



St Edward's Church of England Academy

# Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Spring 2021 Edition

I reflected today this time last year as we approached the Easter holidays. The country had not long begun our first national lockdown and the first national school closure. The word "unprecedented" became the norm in most conversations. This past year has brought us all many challenges that we could not have previously imagined we'd ever face. We have learnt and grown and I can honestly say that I am so proud of the St Edward's community and the way we have worked together to face the hardest of times.

No one could have known following the relative normality of the end to the Christmas term that the country would be embarking on full remote learning again in January. Then, with our return to onsite education in early March, we conducted our mass testing programme. In-school testing was carried out incredibly smoothly (with 0 cases detected) and additional home testing kits have been given to students and staff. Even though you have the lateral flow tests for your child, my recommendation would be that, if you or any member of your family have any symptoms over the Easter break, you should book a standard COVID-19 PCR test which are so readily available.

In spite of the challenges that we have all faced, the atmosphere and engagement at school has been a source of great inspiration. St Edward's Academy is a wonderful place to be, with lessons running successfully and students and staff happy and learning.

This week we have had a series of very powerful assemblies, led by Father David Simpson (our new parish priest) and Father Dan Barnes-Davies. We were delighted to have our Chaplaincy team attend, along with Chris Speller (the Headteacher of St Edward's Primary School). During our assemblies, we heard the accounts of the events of Holy Week in the Gospels and we reflected on the impactful artwork of Sieger Köder. Father David was most impressed by the behaviour and engagement of all of our students who were a real credit to the school.

At Easter time, when we think about the Resurrection, all accounts say that Christ's followers did not, at first, recognise Jesus. The Resurrected Christ had travelled through the veil and when he came back, his constant message was one of peace and comfort. I hope this message resonates with our whole community (whether you will personally be marking Easter or not). Words of peace and comfort are so needed in our present situation.

Wishing you the most wonderful of Easter holidays. Stay safe. I hope we can all enjoy a little touch of normality as restrictions begin to lift. We look forward to seeing all students return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

With my very best wishes,  
Jodie Hassan, Headteacher



Life in all its Fullness

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## A message from Father David Simpson

A few years' ago, I was a regular follower of the television comedy, 'Rev' – a very witty and perceptive depiction of the day-to-day life of a Vicar in the East End of London. In the lead role, versatile actor, Tom Hollander made a very credible Vicar striving to offer love and understanding to people on the margins, whilst struggling against the odds to save his historic church building. Ultimately, unable to raise the funds, his church building was closed and public services ceased to the massive disappointment of his small, but loyal congregation.



Despite what might have seemed a downward spiral, 'the Revd Alan Smallbone' and his congregation could not be deterred from their celebration of Easter. The series depicts them pulling open one of the hoardings and re-entering their church and to hold the Easter Liturgy; their faces brimming with joy at Christ's Life conquering Death, they re-tell the story of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt and Christians' deliverance from Death. Before sharing Christ's sacramental body, the Easter Candle is lit casting its light across the largely empty church and the ancient song of Easter Praise is sung with a joy and dignity worthy of a cathedral. The reunion of Christian Community gives expression to joy and reflects the joy of the First Disciples at the sight of the Risen Lord.

This Easter, as we have for almost 2,000 years, the Church calls her members to celebrate the Easter Faith. Some of our churches remain closed for public worship, but not all. If ever there was a time to step into a church that's not your own, this is the time. Of course, you may need to contact the church in advance, there will be the dreaded face-coverings, social distancing and safety measures, but the call to gather, like the Apostles when they met the Risen Lord, endures across the centuries and should be irrepressible. Why not find out where you can attend church local to where you live and respond to the Church's call at her most important festival? If that's just not possible, for health or other reasons, why not meet with those in your bubble to read the Easter Gospel (Mark 16:1-8), share a prayer (such as that below) and crack open your Easter egg?

The new life that Christ brings is for sharing and it's never the same if we keep it to ourselves.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son, you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Happy Easter!

