



# St. Anselm's College

*Edmund Rice Academy Trust*



## Our Mission

Our Catholic Community offers a learning environment for us to develop our God-given talents and to recognise Christ among us. We respect the dignity of God's creation and, inspired by Gospel values, seek to serve one another.

# A Warm Welcome

“Pastoral support in the school is excellent and pupils are unreservedly positive about that support. Pupils live out the school's mission statement.” Ofsted 2017



Welcome to St. Anselm's College. As an Anselmian myself, I am immensely proud of the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of the students, the dedication of the staff, the calibre of the spiritual education on offer and the palpable sense of community which exists.

Founded in 1933 and with Academy status since 2011, the College aims to foster the spiritual, intellectual, physical and personal development of boys aged 11 to 18, equipping them for the challenges of life in the 21st century and enabling them to lead fulfilling lives. As a Roman Catholic Grammar School, the distinctive education offered by St. Anselm's to academically able Catholic and Christian boys in Wirral, Cheshire and Merseyside is free, yet priceless. Every year our students achieve impressive examination results and the overwhelming majority of Year 13 leavers proceed to university, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Academic achievement is not the only indicator of our success, however. We seek to educate the whole person, in the tradition of the Christian Brothers and Blessed Edmund Rice, and value participation in a wide range of sporting and extra-curricular pursuits to afford all students the opportunity to develop their talents. We provide a context in which boys learn to take responsibility for their actions, enhance their social skills, benefit from Christian example and participate in activities to benefit those less fortunate.

This prospectus provides an insight into life at St. Anselm's but I encourage you to visit the College to experience for yourself its pervasive ethos and family atmosphere.

Simon Duggan, MA (Oxon), MA (London), LLE  
Headmaster

# Our Philosophy

“Pupils are polite, courteous and thoughtful. They describe the school as part of their family; there is a strong community feel.” Ofsted 2017

“Let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure He will never forget it, nor let it pass unrewarded. How many of our actions are lost for want of applying them to this end? Were we to know the merit of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver...One thing you may be sure of, that whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, He will amply reward you.”

Blessed Edmund Rice

The ethos of St. Anselm's originates from the philosophy of an Edmund Rice education – the promotion of personal growth and the pursuit of excellence. The College seeks to provide students with the knowledge and skills required for the journey of life; to instil a sense of honour, integrity and self-worth and to support an abiding faith in a yet higher authority.



Our motto – ‘Fides Quaerens Intellectum’ or ‘The faith that seeks to understand better what it already believes’ – comes from the writings of St. Anselm and encapsulates our spiritual goal: we seek to live Jesus in our hearts. We promote a well-ordered and gently disciplined community, in which the 11-year-old is allowed to be a child and the 18-year-old is encouraged to be a man.

The education we offer challenges the mind, body and spirit of each individual. Our academic courses are guided by Gospel teaching, an influence that extends well beyond the normal curriculum and nurtures respect and empathy for our neighbours near and far.

# The Curriculum



St. Anselm's provides a broad, balanced and differentiated academic education beyond the confines of the National Curriculum, with additional subjects offered in both Key Stages 3 and 4. As a High Performing Specialist School, we use our past experience as a Technology College and a Language College in the pursuit of academic excellence.

Our stimulating curriculum – in which Religious Education plays an integral role – is designed to maximise students' academic potential and develop in them a love of learning that will inspire them throughout their lives. Our dedicated staff have excellent subject knowledge and are in the vanguard of personalised learning. They understand pupils' preferred learning styles and employ cutting-edge teaching techniques, supported by extensive use of technology such as interactive whiteboards, laptops and tablets/ipads.



“Outcomes for pupils, provision for Catholic education, leadership and management in the development of the catholic life of the college are all confirmed by this inspection as outstanding. The core values of the college are strongly evident throughout in terms of practice, aspiration and relationships in the context of high academic achievement.”

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Inspection Report 2014

Students' work is continually monitored and regularly assessed, with families being kept informed through written reports and Parents' Evenings for each year group. We ensure that all boys are sufficiently challenged, providing the services of skilled Learning Mentors and Teaching Assistants to support students with Special Educational Needs and those experiencing academic or personal difficulties.

The College places great emphasis on the importance of independent study beyond the timetabled day. Homework is essential to fulfil the demands of academic courses and stimulate independent learning and thinking. Staff ensure that the amount given is appropriate to the age of the student and that all homework is marked and recorded.



