



Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that we are now coming to the end of another academic year; naturally, we are reflecting on the many significant events and achievements of 2015-16 and looking forward to the new challenges for the coming academic year.

The past few weeks alone have been remarkably busy and have seen students involved in a very wide variety of events, including:

- a wonderful Arts evening, during which parents and friends of the school were able to take advantage of a promenade approach to performance and enjoy some marvellous Drama, Dance and Music presentations around the school;
- students joining us in Year 7 spent a full day in school and we also welcomed a record number of Year 5 girls to the two taster days at St Edmund's we ran recently;
- work with our local Primary partners has been a feature of recent activity, with Year 8 dancers performing for every Year 6 class from each Primary school in the Diocese as part of the Salisbury Cathedral leavers' ceremony;
- sports leaders led a day of activities with St Mark's Year 4 children and tennis coaching was a feature of an activity for St Andrew's primary children, again led by our girls;
- over 40 Year 10s completed their Duke of Edinburgh award final expedition last month and they presented their experiences to staff and students last week;
- our student leaders for the new academic year have been appointed: Yasmin Williams (Head Girl) and Olivia Pike and Sophie Andrews (Deputy Head Girls) began their tenure with leadership of our St Edmund's EU referendum and our KS3 leaders (Rosie Beer, with deputies Alana Moody and Zara Williams) have also contributed to the school through assemblies and work with new students.

Building Works

At this time of year, inevitably, there are changes planned. One of the most significant is the physical change to the school site that will occur over the coming year as our new teaching block, which we have named The Magill Building in tribute to Mr Bobby Magill, emerges from the area currently occupied by eight of our 'temporary' classrooms. Look out for the first phase of this work which begins in the next few days as cranes lift some mobiles up and off the site and others to their new locations for the coming year.

By the time we return in September the school will contain a building site, but we will be able to enjoy what I am sure will be swift progress towards the completion of our wonderful new building. I will need to ask for your support as parents as this project progresses, however. Currently, we have parents dropping their daughters off at school very early in the morning. Sometimes students have been in the habit of going directly to mobile classrooms or to other areas of the school. For health and safety reasons, this cannot continue from September. Hammonds, the building contractors will be scheduling deliveries before 7.45 to avoid large vehicles on site during the course of the school day. It is therefore vital that students are not around the site at this time. **From September I would ask that students are dropped at school no earlier than 7.30 and that all early arrivals go directly to the dining hall, where breakfast can be bought from 7.45.**

Staff Leaving

Also prompting change at this time of year is the fact that a number of staff are leaving. Some of them have been with us for many years and some have spent their entire teaching career to date at St Edmund's. It is always difficult to say goodbye to highly valued staff who have made a huge contribution to the school, but equally I am delighted when teachers and non-teaching staff are able to progress their careers through what they have achieved with us. This is true of several teachers this year, in particular Mrs Jackson and Mrs Burke, both of whom joined the school as teachers new

to the profession, Mrs Jackson 24 years ago and Mrs Burke 22 years ago. As Heads of key departments in the school (Science and English respectively) both have made a massive contribution to the outcomes for many, many girls in their time here and I am delighted that, if they have to be leaving us, that they are both moving to positions of seniority in our partner schools, Trafalgar for Mrs Jackson and Wyvern for Mrs Burke.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Symons and to Dr Parker, two outstanding Science teachers who are, rightly, choosing to pursue their careers in different directions, Dr Parker to Ringwood School and Mrs Symons to Clayesmore School. Mrs Jeffries, who has led Curie House over the last three years, moves to Abbeyfield School in Chippenham to become Deputy Head of English, Miss Stutt is going a little further afield, to begin a new life with her partner in Australia and we also say farewell to Mrs Richter, Mr Hawker and Mrs Langford.

Mrs Henderson retires and leaves St Edmund's for the second time, the first time being some seven years ago after a thirty-year career here as a teacher, before she took up a role as Pastoral Support Manager. Finally, also retiring is Miss Skyrme, who has also had two 'stints' at St Edmund's, starting with us initially in 1976 and then, after a short break, returning to us in 2001. In Miss Skyrme we are losing one of our most outstanding teachers; the difference she has made to so many generations of students who have come through her Food and Textiles classrooms is extraordinary.

To all these members of staff, as well as the students leaving St Edmund's this summer, we wish you health, happiness and fulfilment in all that you do in your future lives.

Uniform

Early last month I wrote to give advance warning regarding uniform issues which give us cause for concern, in particular the matter of skirt lengths. **From September, we expect all students to be wearing suitable, non-stretch skirts of a decent length, just above the knee.** I would also like to remind you about jewellery and, in particular, ear and other piercings. We recognise that this is something that parents may wish to allow for their daughters but earrings, nose studs etc must be removed for school. This means that **any new piercing should take place at the very start of the summer holiday only** so that the wound has healed in time for jewellery to be removed for school. It is not acceptable for a student to tell us in September – or any other time of year - that they are unable to remove nose studs etc. Full uniform information here: <http://st-edmunds.eu/school-life/uniform/>

Return to School Dates

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September 2016
Monday 5th September 2016
Tuesday 6th September 2016

Teacher Training Days
New Year 7 and invited Prefects only
Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 return to school.

For other Teacher Training days and early finish dates, please see the calendar for 2016 - 17:
<http://st-edmunds.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Term-Dates-2016-17-Final.pdf>

Dropping Off and Collecting Your Daughter

Now that the new Aldi supermarket has opened, a path runs directly from the park and ride site on the London Road, past Aldi and to the pathway over the river which starts in Cheverell Avenue. It is free to access the park and ride, and only a ten-minute walk for your daughter from there to school. In September, wherever possible please use this facility – you will avoid being caught up in traffic congestion and your daughter will benefit from this short walk every day.

Finally, after a busy but very successful school year, I would like to wish you all a very restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Busby
Headteacher

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