Fr David Simpson



Our Easter services this week have been a great success.

## **A message from Tim Coulson, CEO of Unity Schools Partnership**

Dear Friends, Staff and Students of St Edward's Academy,

How wonderful it has been to see your children back at school. Thank you for all your support, particularly during the national lockdown and the help you gave whilst children had to learn from home.



We will never forget this past year and it will always be a significant part of all our lives, particularly for children as they remember their time growing up. We have been impressed at their resilience and their getting quickly back into the school routines and applying themselves to their work.

We are incredibly proud of the staff at St Edward's and the way they have responded to all that has been expected of them over the past year since we all became aware of the pandemic. As a trust, we are delighted that there will in due course be three schools in the area, with two new schools due to open on the back of the reputation of St Edward's with the Department for Education. We look forward particularly to the opening of a special school next door in September 2022, and expect to see opportunities of links between the schools that will provide support for children who might find that helpful and volunteering opportunities for those who will be interested in taking these up.

We value strongly our link with the wider St Edward's family, welcoming the new priest at our church, and with our friends at St Edward's Primary.

We wish you all a very happy Easter and much optimism for the remainder of 2021.

Tim Coulson

## **A message from Ms Wensley, Deputy Head**

It is now a year ago that we started on a challenging journey through the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our amazing students have pulled together, faced their fears and carried on learning. The curriculum has had to be adapted in part - especially the practical subjects - and it is wonderful to see students back at school playing sports and taking part in DT, Drama, Art and Music, albeit with necessary COVID adaptations.



The curriculum is based on our HOPE values of Humanity, Optimism, Perseverance and Excellence and these have shone through the work students have produced this year. Above all, the whole school community has come together to ensure that we can continue with education to transform lives: a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

"For the body is not one member, but many." 1 Corinthians 12.14

# ST EDWARD'S ACADEMY

## Governor Newsletter

### Issue 3: Spring 2021



Welcome to the Spring newsletter from your Local Governing Board. We feel it is really important to find ways to ensure that the Local Governing Board communicate effectively with all parents and carers. We hope you enjoy finding out about the work of your Local Governing Board through this newsletter.

#### St Edward's is a Success Story

The Spring Term has been particularly busy and challenging for pupils, families and staff alike, yet, throughout our many monitoring activities, questions and meetings this term we have found the following:

- Staff and School Leaders have risen to the challenges from the Government and Pandemic to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to all of our pupils. Our Pupils are at the heart of our school.
- Relationships and levels of communication with parents are exemplary.
- The well-being of staff and pupils has been central to the work of the school.
- Pupil attendance at remote lessons and now at school continues to be high.
- The Vision and HOPE values of our school run through every decision made and have supported us all in these difficult times.
- Staff know their pupils well and have been working hard to ensure that a fair and compliant process is in place for awarding grades which reflect the pupil's ability.

#### What do Governors do?

As a member of the Local Governing Board each person will: attend the Board meetings (twice a term), undertake monitoring activities, keep up to date and undertake training.

#### What has your Local Governing Board been up to?

The Governing body has continued to meet remotely since lockdown to oversee the work and progress of the school by:

- Meeting virtually with Key members of staff to monitor areas of school life including: Safeguarding, Assessment arrangements, SEND, Careers and The Curriculum.
- Reviewing the School Risk Assessment to ensure the school was ready to welcome pupils back again.
- Undertaking training on Ofsted and the Diocese Inspection processes (SIAMS) to ensure we are best prepared for these when they happen.
- Overseeing the plans for spending of Catch-up funding to support our pupils.



**EXEMPLARY** – Well done to the 3 St Ed's students who stopped to assist a lady on their way to school. We are proud of you. Your behaviour showed our HOPE values in action and a great community spirit. **THANK YOU**

#### Happy Easter

As your Local Governing Board, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, staff and families a safe and Happy Easter Break.

Over the next few pages are examples of departmental learning journeys which visually depict the progression of our curriculum from year 7 to year 11. This enables parents to engage with their child's work at school.

