

Tuesday 20th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re. The Big Ask 2021

Welcome back to the Summer term. I was very glad to see students and staff returning to school so happy and positive as the sun shines down on us.

Yesterday Dame Rachel de Souza (the new Children's Commissioner for England) launched The Big Ask, the biggest ever survey of children conducted in the UK. This is an online review, titled the 'Childhood Commission', aimed at highlighting the barriers young people face today to inform solutions to help them reach their full potential. The Big Ask is also supported by footballer Marcus Rashford, who has championed measures against child food poverty.

The following link takes you to the survey: [The Big Ask](#). This is the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that children can be placed at the heart of the country's recovery from the Covid-19 outbreak.

We encourage students to [complete this survey](#). Parents/carers, care givers and those working with children are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back. The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

The survey will run online from 19th April to 19th May, with responses kept anonymous and questions tailored to different age groups. Children will be asked about how content they are with aspects of their lives, as well as their views about the future.

The Big Ask survey is inspired by William Beveridge's report of the 1940s. The Beveridge Report (officially entitled 'Social Insurance and Allied Services') was a pivotal Government report, published in November 1942. The Beveridge Report was influential in the founding of the welfare state in the United Kingdom. Dame Rachel de Souza said: "What children tell us will be at the heart of my Childhood Commission and 'Beveridge-style' blueprint for Government and others to tackle some of the generational problems that have held back too many children for decades."

Dame Rachel de Souza said: "It is time to give something back to children after the huge sacrifices they have made during the Covid pandemic.". Dame Rachel de Souza hopes that parents, carers and teachers will encourage children to "take part in this big, exciting opportunity".

At St Edward's, we actively encourage our students to get involved and have their say.

Please support your child in completing this survey.

With my very best wishes.



Jodie Hassan
Headteacher