



# Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Autumn Term 2021 Edition



As we approach the end of term and move ever closer to Christmas, St Edward's has been a place of hopeful anticipation. We are all feeling the joy and excitement of being together. The building is beautifully adorned with Christmas decorations aplenty. Our thanks to the site team who have really done us proud with the many Christmas trees, including our tree in the Webster Hall that easily rivals the one in Trafalgar Square. The work of the Art team is also incredibly impressive - we have beautiful art works all around the building that illustrate just how many talented artists we have at school.

At St Edward's, the build-up to Christmas has been a time of great joy. It has been delightful to hear laughter ringing through the building and smiling faces all around. This is all the more special this year as we hear the news that Covid cases nationally are again

increasing dramatically. I am very proud of the continued efforts of our students and staff to manage this awful virus. We have again adapted so well to mask wearing and I'm sure this has helped keep our Covid numbers down.

Our Sixth Form student leadership team have run a series of wonderful events that have really epitomised the joy of Christmas. I must admit, my favourite had to be the Staff vs Sixth Form Dodgeball games. The contest was fought fairly and with fortitude. The Staff team didn't go down with anywhere near the speed that we had predicted. Instead, they did us proud but, in the end, youth prevailed and our Sixth Formers won. Although the staff team didn't manage to defeat their competitors, they were all very happy that their inability to dodge the balls raised money for charity. We must mention Mr Brome as a pretty amazing dodgeball player – he could definitely keep up with the speed of our Sixth Formers. I'm so proud that the Sixth Form student leadership team have organised a series of such wonderful events for our HOPE for Christmas charity drive, thank you for your support with this.

During the last few weeks as we approach Christmas, I am reminded of the message of the Angel Gabriel to Mary: "Rejoice, the Lord loves you dearly". The notion of love is, I trust, reflected in our HOPE values and in our aim that all members of our community should live 'Life in all its fullness'. When I think about this, I recall a quote attributed to the late Cardinal Basil Hume. I met Cardinal Hume as a young teenager myself and can still remember to this day what an impressive man he was. Cardinal Hume wrote: "God cannot count – with him everyone is number one, to realise and believe we are loved is basic to true joy." I hope that, through every word and action at St Edward's, our students realise that, for us, they are all number one and are very well loved and cared for; I hope this feeling of belonging and community brings them all joy.

Joy comes in a myriad of ways and each of us will experience it differently. At this time of year, as we wait in joyful anticipation for Christmas, I would like us to reflect with joy on all that we have achieved this term. Wonderful things are coming for the St Edward's community in 2022, I have no doubt about that.

I wish you a lovely Christmas, a restful holiday and a wonderful New Year. Please keep safe and well and enjoy the holidays.



Life in all its Fullness



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Three and a half years ago, Unity Schools Partnership had the honour of being associated with St Edward's School. We look with great pride at the progress the school has achieved and the high reputation it now has in so many areas, not least across the Chelmsford Diocese. I had the pleasure of seeing staff and children from the school being held in high regard at a recent event at Chelmsford Cathedral.



Thank you to all the families associated with the school. The school is straining every sinew to help your children do as well as possible, and we are grateful for all that you do to reinforce at home the learning from school. We reach the end of 2021 with the hope that 2022 will be much less disrupted, and pay tribute to the school's staff being prepared to go over and above when the need has demanded.

Meanwhile, very best wishes to you all for a very happy and blessed Christmas.

### HOPE Week Events- Busayo Williams

Over the course of the last 2 weeks, we as the Sixth Form have taken it upon ourselves to inspire 2 weeks full of HOPE. Our core focus was to express the school's values (Humanity, Optimism, Perseverance and Excellence) through fun interactive activities whilst also raising money for a charitable cause. These include events such as Staff v Students Dodgeball, which was a real test of who can persevere until the end, and also



Steds Got Talent. This is where

students have the opportunity to express their talents and gifts for an amazing prize!

After the tough year we have all had, we think this has been a great way to end it, to cruise into the holiday break. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.





## Christmas Update from Fr David Simpson

Jez had always liked Christmas. Now that he was nineteen, he felt his time had come (do you know that feeling?) to get what he deserved, of course, the best Christmas ever! His Dad had a successful career and though things had changed when he went on furlough and had his pay cut, Jez was pretty sure that Dad would pull out the stops.

Jez and Dad went out shopping; their first stop was the department store for a Christmas tree. Jez had always dreamt of one that would reach the ceiling and have amazing lights. This year, he couldn't believe how Dad picked up the smallest he could find, barely 2 feet tall. He was even more dismayed when Dad turned down the lights at £30 per box and said they could make do with the box for £10.