# French Learning Journey



Year 7  
The beginning of a lifelong love of language learning



Year 8-Year 9  
Build a solid foundation in language learning



Year 10  
Prepare for your GCSE exams & have a career interview and consider where languages could take you.



Year 11  
Sit in GCSE Exam confidently and celebrate your excellent GCSE results.



Stand out from the crowd and continue to learn your lifelong language!



## GCSE Themes

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

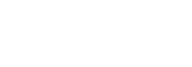
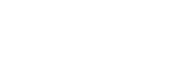
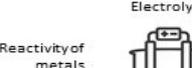
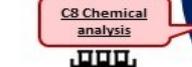
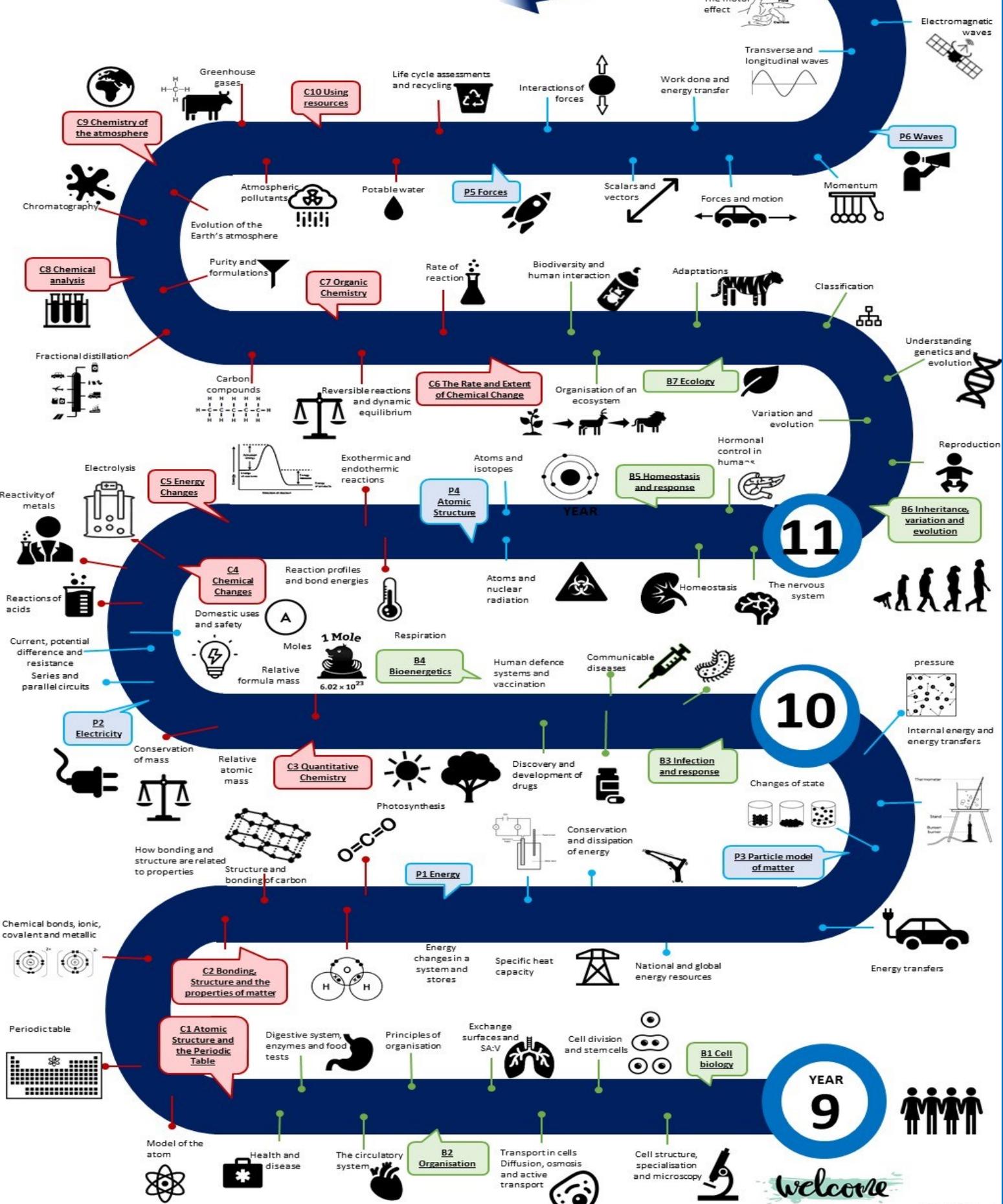




