



SBy/esk
14th April 2016

Dear Parents

I am writing to share with you some items of exceptionally good news:

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

In my letter at the end of last term I told you that our Church School inspection had gone very well indeed and that I was waiting for the full report. I received this on Tuesday and I am delighted to tell you that we have been judged as outstanding in every category. The report itself is available on our website via this link:

<http://st-edmunds.eu/wp-content/uploads/SIAMS-Inspection-March-2016-Final-Report.pdf>

I would like to share with you here some of the highlights. For this SIAMS report the judgements have been made in three categories, the first being **the way in which, through our Christian character we meet the needs of all learners**. This section refers to the high expectations and aspirations we have for all our students, to the 'transformational' work achieved through our systems of pastoral care and the inspirational teaching students perceive they enjoy in RS.

In the second section, which is focussed on the **impact of collective worship**, the inspector praises the high value students place on opportunities for reflection and for the ways in which they are supported to develop understanding and respect for others. There is comment on the themes for tutorial activities and the resulting 'very positive impact on relationships and behaviour as well as motivating a great deal of social and charitable action'.

In the final section, which judges the **leadership of the school as a church school**, there is praise for the governing body and for leadership across the school, 'reflecting the Christian commitment to the value and importance of each student'. Again, there is much praise for RS, with a reference to 'inspirational leadership and excellent teaching throughout the department with the result that students make outstanding progress'.

The overall judgement in the report is that 'the distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Edmund's Girls' School as a Church of England School are outstanding'.

Do please read the report for yourself; I haven't been able to capture here the many points in the report which celebrate just how wonderful our students are and how our staff work tirelessly to support them to achieve.

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Our new Teaching Block for 2017

On the final day of term we received the very welcome news that we had been successful in our bid to the Education Funding Agency for a new teaching block to replace our ageing and 'temporary' mobiles. We are extremely excited about this and look forward to the opportunity we now have to bring a major section of the school into the 21st century in terms of its facilities. As you may have read in the local news, what particularly pleases me with the prospect of the new build is that it will allow us to welcome wheelchair bound students and staff to the school, providing them with access to most classrooms, something which isn't currently possible.

It is likely that work for the new building will commence in the summer and more information will be available to you later this term and next. We will return the plans for the building to reception so that you can see them when you visit the school.

Friends of St Edmund's School

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the small but very dedicated group of parents and others who form the Friends of St Edmund's. Over the last few years they have raised significant sums of money for the school, allowing us to provide equipment and facilities it would otherwise be difficult to fund. The floodlighting for the new tennis and netball courts are a good example of this. In the recent Easter raffle the Friends raised another £1,000, a marvellous sum, and we thank them for that. We expect to be asking for help with the 'extras' that we will inevitably want to provide for girls when we have our new facilities.

The Friends do, however, need new members if this very valuable group is to continue. Please consider offering your services to help support the school in even a small way. Please contact my PA, Elaine Slack: eslack@st-edmunds.eu

SUPA (Southampton University Partnership Alliance)

Next Monday, 18th April, we have a special event here in school from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. for anyone who is interested in becoming a teacher in secondary education. There will be a presentation at 3.15 p.m. and another at 4.15 p.m. Please come along if you are a graduate with an interest in education and a possible new career in teaching. We will be delighted to see you.

Please follow this link for further information: <http://st-edmunds.eu/wp-content/uploads/SUPA-LETTER-April-2016-via-HomeContact.pdf>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Busby
Headteacher