



21st October 2022

Director of Learning Letter Years 10 and 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term has flown by and I feel that we have only just welcomed back Year 10 into their new GCSE courses. They have made a fantastic start to Key Stage 4, and have demonstrated excellent resilience and a love of learning across the board. We have focused on the virtue of "Love of learning" this half term, and students have been aiming to build firm foundations and excellent habits early on, to allow them to thrive. It has been great to hear from them what they are studying, and enjoying, and they seem to be seizing every opportunity. Year 10 have been recognised over 5,203 times for their many virtues this half term, and Miss Cooper's tutor group have been celebrated as the group who have collectively been recognised the most for their many special qualities. The 7 most recognised students will be given the opportunity to go on the bowling trip in the first week back after the half term break, and others who were recognised will have a breakfast celebration meeting with Mr Antram.

Uniform and behaviour standards remain a significant focus for the year group, and I would like to extend my thanks for your support in helping us achieve high standards of both. Students have adapted well to the higher standards being brought in across the school, and this has allowed for greater focus on their learning and academic progress. Uniform remains under review, and girls' skirts continue to be monitored to ensure compliance with our uniform policy. If your daughter needs a new school skirt, our advice would be to purchase the pleated school skirt as this is the likely direction of travel for the school. If you have any queries about the uniform policy it can be found on our website. <https://st-edwards.poole.sch.uk/parents/uniform-policy/>.

We have also used this half term to begin to share information via SIMS. I would strongly recommend both parents and students downloading the SIMS app from the App store or Google play store in order to receive an up to date view on your child's attendance, behaviour and homework. If you are experiencing issues with SIMS please email simsparenthelp@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk to raise your concerns and our IT department will give you support.

Year 10 will have their first round of formal assessment in the next half term, which will be the first significant indication of their progress on their new courses. On Monday 31st October, Year 10 will receive information on road safety from Dorset Police, in an attempt to tackle a nationwide concern regarding young people and transport. Mrs Lord (Learning & Behaviour Support) will also be starting a homework intervention support session, where students may be asked to attend if homework is not being completed. It is vital that students stay on top of their home learning as it is designed to support the learning in the classroom either with practice of skills, revision of learning, or preparation for learning ahead. If you have any concerns about your child's homework, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor.



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

The school will be looking closely at attendance next half term. High levels of attendance are critical for student performance, and the school has a target of a minimum of 96% attendance for all students. Research shows that a decline in attendance of just 10% can lead to a performance drop at GCSE level by 1 grade. Therefore, it is important for students to demonstrate resilience, and be in school as much as possible. If there are genuine reasons for your child to be absent from school, please call the school absence line to notify us. We would also suggest medical appointments where possible should be made outside of the school day, but where this is unavoidable, please let the school know via email to enquiries@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk. You can also contact us via letter or phone call.

Next half term the virtue we are focusing on will be "reflection". This can be a challenge to develop, but something that if used properly can support swift progress and the identification of barriers. However, in the meantime I hope you all have a restful half term break, taking time to recharge from a busy first half term. School will return on Monday 31st October, and will be on Week B of the timetable.

Kind regards,

Mr M Wood
Director of Learning (Key Stage 4)

