



# St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

4 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of the new Academic Year. The school has been deep cleaned, and measures are in place to ensure the safe return of students and staff. I am keen that our students come back into a learning environment that is welcoming and happy; and all of us here at St. Edward's are looking forward to seeing your children, and to working with them in ways that feel more familiar and natural than the remote practices that were required during the period of lockdown. Much is being made currently of "U-turns", but I must be clear that we will hold measures in reserve to manage changing circumstances if and when they arise, as we move through the term. The heightened levels of precautions will necessarily reduce our tolerance of poor behaviour, and I ask emphatically that your child is fully aware of the need for cooperative, considerate and safe behaviour; and that the school has your total support in this.

Our staff at St. Edward's have worked together, very hard, to sustain the highest possible quality of academic and pastoral support since schools were closed to most students in March. On your behalf I thank them, and I know that they will continue to serve your child well, not least in securing a rapid catch-up in their learning. This term we welcome Mr Coles, who will be teaching Technology, Mr Burke who will be teaching maths; and Mrs Banks and Ms Rossignol, who join the English department. We also welcome Mr Perrin who, as a member of the learning and behaviour support team, will especially support 6<sup>th</sup> form students; Mrs Collins who is our new Communications Officer; and Mr Burgess who joins us as a TA.

The term and year ahead will no doubt bring challenges that will require adjustments to school policy and practice. In the face of varying views, we will listen to National and Local Government directions, together with guidance from Public Health England, and various other agencies and advisory bodies with whom we work. I ask that your child is equipped to manage their own hygiene precautions by carrying a mask, even if they do not intend to use it currently, as well as hand sanitiser and tissues; together with their normal school equipment.

We plan to create an "FAQ" document that we can update in the time ahead as we turn theoretical planning into practical implementation, and I hope that this will reduce the need for us to bombard you with too much information. As ever, we are here to help, and so do please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance with queries.

This is not school as we knew it, and I do not know how things will evolve; but with your support we will continue to educate your child, and help them to get ready for a happy and successful life, lived to the full.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram  
Headteacher