



17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Year 9

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another half term has ended, and hopefully the lighter mornings, better weather and sunshine are just around the corner. The theme of this half term has been that of resilience, and the students have certainly shown this over the last 7 weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some updates, and to reflect on the previous half term. Year 9 have succeeded in the large part in selecting their GCSE options and can now await final approval around Easter. Courses will continue as normal until the end of Year 9, and new subjects will only begin at the start of Year 10. To support this, we had a well-attended parents evening, and video to launch the options process, and students attended an assembly by Mr Elliott (Director of Learning for Sixth Form) to hear about choices and pathways post 16 and what St Edward's Sixth Form has to offer. We also saw the departure of Mrs Taghizadeh as Learning and Behaviour Support, and this role filled by Miss Meads, who has made an excellent impression on the students and has continued the good work of Mrs T.

Positive praise has been forthcoming for Year 9s this half term with a total of 4,176 positive virtues awarded. It has also been great to see Year 9 re-engage with sport fixtures in football and basketball over the last 7 weeks, alongside their continued magnificent work in the musical.

I would also like to thank you for your on-going support of the school's policies especially in maintaining high standards of uniform and appearance, and for supporting the school's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has overall been effective with St Edward's only experiencing small numbers of infections.

There will be some updates to the school's Covid-19 risk assessment after the holiday including the removal of the requirement to wear a mask inside, but we will retain our hand and respiratory hygiene practices which include hand sanitizing at the start and end of every lesson and encouraging students to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues alongside regular hand washing. Also, the government has advised that windows in education settings do not need to be open for the full hour of a lesson, and with this in mind, our expectation is that students remove hoodies and coats when sitting in lessons.

Another change going forward is to our inclusion room provision. From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, students who are placed in inclusion will have their day extended until 15:45 where they will continue to work on lesson content, or revision. This additional 30 minutes will also serve as an opportunity for staff, where appropriate, to have a restorative meeting with students ahead of their next lesson, to reflect on the reason for removal and facilitate a fresh start.



# St Edward's School

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I would also like to just remind students to adhere to the highway code and consider road safety when exiting / entering the school. It is noticeable that more students who cycle to school are not taking the necessary care and attention, when entering the school drive from Dale Valley Road; this has resulted in a few near misses. Those who walk into school should also refrain from using their mobile phone on crossing the road and entering the school driveway; again, students have been observed stepping into the path of oncoming vehicles whilst texting. Please can I also ask parents and carers to be sensitive to our neighbours when parking. School staff have been involved in difficult situations with our neighbours when they have been inconvenienced by parents collecting their child. Please help us to maintain our good relations with our immediate neighbours.

Lastly, next half term the virtue of focus will be that of forgiveness. A challenging virtue but one that can be powerful in finding peace and the freedom to move forwards.

I would like to end my letter by wishing you and your family a restful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming our students back to school on the Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (week B).

Kind Regards,

Mr Michael Wood  
KS3 Director of Learning (Years 8 & 9)

