



8th December 2022

Year 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn term draws to a close, Advent has begun and Christmas is almost upon us, I wanted to share my continued thanks for your on-going support of the school. This is the longest and darkest term of the year and students have continued to maintain our high standards of behaviour and uniform and were a real credit to the school during the recent OFSTED inspection. Over the course of this term, Year 9 have been recognised nearly 12,000 times for their character-building virtues. I look forward to celebrating their successes with them in their end of term celebration assembly next week.

In January we see in the beginning of the Spring Term which brings new goals, ambitions and the promise of warmer weather and brighter days. On our return we will be asking our Year 9 students to begin the GCSE options process. To support the students for a smooth start back into school in January, we would like to share a few updates with you. Attendance remains a key priority for the school, and a reminder that all students have a target of 96% attendance for the year. A drop of 10% means that students are missing approximately one day a fortnight, which, research has shown can lead a decline in outcomes at GCSE by 1 grade due to the gaps in their learning, so please do encourage your children into school as much as possible, please liaise with the tutor if there are any barriers to this. You are able to track your child's attendance via the SIMS parent app, if you are struggling with this please do email the support email simsparenthelp@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk.

On Friday 16th December the school will have an early finish, at 1:30pm. The Freedom Bus company are aware of this, so please plan for this where necessary. Any student who is in receipt of free school meals should pre-order their lunch during break time on the 16th, in the canteen so that it can then be collected before their departure.

This final school day will also be Christmas Jumper day. The aim for this day is to raise money for 3 charities, encompassing a local, a national and an international charity. Should enough money be raised, Mr Keene has agreed a festive surprise for the students, which may, include him wearing a Father Christmas outfit! The WisePay link for donations (suggested £1) if you wish to wear a jumper will be sent to you shortly via email. Please note, the jumper is only in place of their blazer and the rest of the school uniform should still be worn. If your child does not own a Christmas Jumper, they are more than welcome to wear a normal jumper instead.

Should uniform need replacing over the Christmas holiday, please remember that the skirt required is a full pleated skirt rather than the straight or A-Line skirt previously. In addition, the school does hold *new to you* uniform if you prefer.

As the cost-of-living increases, I understand the additional pressures that families may be facing. Therefore, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the support that might be available to you. The following link: ['Cost of living support'](#) for the National Cost of Living Hub, outlines the local and national schemes that



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

could support you with rent, food, energy and more. If you are facing other financial difficulties that are impacting on your child's wellbeing or ability to access their education, then there may be other ways that we, as a school, can support you. Please make contact via enquires@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk should you wish to know more about this, and we will happily help.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to our Christmas Concert at St George's Church on Wednesday 14th December at 7.00pm where so many of our students will be sharing their talents and Christmas joy!

I do wish you and your family a very peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year

Yours faithfully,

Luke Kemish

Key Stage 3

Director of Learning