# Spiritual Community

It is our intention to educate a generation of spiritually literate young men who will not allow the Catholic case to go by default in an increasingly materialistic and selfish world.

St. Anselm's is committed to instilling an awareness of religion, not only as an academic discipline but also as an integral part of daily life. The development of faith is supported through regular prayer, assemblies and organised discussions of Christ's presence in everyday life, whilst symbols of Christian significance are given prominence throughout the College. Pupils and staff benefit from the use of two areas for reflection, prayer and the celebration of Mass – the hall and the College chapel in Outwood, formerly the Brothers' residence.

“Be intent on prayer and whatever happens will turn to our good.”

Blessed Edmund Rice

We have an outstanding pastoral system in place to monitor, guide and support boys as they undertake the transition to adulthood. Each pupil's wellbeing and progress is the responsibility of his Form Teacher, who is supported by the Head of Year, the Head of Key Stage and the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher. We want our boys to know that their opinions are heard and valued. The Student Council plays a key role in this respect, with representatives from every year group contributing to the development of the College.



Parents also play a fundamental role in the success of St. Anselm's and we foster a spirit of co-operation and mutual trust. Meetings with staff are held regularly but the College's open-door policy means that parents are welcome to discuss their son's progress or well being at any time. The thriving parents' association – the Friends of St. Anselm's (FOSA) – organises a range of fundraising and social events during the year and all parents are automatically members.

“The Headmaster, Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body are deeply committed to Catholic and Christian values and the Church's mission in education.”

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Inspection Report 2014

# Sporting Activities



“St. Anselm's gave me the best possible start and all the teachers encouraged me to pursue my ambitions.”

Ben Johnston  
Saracens, Nottingham and England

The College has a long tradition of excellence in sport and we are proud to have achieved the prestigious Sportsmark award from Sport England in recognition of our commitment to promoting the benefits of physical education.

On site boys enjoy the use of the Brother Senan Kerrigan Sports Centre, opened in 2014, and the College grounds for training, whilst our main sports pitches and pavilion are situated a short distance away at The Ridings, Noctorum. Students are offered a wide range of activities including athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, cross country, gymnastics, hockey, rugby and tennis. Throughout this programme, we endeavour to develop the physical, moral, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of each boy through his participation in sport.

We are proud of the high standards achieved, particularly in athletics, cross country and rugby. Our teams consistently reach the finals of national competitions in both athletics and cross country, the rugby teams compete successfully against many of the best schools in the Northwest and the College has even represented England in international events. The Games Faculty organises pre-season practice, training weekends in the Lake District, an annual ski trip and sports tours abroad.

Many boys progress to representative honours, competing for their county at regional level and their country at national level. Distinguished old boys include several rugby internationals – British Lion and Heineken Cup winner, Austin Healey; England three-quarter, Ben Johnston; and Ireland backs Simon Mason and Christian Saverimutto.



“Extra-Curricular provision is excellent. Pupils have access to a wide range of activities, including sports, music, languages, arts, historical and scientific clubs.”

Ofsted 2017



# Cultural Life

Music forms an essential part of the curriculum and College life. The fully equipped Music Faculty has its own ICT room and wireless network. Each boy is given the opportunity to play an instrument, with tuition from permanent and peripatetic tutors who encourage students to develop their talents beyond basic abilities into specialist skills.

Our range of musical societies includes the Orchestra, Junior Choir, Swing Band, Wind Band, Brass Ensemble, Guitar Group and Samba Band, complemented by parents and staff, as well as various student bands. Our musicians often perform publicly – including in events abroad – and great excitement surrounds the annual 'Battle of the Bands', which culminates in a final at Liverpool's New Cavern Club.

We have a thriving dramatic tradition, with regular opportunities to perform. A major musical or play is staged each year, with recent productions including 'Little Shop of Horrors'. We also participate in joint productions with Birkenhead High School Academy. There is an annual College pantomime which involves boys from every year group and a summer showcase for burgeoning talents. The College magazine, 'The Anselmian', is published annually and is edited with great enthusiasm, skill and wit by senior pupils, supported by staff.