## Science Trilogy

A Level Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Need grade 6 and above and grade 6 in Maths)

Other post 16 options – Apprenticeships, other A level subjects, other BTEC subjects, other training, College?



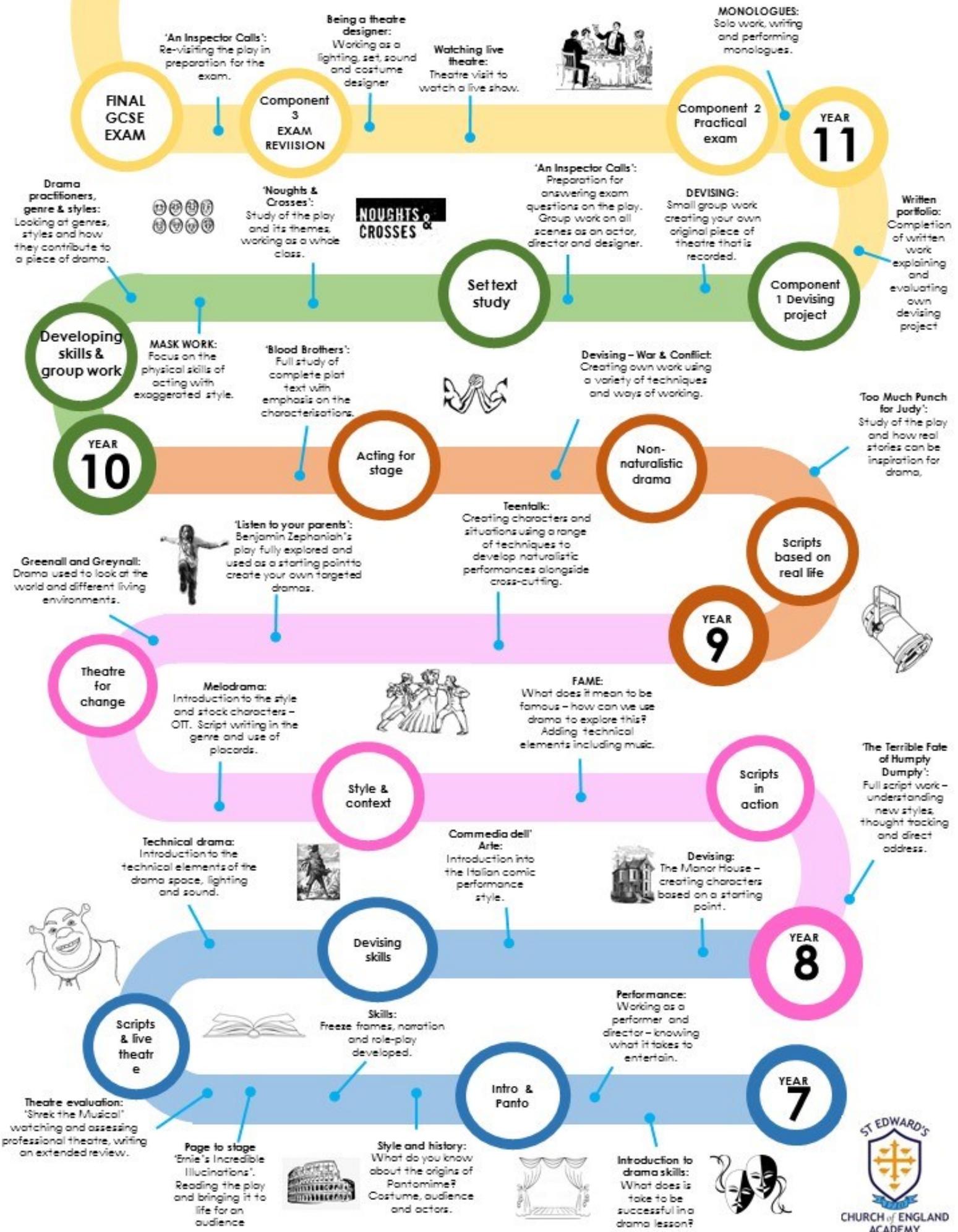
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YEAR 9