The biggest shock of all came when they went to the tech counter. Now Jez's dad knew that he'd had his eye on the top of the range phone ever since it came out. Dad, biting his pride, said given the big price difference it might be best to go for the Mini rather than the Max. Maybe things would improve next year?

Jez did not take kindly to the displacement of his expectations: he was rude, sullen and ungrateful. When they got home, he went straight to his room and sulked. Imagine his amazement when next day, Christmas Day, he came into the sitting room and found a tree that went up to the ceiling with amazing lights. Beaming his dad came into the living room with the Max rather than the Mini iPhone. Jez could not believe his eyes!

'How did you do it, Dad?' 'I took out a new store card, Son: Christmas only comes once a year and you deserve the best!' Amazed at his dad's selflessness, Jez had to take a walk to clear his head. Outside in the street was a homeless guy who was sharing his presents with his son the same age as Jez himself: he was giving him the smallest Christmas tree you've ever seen (he'd found it in a bin!), and a phone with a cracked screen. Despite being so poor, the down-and-out's generosity to his son with virtually nothing showed him there has to be more to life than getting. Jez went back home and with tears in his eyes told his dad how he's the best dad he could ever hope for and that next day they'd be returning those expensive gifts to the store to exchange them for those he could afford.

Christmas is a time for Giving, but it's also a time for Receiving. It takes grace to receive a gift well. To receive what we're given well, we need the openheartedness of a giver, generosity of spirit. A young priest friend of mine has taken to writing small notes to thank people who serve the church in different ways; he's finding it's changing things, changing people's souls. As we give and receive this Christmas, try to put as much care in being grateful as you would into giving. St John tells us, that Jesus 'came to His own, and His own people would not accept him. But to all who did accept Him, to those who put their trust in Him, He gave the right to become children of God'. (John 1: 12) With this newsletter, you'll be receiving a copy of St Edward's Christmas Programme. Whatever your plans for Christmas, you can be assured of a warm welcome at St Edward's, our school's very own church. Whether or not you can make it, God calls us be 'generous inside and out, true from start to finish'.



God bless you richly this Christmastide,

Fr David Simpson

## Christmas Message from Ms Wensley, Deputy Headteacher



The St Edward's Academy 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. St Edward's students approach their learning with tenacity, curiosity and the willingness to learn from mistakes.

This year, we have had a particular focus on extending the curriculum with our Supra Curriculum, to help our students to make connections, broaden their academic knowledge and develop their critical thinking. Please take some time to explore our new website - in particular, visit our Literature Lounge and have a look at our Curriculum pages to see what we have been studying this term and what we will be learning about in the Spring Term 2022.

<https://www.steds.org.uk/curriculum/hope-literature-lounge/>

In A level English Literature, we are studying the poetry of Christina Rossetti, and I would like to leave you with the words to 'In the Bleak Midwinter', which has also been set to music as a well-known Christmas carol:

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

The last verse reminds us that no matter what our position in the world, we can still give our hearts.

## Message to Year 7 students from Mrs Allen, Year 7 Head of Learning,

You have all made an impressive start to your secondary school journey. The time has flown since meeting some of you at Summer School and I can now say you are full members of the St Edward's family. The way you have contributed to all the extra-curricular opportunities on offer has been amazing and I am excited for what more 2022 holds for you. The transition to Year 7 can be a daunting and tiring one for students and loved ones alike, so I am wishing you and your families a

## Message to Year 8 students from Mrs Da Costa, Year 8 Head of Learning

This term has seen the return to secondary school normality with bubbles, thankfully, no longer a requirement. You have once again taken this in your stride and quickly adapted to moving around the school. I have been proud to see you assisting our new Year 7s, even though moving around to different classrooms was as equally new to you as it was for them!

Jemison have enjoyed an explosive Science experiment lesson as a reward for the 'Conduct Cup' in the first half of the term, and we await the result of which Form will win this next! Results will be announced in our celebration assembly and the reward will take place in January.

Congratulations to our newly appointed Form Captains, I know you will represent your form class and our Year group with the same high standards that were set by our outgoing Captains.

Congratulations also to our additional 'Anti-bullying Ambassadors'. I am proud to say we have the largest numbers of Ambassadors within our year group.

To all of you who have been representing the school in various sporting fixtures, well done for always showing the St Edward's spirit and giving your best. I know there are lots of fixtures planned for next term. As we come to the end of this term do reflect on what you have achieved so far in Year 8 and set yourself some goals of what you would like to achieve in the next term, and remember I am always here to assist you. Have a lovely Christmas break, I look forward to seeing you all again in January 2022.