**“The College was at the forefront in enabling me to fulfil my aspirations as a musician and it was with their continued efforts and support that I was able to achieve this. The teaching staff always managed to obtain the best from pupils and were able to highlight our strengths and boost the weaknesses we had. I will never forget my time at St. Anselm's, as there are so many wonderful memories. It was a brilliant stepping stone in my life and one that I will always be grateful for.”**

Leslie Neish  
Brass finalist in 'BBC Young Musician of the Year' Competition  
and peripatetic music teacher



**“As the Cavern we quite rightly celebrate our rich musical history, all the great bands and artists that have graced our stage over the years. Supporting the artists of the future is crucial to the Cavern's future and our on-going relationship with St Anselm's College demonstrates this perfectly. The students all seem to enjoy and relish the opportunity to play at such an iconic music venue each year and long may that continue – they do a great job!”**

Jon Keats: Director Events & Marketing, The Cavern Club





# Enriching Experiences

College clubs and societies allow boys to pursue a wide range of interests including art, chess, computing, drama, The Outwood Heritage Society, languages, robotics, science technology and web authoring. We also encourage students to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Our annual Participation Awards (Years 7 to 10) and Colours Awards (Years 11 to 13) celebrate involvement in extra-curricular activities, with presentations made at special ceremonies, often by distinguished Anselmians.

Many faculties organise day visits and residential trips to enhance the learning experience. There are regular visits to the cinema, theatre, local businesses, galleries and museums, as well as expeditions abroad that widen boys' horizons. All students have the opportunity to participate in residential retreats to foster their spiritual development and enhance self-awareness. Sixth Formers support the Edmund Rice Family Pilgrimage to Lourdes each year and can visit the Brothers' Mission in Sierra Leone and elsewhere. In College, boys are stimulated by visiting speakers from businesses, charities and universities.

We have developed close links with Africa through the Christian Brothers' Mission in Sierra Leone and our twin school, St Francis in Makeni. We support these institutions through prayer and finance, with the whole community taking part in our annual sponsored walk in memory of Brother Senan Kerrigan. Our students demonstrate compassion for those less fortunate through the activities of the St Vincent de Paul Society to support local homeless people, refugees and underprivileged children, as well as the efforts of the Friday Club to enhance the lives of adults with learning difficulties.





# Sixth Form

The Sixth Form plays a key role in the life of St. Anselm's. As important ambassadors for the College, Sixth Formers gain valuable leadership experience as prefects and peer mentors. They are naturally at the forefront of our sporting and cultural endeavours and participate in numerous field trips and social events.

With their own dress code and distinct curriculum – based around a broad range of academic and vocational Advanced Level courses – Sixth Formers enjoy fantastic opportunities to extend their learning and prepare for university and a career. Students take 3 A Level or BTEC courses in addition to General Studies and have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project. They also follow General Religion and Games options. Our Sixth Form is housed in Outwood House which demonstrates the architecture of an imposing 19th Century mansion with 21st Century teaching and learning facilities.