welcome

# DRAMA KS3 - 4



**FINAL GCSE EXAM**  
 'An Inspector Calls': Re-visiting the play in preparation for the exam.

**Component 3 EXAM REVISION**  
 Being a theatre designer: Working as a lighting, set, sound and costume designer.

**Watching live theatre:** Theatre visit to watch a live show.

**Component 2 Practical exam**  
**MONOLOGUES:** Solo work, writing and performing monologues.

**YEAR 11**

**Developing skills & group work**  
 Drama practitioners, genre & styles: Looking at genres, styles and how they contribute to a piece of drama.

**Set text study**  
 'Noughts & Crosses': Study of the play and its themes, working as a whole class.

**Component 1 Devising project**  
 'An Inspector Calls': Preparation for answering exam questions on the play. Group work on all scenes as an actor, director and designer.

**DEVSING:** Small group work creating your own original piece of theatre that is recorded.

**Written portfolio:** Completion of written work explaining and evaluating own devising project.

**YEAR 10**  
**MASK WORK:** Focus on the physical skills of acting with exaggerated style.

**Acting for stage**  
 'Blood Brothers': Full study of complete play text with emphasis on the characterisations.

**Devising - War & Conflict:** Creating own work using a variety of techniques and ways of working.

**Non-naturalistic drama**

**Too Much Punch for Judy:** Study of the play and how real stories can be inspiration for drama.

**Theatre for change**  
 Greenall and Greynall: Drama used to look at the world and different living environments.

**Scripts based on real life**  
 'Listen to your parents': Benjamin Zephaniah's play fully explored and used as a starting point to create your own targeted dramas.

**Teentalk:** Creating characters and situations using a range of techniques to develop naturalistic performances alongside cross-cutting.

**YEAR 9**

**style & context**  
**Melodrama:** Introduction to the style and stock characters - OIT. Script writing in the genre and use of placards.

**Scripts in action**  
**FAME:** What does it mean to be famous - how can we use drama to explore this? Adding technical elements including music.

**Devising skills**  
**Commedia dell'Arte:** Introduction into the Italian comic performance style.

**Devising:** The Manor House - creating characters based on a starting point.

**The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty:** Full script work - understanding new styles, thought tracking and direct address.

**Scripts & live theatre**  
**Technical drama:** Introduction to the technical elements of the drama space, lighting and sound.

**Devising skills**  
**Skills:** Freeze frames, narration and role-play developed.

**Performance:** Working as a performer and director - knowing what it takes to entertain.

**YEAR 8**

**Theatre evaluation:** 'Shrek the Musical' watching and assessing professional theatre, writing an extended review.

**Intro & Panto**  
**Page to stage:** 'Ernie's Incredible Illusions'. Reading the play and bringing it to life for an audience.

**Style and history:** What do you know about the origins of Pantomime? Costume, audience and actors.

**Introduction to drama skills:** What does it take to be successful in a drama lesson?

**YEAR 7**

# Father David Simpson - St Edward's Church, Romford



We were delighted to welcome Father David Simpson on his first visit to St Edward's Academy on 25th March. He met with Ms Hassan, the Senior Leadership Team and many other members of staff and students. A very warm welcome to the St Edward's family, Father David, and we look forward to working with you closely in the future.

