

St. Edward's CE Academy Newsletter



July, 2017

Dates for the diary

First day of term for pupils is Wednesday, 6th September, 2017

Dear members of the St. Edward's Church of England Academy community, this year has seen a lot of changes at the Academy. There have been three different Principals: Mrs Clarke, Dr Fox and myself.



The new Governors who have joined our community are Mr Peters and Mr Goodwin and others have retired from their posts after many years of faithful service - Mrs Tunnicliffe and Mrs Potts.

We will also say goodbye to some long serving members of staff who have provided the very best of education for the children of Leek for many years in Mrs Gallimore, Mrs Cole, Mrs Aston, Mrs Weaver, Mrs Nettell, Mrs Delight, Mrs Handforth, Mrs Sims and Mr Skelley.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone, Governors, staff and those retiring or moving on to new adventures, the very best of luck and God's blessings as they take on new challenges and offer them an open invitation to visit the Academy whenever they wish to see what we are doing and to share their stories with us.

As with any change, this grants the opportunity for new growth and changes to systems. Therefore the next 12 months is going to be a very exciting time for the Academy. During this time we are aiming to do the following key elements to improve the educational provision for pupils at the Academy:

- ◆ Set out a 3 year vision taking feedback from all stakeholders
- ◆ Implement and develop the RESPECT ethos and values across the whole Academy so no decision or plan is implemented unless grounded on this foundation
- ◆ Implement and develop the Academy House structure to develop a sense of belonging, ownership and competition
- ◆ Develop more robust and supportive processes to provide improved provision for all pupils but specifically for pupils with any type of additional need
- ◆ Further improve the quality of teaching and learning taking place in the Academy every lesson, every day
- ◆ Develop the range of experiences our pupils have access to

Continued...

Our Vision

Following Christian principles based on the teachings of Jesus, where every person is loved and accepted by God, our vision is to prepare all our young people academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually, so they realise their God-given potential, becoming lifelong learners and effective contributors to our global community.

This of course is not an exhaustive list of all the elements and areas the Academy staff team are working on but is a flavour of the direction and zeal to improve that is central to our staff team.

After my first term my impressions of the Academy that I mentioned in my original newsletter have not changed. St. Edward's is a community that is welcoming, hardworking and looks to find the very best in each other. This is evident in the superb pupils that I now serve and lead; their enthusiasm, behaviour and sense of purpose is excellent. This has been demonstrated to me not only in the big community events such as sports day and summer concerts but also in the day to day transactions within the Academy - the smiles and 'hellos' that I hear shared between pupils and staff on the corridors and the pride that pupils take in their work.

For our new Year 4 pupils and their families joining the Academy, you are all very welcome and we look forward to day one when you will arrive, smart in your new uniforms, equipped with new stationery and excited about the new journey you are setting out on.

For our leaving Year 8 pupils, you will be missed. Although I have not had the privilege of seeing you through your entire journey at St. Edward's, the welcome I have been given and the way you have assisted me in the simple things like finding my way around the building, I will not forget. I know the teachers (especially Miss Newport, your Progress Leader) hold many happy memories and we all wish you well at High School.

I would like to offer my warmest regards to all the families of pupils and staff alike and pray that you have a happy and enjoyable summer holiday and are rested ready to return in September.

The quote I would like to leave you with is from Philippians 4:13. I hope this quote is something that you can reflect on and take strength from: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Again I wish you all a happy and restful summer break.



God Bless,

Mr. T Hutchinson

New House System

As you are already aware there is a new structure being introduced into the Academy in September, including the house system. We are looking forward to implementing the new processes and structures that will support and encourage the pupils in our school. Further details will be forwarded in the parent booklet, which will be placed on the school website. The booklet will be updated as and when necessary.

Allergies

A number of our pupils have severe allergies, in particular to nuts, please refrain from sending nut products into the school. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Governors



The Governing Body has been very active this year as we have led on recruitment campaigns both for an interim and substantive Principal, at the end of which we were delighted to welcome Mr Hutchinson to lead the Academy forward. In this period of change we thank you all for your support as we seek to further improve outcomes and experiences for staff and pupils at our Academy. We will continue to ask your views on the direction we are taking as we recognise that working in partnership in this way can ensure the best future for the community that we serve.

As strategic leaders in the Academy, the Governing Body has to be consulted and approve any major changes to the structure of the Academy to ensure that these are financially viable and are in the best interests of the pupils to improve their learning and enhance their pastoral care. As you know, from September, there will be changes to the school timetable and pastoral systems and we are confident that these will enable our learners to flourish.

This term, Consultants have been brought in to the Academy to look at various aspects of the curriculum. It will be the role of the Governing Body over the forthcoming academic year to ensure that any recommendations that have been made for improving the way that the Academy delivers that curriculum are implemented, and have impact on the learning outcomes of the pupils.

The Governors were delighted to see an increase in our SATS results this year and would like to thank the pupils and staff for all their hard work. Our thanks also go to parents of our Year 6 pupils for supporting them throughout the year.