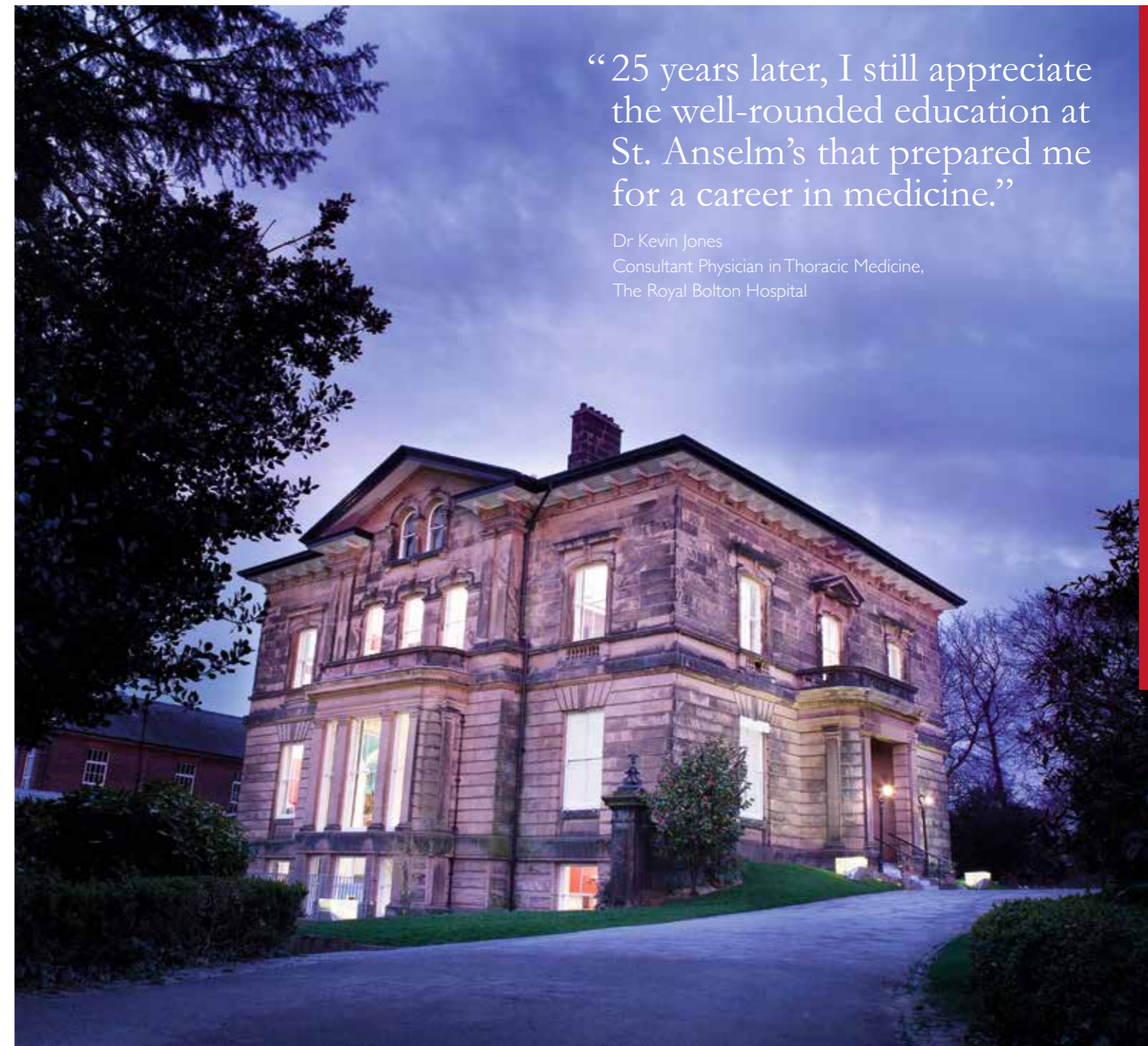
We treat sixth form students as young adults, whilst continuing to provide the monitoring and guidance required to assist them in the fulfilment of their academic potential. They are expected to adopt a mature and independent approach to their studies and aim for the highest levels of achievement. With the help of our dedicated staff, they develop ambition, confidence and perseverance that are invaluable in Higher Education and employment. As a result, the majority gain places at the university of their choice, including Oxbridge and Medical places.



“Students’ personal development and well-being are good.”

“Progression rates to university are much higher than the national average.”

Ofsted 2017



“25 years later, I still appreciate the well-rounded education at St. Anselm's that prepared me for a career in medicine.”

Dr Kevin Jones  
Consultant Physician in Thoracic Medicine,  
The Royal Bolton Hospital



# Future Success

The College understands how important it is for students to develop the critical skills, global perspective and digital literacy required to be successful in the modern world. In partnership with expert external agencies, we deliver high-quality, personalised careers advice and we are proud to hold the Greater Merseyside Connexions Quality Award for Careers Education and Guidance.

Students participate in a structured careers programme delivered by their Form Teacher, the Head of Careers and the Connexions service within Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). All boys in Key Stage 4 undertake a week of work experience, with further opportunities available in the Sixth Form. Students have regular access to a Connexions Adviser, as well as databases and other information in the Careers Library. In addition, all boys benefit from a careers interview with Connexions in Key Stage 4, which parents are welcome to attend. The Careers Officer is available at Parents' Evenings and the College also organises an annual Careers Convention for students and families.



“My time at St. Anselm's was a happy one, with great characters among the lads and staff. St. Anselm's gave me what I believe you need from a school: real confidence and a drive to succeed in whatever you chose to do. Virtually everything I have since done, at Oxford, the Bar in England and California and on television and radio, owes something to my time at St. Anselm's and the opportunities, encouragement and the support the College gave me.”

Michael McParland, Barrister and broadcaster



St. Anselm's College, Manor Hill, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside CH43 1UQ

Tel: 0151 652 1408 Fax: 0151 652 1957

headmaster@st-anselms.com

[www.st-anselms.com](http://www.st-anselms.com)



### Statutory Rights and Information

All school prospectuses must provide information covered by Statute and additional material which parents might reasonably request. This includes detailed Admissions Policy, GCSE and GCE results and data, destination of leavers, a summary of the most recent Ofsted Inspection Report and information concerning charges for trips, visits and extra-curricular activities. The changing nature of much of this material means that it is best communicated via other methods, including the College website.