

PRESS RELEASE for immediate use for local press

£1,000 gift donated to the Ursuline College

The Society of Old Augustinians have donated £1,000 to the Ursuline College as a gift to help with paying for small extras during the cost-of-living crisis. The donation was made by Canon Brian Coyle, former Principal of St Augustine's College to Keryn Poulter, Chair of the Ursuline College Governors.

The presentation, was made following a Remembrance Mass at St Augustine's church, Ramsgate, for Old Augustinians who gave their lives in Wars. The Mass was attended by Old Augustinians, Ursuline Alumni, Ursuline College Students and Staff, parishioners and the Chair of Thanet District Council, Cllr Jason Savage.

Ursuline College students read out the names of all those who gave their lives and gave readings. They later laid one of the wreaths at the Old Augustinians War Memorial.

A further gift of £500 was given to Andrew Kelly, Shrine Manager and St Augustine's church to go towards church repairs and maintenance.

Chairman of the Old Augustinians, Andrew Sharp said: -

"The donation was made as a goodwill gesture in response to a request for support from our successor school, the Ursuline College. This is a good school with an excellent ethos as we wish to support them in whatever practical ways, we can during this cost of living crisis."

Again, we are grateful to the students of the Ursuline College in Westgate on Sea for reading out the Roll of Honour. Those that laid down their lives are not just a list of names and its important that this generation of Students in Thanet Catholic Schools today should remember those before them.

Notes for Editors:

The Old Augustinians is the Alumni of St Augustine's College which was formed in Ramsgate in 1865

The School, situated near to the landing site of St Augustine of Canterbury, was set up by the Benedictine Monks from Subiaco in 1865. The school moved from Ramsgate in 1971 to the former Les Oiseaux Convent School site in Canterbury Road, Westgate on Sea. St Augustine's closed in 1995. Following a reorganisation of Catholic Secondary Education in Thanet, many students from St Augustine's joined the new Coeducational Ursuline College, also situated in Canterbury Road, Westgate on Sea as a successor school.

A copy of the Roll of Honour is available on Request.

Former pupils at St Augustine's College include:

*From the past: **Peter Paul Pugin.** The very first pupil to register for St Augustine's College and the youngest son of leading neo gothic architect, Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. He also designed many buildings across the country, including St Ethelbert's and Gertrude's church in Hereson Road, Ramsgate.*

Michael Thunder, Grandson of Augustus Welby Pugin who is buried in St Augustine's church. He was killed in action in World War One.

Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, inventor and electrical engineer, the founder of the global engineering company, Ferranti. He invented the Alternator while at school in Ramsgate. One of his sons, who also attended the school, was killed in action in WW1.

In more recent years:

Alastair Stewart OBE. Former News at 10 newsreader and journalist, currently with GB News,
Rear Admiral John Weale CB, OBE, former Scotland and Northern Ireland's Senior Naval Officer
Col Paddy Williams MC, former Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and was the first ever Head Boy of the Ursuline College 1995/96

Dr Neil Wier OBE leading ENT Consultant Surgeon

Wing Commander John Abra MBE, former RAF pilot

Jude Akuwudike, Actor on Stage, TV and Film

Louis Kopieczek, Senior Immigration Judge

St Augustine's Abbey church was completed in 1852 and was designed by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, who was the leading neo gothic architect of his time. Pugin and other members of his family are buried there. It is a Grade One listed church and is now a Shrine dedicated to St Augustine of England. The church also housed the Nation Pugin Visitor Centre. The church is situated next door to the Grange, the home which Pugin designed for himself and his family and lived in until his death in 1852. The Grange later became part of St Augustine's College. Today it is owned – and has been restored by, the Landmark Trust. For over 100 years, the church was often used by the school for special services and houses the school's War Memorial. Many former pupils are buried in its graveyard.

For further details, please contact the Secretary, Andrew Sharp on 07920 424990 or by email: oldaugustinians@gmail.com. For more information about the Old Augustinians, please visit our website www.oldauginians.org.uk