



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end the Academic Year it is good to both look back and forwards. In the past week we have celebrated some amazing achievements by students in special assemblies; evidence, if we needed it, that our students have continued to grow in learning and personal development despite the strange turns that this year has taken. It was good for our staff to meet with many of you via our parent-tutor meetings in recent weeks. As we grow as a school, it is important for us to listen, to learn, and to adapt, and your feedback is helping us to do exactly that. Thank-you for engaging with us so constructively in those communications. We plan to continue the remote-meeting option in future to make it easier for parents trying to juggle family and school needs at the end of a busy day.

This week, our staff are 'gathering' remotely to say farewell to colleagues who are leaving. Mr Hulme has given excellent service to our school as Head of Maths; and Mrs Nelson has been an excellent teacher of English and form Tutor. Mr Christopher leaves us to commence teacher training in September. On behalf of staff, Governors and students I thank them for all that they have brought to our school, and we wish them every success in the future. We recently welcomed Mrs Collins as our Communications Officer. Emma will be working hard to ensure that our communications with all members of our school community, and with the wider world, are outstanding. In September we will welcome new teachers and support staff, and I will introduce them to you in the new academic year.

Since lockdown we have continued to do our best to serve our school community well, whether through remote learning, or in caring for vulnerable and key worker children on site. I would like to thank all of our staff for being such an outstanding professional team as they have sustained learning and supported our students throughout the year in so many ways, and especially during this time of Covid-19. During lockdown nothing has stood still. We were delighted that Bishop Mark gave permission for the Blessed Sacrament to be reserved in our school chapel. This space, in the heart of the campus, is an oasis of prayerful calm, open to all. There have been many developments in the facilities and resources on campus, including new toilets for boys (the girls' toilets having already been refurbished), redesign of the Learning Centre, improvements in music classrooms – the list goes on and on. I would like to thank the site team and support staff for their hard work throughout the year, in continually improving your child's school facilities.

When we return in September, there will be a new information management system – SIMs. This replaces Cloud-School, and will enable us to give you enhanced information about your child's learning in school. You will be aware that September will bring many new challenges, and we will continue to need your full support in ensuring that your child is ready for the return to school, and will be fully compliant with our expectations. With such complexities there will be no room for anything but the very best, most considerate behaviour from all students.

I will be writing to you with full details of the September return on **August 20th**. This is so that we can ensure, with so many changes in the air at the moment in our country, that the information we give you takes into account the very latest updates on returning to school, leaving you time to prepare your child, and address any questions or concerns.

In order to manage a complex scenario at the start of the year, we will be changing the previously advertised arrangements for year group start dates as follows:

Friday 4th September: New year 7s and new year 12s only

On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September: Your child will return if they are starting year (7), 9, 11, and 12 **ONLY**

Wednesday 9th onwards: All year groups

This is so that we can check the effectiveness of new systems and safety measures.

All year groups 7-11 will return in full school uniform, and I ask that you check the Governors' Uniform Policy well before the return date to ensure that your child is fully compliant, and ready to resume their learning in school.

For now, we will take leave of one another for a period of recuperation. As the school closes for the summer break, we will continue to be planning for the year ahead. There are many exciting new developments to look forward to, and we will be in contact with you in good time to help your child to be ready to return to school in September.

From all of us on the St. Edward's staff, we thank you for your partnership with us, and for your support and encouragement – you have been brilliant. We wish you a happy summer ahead. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Antram
Headteacher