



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you have had a wonderful summer and that your children have been looking forward to coming back to school to see their friends and staff as we start a new school year.

As you are aware, there are a number of changes happening this year as I take over as Headteacher for the duration of Mr Antram's work with CAST in Plymouth. I am very much looking forward to the journey St Edward's will continue on over the next few years building on the successful OFSTED and Section 48 inspections that took place last year.

Mr Hurley has stepped up from Assistant Headteacher to Deputy Headteacher and together with the senior leadership team, we will continue to build on our current successes and drive key strategies over the coming year.

We have a number of new colleagues joining our staff team this year. We welcome Mrs Amos and Mrs Perry into our English department along with Ms Brown who will be teaching English and Drama, Miss Ireson into our Geography department and Mrs Murga Velazquez who will be working within the Sixth Form team.

This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the school and look back at the contribution our school has made to the lives of those who have passed through. As a former student myself, I look back with fond memories of my time here, and I know that many of you will also have good memories through your past experiences be it as a former student or other links you may have had in the past. We look forward to welcoming former students, staff, parents and representatives from the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses to celebrate with us at events throughout the year ahead.

We are excited to have had such a wonderful group of Year 7 students join us this year and I would like to thank you and their primary schools for shaping such lovely and polite young people and for trusting us to journey with them into the next stages of their lives. We are of course, just as proud of our Year 8-13 students and to see them back in school looking so smart and with such energy and eagerness has been lovely.

This summer saw some excellent GCSE and A Levels results and we are extremely proud of all our students who worked so hard in the summer term and were able to celebrate as they received their results in August. When I think back to these particular groups of students, it's been wonderful to see the people they have become during their time at St Edward's.

One of our main strengths as a school is the strong working relationships between school and home, and we appreciate this very much. This term we continue to ensure we have a high focus on standards and ask that you continue your support with our [school uniform policy](#). We will continue to support those who, for one reason or another, may find purchasing uniform more challenging and I would ask that you contact the school if this is the case. With this in mind we will be lending students laundered uniform and shoes if they have been unable to wear the correct uniform.

As mentioned in communication before the summer holiday, it is important that your child is in black school shoes and not black trainers. Many companies now try and exploit students wanting to wear trainers and try to make black trainers look as much like shoes as they can. School shoes must not have any labels or branding and must not be, or look like, trainers.

Attendance and punctuality remain a key part of a young person's success and whilst we understand pupils are very occasionally ill or have medical appointments that cannot be arranged outside of school time, we urge all parents and carers to encourage and support the school's mission to achieve 100% attendance. Evidence shows that if a student is not in school they fall behind their peers.

All our students have started the year so well and we have a tangible buzz around the school. We have so much to look forward to as a school community over the next term and throughout the academic year and I look forward to seeing you at our many school events.

If you have any questions please do get in touch with either your son or daughters tutor or their Director of Learning: Mrs Newton (Year 7), Mrs Tranter (Year 8 and 9), Mr Kemish (Year 10 and 11) or Mr Elliot (Year 12 and 13).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Barnett', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Barnett
Headteacher