## Message from Mr James, Year 9 Head of Learning

As we come to the end of 2021, I genuinely think everyone ought to give themselves a mighty large pat on the back, for successfully passing through yet another challenging year. I'm sure I speak for us all when I dare to hope that 2022 will be a little easier. Despite the unprecedented challenges, Year 9 have a lot to be proud of. You are in school every day, working hard, seizing the opportunity to learn, whilst growing into fantastic young adults - I recognise your efforts as do your parents and carers. I am also hugely proud of the fact that Year 9 have ended the year with more achievement points than any other Year group. This is the first time in my memory that a Year 9 cohort has managed this: you are indeed, the best Year group!

In 2022 your journey will continue as you select your GCSE options and begin to think ever more deeply about your future pathways - onwards and upwards!

I would like to end by thanking you for your tremendous efforts over the past year, and I am certain that we will make 2022 an even more successful one!

Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the time with your family and friends.

God bless you all.

## Message for Year 10 Students from Ms Perdomo, Year 10 Head of Learning

Having seen you grow and mature since Year 7 has been a real pleasure. You are an intelligent, caring and respectful Year group and I am extremely proud of you all. This term has demonstrated how much we have grown. We have faced many challenges, which we have addressed and for many surpassed. The start to GCSE is never an easy task but you have taken this on admirably, showing your optimism and perseverance. We recently moved to three forms and you have bonded as a new community, demonstrating your humanity. Christmas is a time to relax, focus on what we have achieved, and as the New Year begins, set ourselves new targets. Enjoy a well-deserved break and let's continue to show our excellence in 2022.



## Message for Year 11 students from Mrs Allen, Year 11 Head of Learning

As we come to the end of a stressful year, I wanted to take the time to praise your conduct and maturity. It is now clear in all you do that you are excited and passionate about your futures. Christmas should be a time for you to refresh and although I know many will be working hard, please make time to relax with the ones you care for and those that make you smile. 2022 is a big year for you, be ready for it with boundless energy.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

## Message for Sixth Form students from Mr Adewale and Ms Said, Heads of Sixth Form

As we reflect on 2021, and autumn term, most of us agree that it has been an extremely challenging year that we have experienced at St Edward's. However, it has been amazing to see how you have all found ways to overcome personal anxieties and fears in order to support each other and your families whilst striving for excellence. We continue to adapt our practice and procedures and are sorry for any inconvenience that this may entail. We cannot promise that the spring term will be any less complex, but we are confident that we will all rise to that challenge and make a success of 2022..

Wishing you all and your families a restful and peaceful break over the Christmas period and all the best for a safe and prosperous New Year.

Stay safe!

Ms Said & Mr Adewale

## Celebrating Black History Month- Simone Boyd and Tosin Ojosi

In October, St Edward's celebrated Black History Month which was an immense success. The Sixth Form team, along with others, organised a three-week plan filled with multiple educational activities as well as an event showcasing Black Excellence.

The first week consisted of Tutor activities informing students on why we celebrate the month and its importance. Students learned about important Black British figures within Black history and significant events throughout life. The whole purpose of this was to educate and enlighten our St Edward's community on the principles and values of Black History Month.

During the second week, the main focus was on advocacy and how we extend the advocacy of Black culture and equality beyond Black History Month. Within their lessons, teachers incorporated the topic of racial inequality, its impact and members of society who fought against it which aligns with the schools HOPE principles.

In our final week, we celebrated Black culture by holding a talent and fashion event open to everyone which involved students showing their appreciation for different cultures while showcasing their abilities through performing arts and spoken word.

At the end of each week the Catering Team provided cultural cuisines for the students and staff, showing their recognition and admiration to the values of Black History. To conclude our celebrations, we held a Cultural Dress Day at the end of term where students were encouraged to wear clothing from their heritage.

Overall, this month was very informative, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. St Edward's is proud to have celebrated such an important month in a way that brought our school community together.



## Diocese of Chelmsford Racial Justice in Society Synod Meeting

We have had a whirlwind of exciting trips at St Edward's in the last month, working closely with the Diocese of Chelmsford.



Our students and staff have been sharing experiences, performing and been keynote speakers on the challenging topic of racial justice in society.

The impact of their work has resulted in a unanimous vote by the Bishops' Synod to adopt the motion proposed in the report 'From Action to Real Change' culminating in an immediate appointment of a Racial Justice Officer and establishment of the Racial Justice Advisory Panel.



We are hugely proud of our Sixth Form Ambassadors, Busayo Williams, Josie Afua, David Osinoiki, and Ms Said and Mr Adewale for their hard work.



## Remembrance Day - Thursday 11th November 2021

The whole school paid our respects to those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. Each Year group had Remembrance assemblies delivered by to them by Ms Waddingham. A two minute silence was undertaken across the school, both on 11th November and each day that week during the Year group assemblies.

