchased on the door or via ParentMail. Adults £7.00 and Concessions £4.00.



Above: The Tempest and Bugsy Malone



Sponsored Walk

Annual fundraiser for St Ambrose Academy Sierre Leone

Reward Trip



Our annual sponsored walk takes place July each year. This is an important event in the life of our College, because it reminds us of our place in the global family of Edmund Rice schools. The main purpose of our endeavour is to raise funds to assist our sister school, St. Ambrose Academy, in Sierra Leone.

Recent years have not been easy for St. Ambrose Academy. The outbreak of Ebola caused the closure of the school for much of the last academic year. Thankfully, none of the students lost their lives to the virus, although 10 female students lost both their parents. Owing to the generosity of the College community, we were able to raise sufficient funds to ensure that the girls' annual school fees were paid, and that they had uniform and the necessary equipment for their studies. We have undertaken to provide such support as is needed to keep the girls in education until the time that they reach the school leaving age. This year we have been asked to fund the construction of a bore-hole to provide drinking water for the children of St. Ambrose Academy. Currently, drinking water needs to be purchased in bottles, which places considerable burden on limited school finances. Undertaking to fund the drilling of the borehole is a significant commitment. Although the management of the project is still at an initial stage, it will cost around £21,000.

I asked Br. Albert Gomez, on the Provincial Leadership Team in Sierra Leone, to explain the importance of this project. The following are his words: "St Ambrose Academy is situated in Allen Town. This is one of the most marginalized areas in the east end of the city of Freetown, with a population of approximately 1,500. A lack of facilities has resulted in a large number of school aged children out of school and has led to a 40% dropout rate in schools in Sierra Leone. The construction of a borehole will allow us to improve access to basic education for children in Allen town and the surrounding area by providing safe drinking water." In many ways, the sponsored walk is a walk of witness which reminds the boys that "faith is dead without good works." (James 2:26). During this Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis encourages us to show mercy to others through the application of the Corporal Works of Mercy, one of which is to give water to the thirsty.

Thank you to Parents and Boys for their continuing support throughout the years. M O'Neill



The annual reward trip takes place each year.
A day at Alton Towers is usually enjoyed by all, but is not for the faint hearted!





Identical twins Dominic and Thomas Butler don't just look alike, they think alike!

The brilliant St. Ambrose College A Level students, who were the Hale Barns' Catholic grammar school's first ever joint head boys, were both seeing stars after their downloading their results, with barely a whisker between them.

The Bowdon boys were leading the way with Jamie getting four A*'s in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics an A in Biology and a Merit in the Maths Extension paper, while brother Thomas got three A* in Maths, Further Maths and Biology with A grades in Chemistry and Physics and a Merit in the Maths extension, just one A* to A grade behind.

Dominic was quick to deny any gloating, "We both did well and whoever wins is no consequence," he said. "We compete against the rest of the world but never against each other. We are both delighted and very proud of each other's achievements and have always benefitted from working together with each other."

While Thomas, typically of both young men, wanted to pay tribute to others both currently at the school and their former teachers: "We would like to give a massive thank you to all our teachers without whom we would not have achieved these results, especially to our retired Head Masters Mr Michael Thompson, who led the College for many years and Mr Michael Lochery, who was at the Preparatory School, and who both gave us so much advice and help."

The boys are going to prove inseparable now both want to study medicine and both want to go to Ireland to do it, currently choosing between Queen's Belfast and the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Both were first team rugby players and both set up St. Ambrose's hugely successful interfaith conference attracting speakers from across the area to address Sixth Form students.

Overall St Ambrose College academics were reaching for the stars after another set of outstanding A Level results. Nearly 69% of all grades were at A* to B, with a 100% pass rate and the vast majority of students now able to go up to their chosen university to study their preferred courses.

Current St. Ambrose College Principal Mr Keulemans said: "Thomas and Dominic have made an amazing contribution to school life and are hard working, naturally talented and immensely likeable and conscientious young men. We know they will become fine doctors."

Thank you to all of our Head Boys, Prefects and Ambassadors over the years for your support and outstanding service to the College.

J Carter Press Officer

Caption: For years teachers could not tell the difference but Dominic is wearing lighter blue and Thomas the darker. The boys have since decided on the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Saint Ambrose College

Thank you to all who have contributed to the
70th anniversary celebratory booklet



The next edition will
be celebrating 75 years
please donate your stories
and scan your photos to
archives@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Please also view the SAOB website

<http://www.saoba.org>

A message to Parents and Boys
both current and past

God Bless You and Your Families
From the Principal, Christian Brothers,
Governors and Staff.

Editor: D Howard
Printing: J Perkins



College Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
the source of all truth and holiness
the giver of faith and hope,
wisdom and love,

we ask that you will bless our College
that it may be a lively place
of sound learning, new discovery,
and the pursuit of wisdom.

Bless all who learn and all who teach,
that having strength of mind
and courage of heart,
we may be a blessing to one another
to our families and to the world.

Give us grace to look to you
the source of all love and understanding
that with Ambrose and all your saints
we may rejoice with you
and the Holy Spirit forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

College Hymn

The Day Thou Gavest

The day thou gavest, Lord is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

J. Ellerton 1826-93

'Let us preach without preaching, not by word, but by example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence our hearts bear to You'.

John Henry Newman



Saint **Ambrose** College
Celebrating 70 Years
1946 - 2016