



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

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

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B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back 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.

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, we wish them all every success in the future.

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 various 'Guidance Evenings' throughout the year. **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 we have stored in our own school records. If you would like help with this we can help you to download it at the relevant Guidance Evening, or simply phone school and our technical team will talk you through it. 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 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 and at the end of the school day** as a courtesy and safety measure to those pupils who walk to and from school and use this entrance/ exit. 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 only a 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 any ideas how our school can continue to improve.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "M.J. Dumican". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

M J Dumican
HEADTEACHER