## COVID-19 Mass testing of students



Report your test result to St Edward's here

We had an incredibly successful transition back to onsite teaching during the week of 8th March. Our students showed excellence in their attitude and behaviour, including during onsite lateral flow testing when over 1600 tests were completed successfully (all negative). All tests were undertaken with minimal disruption to lessons.

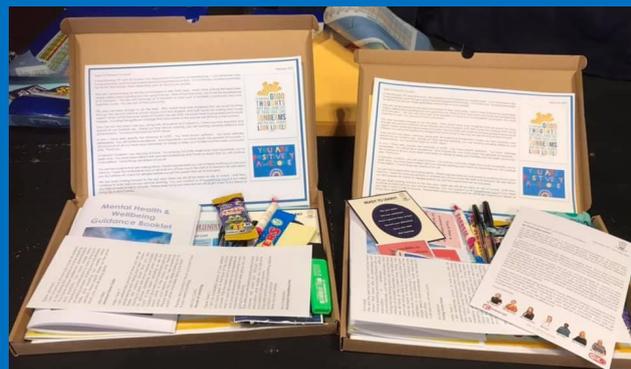


Students have since been given an initial box of 3 and then 7 tests and we are delighted with the uptake of students who have completed these at home.



## Well-being Boxes

We feel passionately about looking after our young people and we are thrilled with the feedback we have received from students and parents/carers about our well-being boxes. We posted a box home to every student which, as well as a few school essentials, included



messages from teachers, tackling period poverty, sharing tips on how to promote well-being and giving a couple of sweet treats too!



## Heads of Learning



Year 7 - Mrs Da Costa

Let me start by congratulating you all on your exemplary conduct whilst coping with online learning from home during the first half of the Spring term. Your teachers sent me some excellent examples of your work completed during the lockdown and I was delighted to be able to share this with you in our first assembly back. I am proud of the way you have seamlessly returned to face-to-face learning displaying your humanity, looking out for one another. You continue to amaze me with your resilience to adapt to the ever-changing COVID requirements and have taken everything in your stride. As the weather improves and we approach our Easter break, I hope you take time to be with family and friends outside and return ready for our final term in Year 7! You make us proud every day, through every action. Happy Easter Year 7!

Year 8 - Mr James

We have reached the Easter holiday and I sincerely hope you all manage to get the rest you thoroughly deserve. As I have often mentioned in assemblies, these have been tough times for us all, and yet you have risen to and met the challenges. I feel as if we are making such progress, staff can see your tremendous potential and I know you all have great ambition to succeed as we move forward. As ever, I am proud to be associated with you and together we will achieve great things!

Enjoy your holiday, relax, have some fun and come back safe.

God bless you.



Year 9 - Ms Perdomo Quintans

During the national lockdown, you showed your true spirit of 'Life in all its fullness' by the excellent way in which you persevered with online learning. As usual, Year 9, you rose to the challenge, participating in all lessons and engaging with tutors in form time.

When we returned, you adapted well to the systems in place, showing your respect for all by adhering to our COVID restrictions and always looking out for each other.

I am really proud of all we have achieved and am always delighted receiving praise from your teachers. Please use the Easter holidays as an opportunity to rest and return to school ready for your options choices ahead of GCSEs next year.





### Year 10 - Mrs Allen

I am wishing you a RESTFUL Easter break; I have again been impressed with your resilience and determination through a difficult and ever-changing term. Being back in school with you has made me smile and I love all of our random chats, although I am missing our breaktime Kahoot! sessions online, who knew you all had such a vast yet specific general knowledge! Take time to reflect on how well you have done and look forward to what you are going to achieve in the Summer term.

### Year 11 - Mr Adewale & Mr Lynch

It has been a pleasure to see you all back in school again this term and restart face to face teaching. You have shown amazing resilience through difficult and uncertain times. We hope that you continue to strive for excellence and work hard for the remaining time that you are with us. Please remember it is important that you maintain your strong work ethic to ensure you get the grades you deserve. Despite the recent challenges, we hope you are preparing yourself for life beyond Key Stage 4, whether that is continuing at St Edward's Sixth Form or moving elsewhere for an apprenticeship or further education. Have a restful break over the Easter period and we look forward to seeing you all when we return.



