



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*A High Performing Specialist Technology & Music College
with Leading Edge Status*

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Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School and trust the first week of school was enjoyable for your child. If you have any concerns about the start of term, please do not hesitate to contact the school where you will receive a warm and courteous welcome. For the next two weeks we have retreat days for all Year 7 forms where the pupils get to know each other and their form tutor. We will celebrate a 'Welcome Mass' at St Oswald's Church on Friday 29th September at 12.15 pm celebrated by Fr John Gorman, to which you are warmly invited. The excellent support provided by our parents is one of the key factors in the continued success of our school and reinforces the model of Catholic education in seeing the implicit link between home, school and parish. I feel fortunate to have already met many of you at the 'New Intake' meeting at the end of June and look forward to meeting more parents and carers over the coming months and years.

The Year 7 pupils have started extremely well, they all look very smart and I have already witnessed lovely manners and pupils helping each other to adapt to life in 'big school'. Year 11 prefects have been allocated to each of the Y7 form classes to help pupils with the settling-in process and apart from a few 'lost' pupils at the start of the day they have adapted to life at 'big school' remarkably quickly.

We are again delighted with our GCSE results, with many outstanding individual performances but also because the pupils matured into lovely young adults who will have a positive impact on the world.

The school has a website which is a great source of information about the life of the school. I would recommend that you regularly visit the website to read about all the great work that goes on. You can also follow us on twitter @SEACHS1961. The Parent Portal provides you with the most recent pupil information about issues such as attendance, progress, achievement and behaviour. Further explanation will be given at the Year 7 Guidance Evening on Thursday 23rd November at 7.00pm. Could I urge you to download our new school app to your phone which you can find on the Appstore (Apple) or Playstore (Android). The app is called My Ed and you just select our school name. Please note the email address you use to register must be the same you gave to us on the data collection form. If you would like help with this we can help you to download it at the Guidance Evening. It will ensure you receive push notifications from school so you always get the information we send out.

Attendance at school is clearly one of the most important contributory factors in ensuring our pupils excel academically, personally, socially, morally and spiritually. Could I politely ask parents to avoid taking pupils out of school during term time, as national and local guidelines now state that family holidays in term time must be 'unauthorised'. Holiday dates for this year (2017-18) and next year (2018-19) are on the school website.



Parents will be aware of the coverage in the national press about the effect of energy drinks on young people and the adverse side effects they bring. Some cans have four times the recommended caffeine intake for children! I would like to ask parents' support for our ban of energy drinks. Any pupils with energy drinks in school will have them confiscated.

Traffic congestion in the vicinity of the school remains a problem. As the surrounding roads are so narrow, our designated spot for dropping off and picking up pupils is the car park at St Oswald's Church. **I would kindly ask parents to avoid driving into Rookery Avenue and/or using the school car park especially before morning registration** as a courtesy and safety measure to those pupils who walk to school and use this entrance. Safety of pupils has to be our number one priority and unfortunately a small number of parents ignore my pleas and drive down Rookery Avenue, sometimes at excessive speeds, when our pupils are entering and exiting school. It is couple of minutes' walk to school for pupils who are dropped off at the car park on St Oswald's Road, can I please urge parents to follow this procedure. When after-school events are taking place, the tennis courts at the rear of school (accessed via St Oswald's Road) provide a spacious "overspill" car park.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or if you have ideas of how our school can continue to improve.

Yours faithfully



M J Dumican
HEADTEACHER