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:*

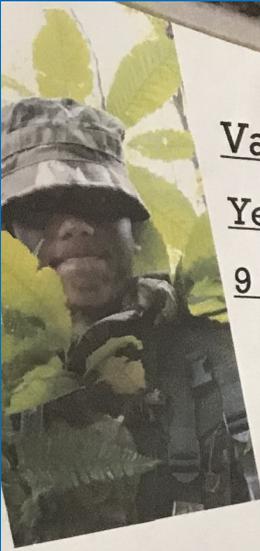
*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun, and in the Morning*

*We will remember them.*



Vashika Singh Year 9



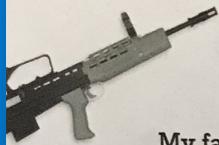
Vashika Singh

Year 9 – 9b1

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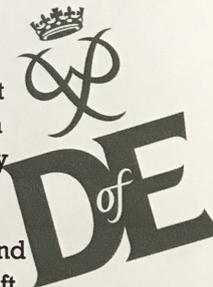
ARMY CADET FORCE



Hi, my name is Vashika Singh, I'm 14 years old and I am in year 9. Outside of school I like to do many extra-curricular activities to gain more skills and to keep active.



My favourite activity that I part take in outside of school is that I am a part of the Army Cadet Force. I joined Army Cadets because I wanted to gain more skills, new experiences, a proper sense of discipline and especially because I wanted to obtain more courage and confidence.

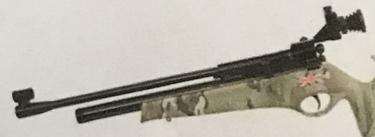


Ever since I joined Cadets, I got to take part in sooo many exciting and challenging activities such as shooting, first aid, expedition, fieldcraft, adventure training, physical training, skill at arms, and many more things.

I have been in cadets for only 6 months, but the short period that I have been in cadets I have made a load of great friends who are some of the best people I have ever met; I have also gained more courage and confidence.



Another great thing about being in Army Cadets is that the army syllabus teaches you leadership skills, discipline, and self-confidence; another thing is that no matter what colour, race, ethnicity, or gender you are everyone gets treated equally and with respect.



## Life in all its fullness

# ST EDWARD'S ACADEMY

## Governor Newsletter

### Issue 5: Winter 2021



Welcome to the Winter newsletter from your Local Governing Body.

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

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

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

- Monitoring the risk assessment as it adapts to the changing needs of the school and current guidance.
- Meeting virtually with key members of staff to monitor areas of school life including Safeguarding and SEND.
- Attending governor training, as well as Trust and Diocese networking meetings.
- Publishing the consultation on St Edward's Academy Oversubscription Criteria for September 2023. Details can be found on the school website:

<https://www.steds.org.uk/letters/consultation-of-change-to-admissions-criteria/>

Don't forget to send any comments by 17<sup>th</sup> January.

#### Membership

This term we say goodbye and thank you to Oyedele Rotimi for his valuable input on the governing board over the last few years and wish him well with his new role. We also say thank you to Tobias Davis who has left our board this term. We are pleased to welcome two new Foundation Governors to join our team: Joy Sajuwa and Simon Bravery. They each have many skills to bring to our board and are currently completing their safeguarding checks ready to join us in January.

#### This term we would like to say THANK YOU ....

To all of our **wonderful students** for their continuing perseverance and resilience to focus on their learning and to upholding our HOPE values.

To our **super staff** who have continued to work hard to maintain the school as a safe and positive learning environment for all of our students.

To all of our **supportive families** who reinforce our HOPE values at home and support their children to make the most of their learning opportunities.

To our **dedicated Governing Body** who have continued to give up their time, take on new roles and ensure the board continues to develop.



Finally, Best wishes to all of our students, staff and families for a lovely Christmas Break and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

How to contact your Local Governing Board: - Please send any correspondence, suggestions or comments to [Governors@steds.org.uk](mailto:Governors@steds.org.uk)



## Important Information & Dates for your diary

### Spring Term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

STAFF INSET DAY – School closed for students

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

STAFF INSET DAY – School closed for students

	Thursday 6th January	Friday 7th January
<b>Year 7</b>		Term begins at 8.30am
<b>Year 8</b>		Term begins at 8.30am
<b>Year 9</b>		Term begins at 10.30am
<b>Year 10</b>	Term begins at 8.30am	
<b>Year 11</b>	Term begins at 9.30am	
<b>Year 12</b>	Term begins at 10.30am	
<b>Year 13</b>	Term begins at 10.30am	

Thursday 6th January 2022

Years 10/11/12/13 students return to school

See details above

Friday 7th January 2022

Years 7/8/9 students return to school

see details above

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

STAFF INSET DAY – School closed for students

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April to  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022

EASTER HOLIDAY