



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

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6 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Year 11 Progress, Preparing for GCSEs, and End-of-Year Celebrations**

I hope this letter finds you well. As we reach a pivotal stage in your child's final year at **St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School**, I would like to take a moment to reflect on their progress so far and outline the final steps leading up to their GCSE examinations.

Since returning from the Christmas break, I have been incredibly impressed with the maturity and dedication shown by the vast majority of our Y11 students, particularly during the trial exam period. Their resilience and positive attitudes have been commendable.

This week, pupils took part in a 'trial results' afternoon, giving them a taste of what results day in August will feel like. Emotions ranged from elation to disappointment, but the key message I shared in our assembly beforehand was this: ***what they do now is what truly counts!***

I hope you have had positive conversations with your child and their teachers this evening about their progress in each subject and their approach to the final few months of study.

### **The Final Push: Making Every Moment Count**

After the February half-term break, we will enter a crucial 7-week term. My hope is that every Y11 pupil makes the most of this time—working hard in every lesson and embracing the wealth of support available to them, including: -

- **Intervention sessions**
- **Study groups and masterclasses**
- **Revision resources**
- **Teacher guidance and mentoring**

Attendance and punctuality are more important than ever. Being present and engaged in every lesson is vital to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams. Pupils' academic mentors will continue to support them, and I want to thank you in advance for your partnership in helping them reach their full potential.

### **End-of-Year Celebrations**

Whilst our primary focus is on GCSE preparation, I know there is much excitement around the end-of-year celebrations. As we approach the culmination of your child's compulsory education, we want to ensure that our students have the opportunity to mark this significant milestone in a meaningful way with a series of key events: -

- **Leavers' Mass:** Taking place the week before examinations begin
- **Leavers' Hoodies:** Pupils will be allowed to wear their hoodies in school at an appropriate time
- **Leavers' Assembly & Shirt Signing:** A chance for pupils to say goodbye to peers and teachers in the summer term.
- **Leavers' Prom:** The much-anticipated event to celebrate their journey at St Edmund Arrowsmith.

### **Leavers' Prom: Expectations and Invitations**

The prom is a special occasion, designed to mark the transition from school to the next stage of each pupil's journey. It is a privilege, not an automatic right, and attendance is by invitation only. Invitations will be extended to pupils who have demonstrated commitment to their learning, upheld the values of our school, and met expectations regarding behaviour, attendance, and engagement.

This approach is in place for several key reasons: -

#### **1. Recognising Effort and Achievement**

The prom is a celebration of pupils who have worked hard and contributed positively to the school community. It is important that those who have shown dedication are recognised.

#### **2. Maintaining the Integrity of the Event**

The prom is a time for pupils to celebrate their journey at St Edmund Arrowsmith with their peers and teachers. Ensuring attendance is based on meeting school expectations helps create an enjoyable and respectful environment for all. The event is attended by staff voluntarily. Pupils will have essentially left school and therefore we need to trust that they will behave in a mature and respectful manner.

#### **3. Encouraging Positive Conduct**

Setting criteria motivates pupils to maintain good behaviour, strong attendance, and full engagement in their studies as they prepare for their next steps in education or employment.

Many pupils will receive their prom invitation before we break for February half term. Following this first wave of invites, I will then take some time in considering eligibility for the remaining pupils, 1-1 discussion will take place between these pupils and myself or their form tutor before a decision is made.

We understand that some decisions may be disappointing for some, but we encourage all pupils to take responsibility for their choices and actions. We have been transparent in our approach throughout. Please refer to Mr Dumican's letter, sent at the end of Year 10, or my letter, sent after the first half-term, as well as 2 assemblies by Mr Dumican, which outlined our expectations.

Thank you for your continued support in these final months. *Together, we can help our young people finish their school journey on a high and prepare for a bright future ahead.*

Yours faithfully



**K WESTWELL (Mrs)**  
**Director of Learning Y11**