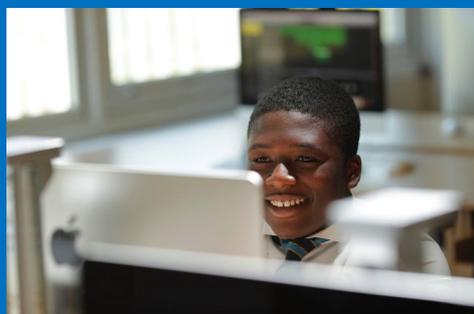
### Year 12 & 13 - Ms Said

I would like to say how pleased I am to see you return to the Sixth Form and continue your studies with us. I know the last few months have been hard at home, but despite the challenges, feedback from your teachers has been good and the work you have completed will of course count towards the excellent grades you deserve. It is important you take time to rest and relax over the Easter break, ready to start the summer term with energy and a positive attitude now we know things are returning more to normal.

### Remote Learning Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have won the highest attendance, effort and contribution to remote learning last half term. We awarded the winners with a £25 Just Eat voucher so they can have a family take away to celebrate, as we know, remote learning is a whole family effort!

- Year 7 - Khadija
- Year 8 - Melaad
- Year 9 - Alexandra-Mae
- Year 10 - Beatriz
- Year 11 - Princess
- Year 12 - Alisha
- Year 13 - Destiny



# Remote Learning - Parent Feedback

From January until our recent return to face-to-face teaching in March, students completed their lessons via MS Teams. The attitude shown by our students truly reflected the school ethos and HOPE values. We had lots of positive comments and feedback from students and parents, despite the occasional technical challenges:

*"I just want to say a huge well done and thank you to all the staff at St Edward's CofE Academy for your hard work during the past 2 weeks of online learning. Offering all live online lessons every day for students is a fantastic achievement and although there have been a few 'teething problems' (which were sorted out as soon as possible), it is working so well and keeping both my children focused on their education. It's great for them to be able to actually be taught, rather than just having work sent through and to be able to speak with their teachers and peers and get the best education that is possible in these unprecedented times (as well as a small bit of normality) So Thank you all, I know it's a lot of work for the teachers but it really is appreciated, especially as I know that not all schools are offering live lessons. Keep up the good work and hope you enjoy a restful weekend."*

*"I have been in touch with different members of staff from the Academy during this past year to help me with problems that have arisen. I need to tell you that EVERY single member of staff that I have spoken to has gone over and above to help me. I have been treated with kindness and respect. I have been made to feel that my son and I are valued and although we are just one family out of many, the staff members have always had enough time to offer their support in a wonderfully relational way."*

*"Ms Begum, Thank you for being a lovely teacher. I think that you are the best at explaining maths and whenever I have you I can always understand the work I am doing."*

*"Ms Allen, Thank you so much for everything that you have done throughout both lockdowns. The dedication and support that you have given is truly appreciated and it means a lot with the uncertainty with regards to GCSE exams next year."*

*"Ms Arnold, Thank you for supporting and helping me. You have been my favourite teacher since my first day in school."*

*"Mr Etemadi, Thank you for being the best form tutor ever and believing in me!"*



Scan or click here to see more of our positive feedback!

## Important Information & Dates for your diary

**Monday 19th April**

First day of the Summer term

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

Bank Holiday

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Half Term Holiday

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021**

End of Summer Term

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

School closed for students

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

School closed for students

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

School closed for students

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

Year 7 arrive by 8.20am

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Year 11 Student Leadership Team (By Invitation)

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 return to school - Arrive 8.20am for 8.30am start

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

All Year groups arrive by 8.20am

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - Christmas Holiday

Half Term Holiday



Scan or click here for our website page showing all parental communications!