



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we make final preparations for the return of some of our year 10 and 12 students, I didn't want you to think that everyone else has been forgotten. It has been important to us, in making provision for the return of some of our students, to ensure that provision for the vast majority who will continue to learn from home doesn't suffer. Current social distancing guidelines mean that the number of students who would ordinarily be taught in *one* classroom, now have to be taught across 4 classrooms, in most secondary schools; and this, together with sustaining provision for rising numbers of key worker children, vulnerable children, and online teaching and pastoral support, is stretching our current resources thinly. As and when Government guidance changes, we will continue to review our offer, in order to ensure that we can do our very best to meet the needs of all in our school community. I hope that you have by now seen our staff video, created for our students; "Lean on me". It demonstrates that the spirit of St. Edward's burns brightly, even though we are trying to work together remotely, under challenging and changing circumstances.

There are many positive developments afoot, and amidst the worries and challenges, I wanted to share these with you. Firstly we are planning to offer virtual meetings for parents and carers with your child's form tutor, later this term. This will enable us to reflect on your child's year with you, and for us to find out whether there is more we can do to support your child in these times. Further information about this will follow in due course.

We have been able to secure increased staffing levels in English and Mathematics from September. This will give us greater flexibility in organising learning, and targeting intervention, regardless of the level of ability; so that learning in these two core subjects is optimised. Through the appointment of a new manager of alternative provision we will, from September, start to increase our ability to make adjustments to the curriculum of individual students, as we help them to realise their potential. This could apply to a range of students, from those in the EDGE programme, to those who struggle with school.

There have been many developments on site, from the new bike shed, complete with CCTV for bike security; new boys' toilets, and the development of social spaces on the campus. More is planned, and we will continue to strive to make our school the very best of learning environments for your child.

We are very aware of all that you are doing to support learning at home, and the challenges and sacrifices that this can involve. What you are doing to keep your child learning, will help us to help them more effectively when they return. Thank-you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram
Headteacher