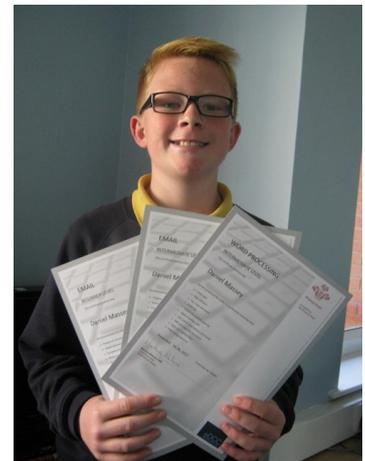
On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to thank Debbie Potts and Beryl Tunnicliffe (both of whom recently retired from the Governing Body) for all they have done for the Academy over many years - we will miss them both. As yet, no replacements have been sought for these roles as the Governing Body will be undergoing a review of its membership and ways of working during the autumn term. I would like to extend thanks to all our Governors for their commitment to the Academy and for their work over the past year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 8 Leavers every success and happiness in their futures and to wish you all a restful summer break. I know that our current pupils will be ready to return in September, together with those joining us then, to a new academic year and the challenges and opportunities that this will undoubtedly bring.

Prince of Wales Trust Award

Congratulations to Daniel Massey who has achieved three more awards from the Prince of Wales Trust: Intermediate Certificate in Word Processing, Beginners Certificate in Email and Intermediate Certificate in Email.

Daniel has worked with patience and determination which has enabled him to make progress with his computing skills to gain these awards.



KS2 SATS



Well done to all staff and Year 6 pupils who have worked hard and put a huge amount of effort in to their SATS preparation. All pupils should be proud of their achievements and progress, across all curriculum areas. This is just one milestone in their long journey of 'learning for life'.

The headline results are:-

	Reading (R)	SPAG	Writing (W)	Maths (M)	Combined (RWM)
Expected standard	68%	72%	82%	80%	61%
Higher Standard	20%	22%	15%	22%	8%

The progress measures are:-

Progress	Reading	Writing	Maths
	-1.54	-0.50	-0.80

We have increased the Combined Reading, Writing & Maths from 51% in 2016 to 61% in 2017, this is in line with National figures. We are above National figures in both Maths and Writing. This year the Progress Measures are above the Coasting Schools definition for 2016, however the 2017 Coasting Schools definition will not be confirmed until Autumn 2017.

Further information can be found on our website.

Mrs D Haydon
Assistant Principal

House-keeping

Please ensure your child is aware of any arrangements for the end of the school day before they leave for school.

If you have changed your address or phone number please inform the school office as soon as possible to ensure our records are up to date.

Pupils should have a water bottle and their locker key in school with them each day.

From September we will **not** be accepting cash or cheque payments and will be asking all parents to only use our e-payment method to pay for all **trips**, unless there are exceptional circumstances.



This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay. Unfortunately, ParentPay cannot be used for the payment of school meals as this is operated by an external provider.

If you have not activated your Parent Pay account yet please do so as soon as possible. **If you have mislaid your activation details then please contact the Finance Office on 01538 714747 for a copy.** Please note activation details cannot be given over the phone or by email as they are part of the data protection act.

Scarecrow Competition

The school scarecrow came second in the Leek Allotment School Scarecrow competition.

The scarecrow was made by Year 5 and 8 students with help from Mrs Whitehurst, Mrs Mulroy and Mr Simm.



Chess

ECF Under 11's Schools National Final

Eight year six pupils played in the two day National final at Uppingham Independent School. They played five rounds of up to 2 hour games. The opposing schools, most of them independent fee paying schools, seemed to have even stronger teams than in previous years. Having been drawn against a very strong school in the first round, the second round was even harder. They managed only one win by Corben Rowbotham although they all played well. The third round was much 'easier' in comparison and the team looked like they would win 4-2 with very good opening play getting us an advantage. However, they had lost some of their belief and the usual ruthless play demonstrated by the experienced players had gone and they started losing, ending up with only Ella Gayes winning. It was a disappointing end to the first day.

The second day was a fresh start and better play saw Tilly Snape and Lilly Brown win games in style. The best play came again from Jasmine Jones who played on board one. Although she did not win any of her games, hers were one of the last games being played every round. Her opponents were mainly graded higher than Mr Rose with one being a junior England player.

Y8 girls' and boys' Staffordshire Schools tennis

The Y8 girls' and boys' tennis teams have completed all their matches in their respective Staffordshire Schools Tennis Leagues. The girls have played matches against Newcastle, which they lost 4-2, St. Dominic's, which they won 6-0 and Stafford Grammar School, drawing 3-3, finishing the season in third position in their league.

The boys have played matches against Endon, St. Thomas More, Clayton and Stafford Grammar School and have won all of their matches, finishing their campaign at the top of their league. They now have to complete a play-off match against Denstone College to determine the Staffordshire North League Champions.

Y7 & Y8 County Athletics Championships

Some of our Y7 and Y8 athletes were selected to represent the District at the County Athletics Championships at Tamworth on 28th June. It was a wet and miserable day, but our athletes did not let that deter them from performing to the very best of their ability. Our successful athletes helped the Staffordshire Moorlands team win third place out of ten districts.

Four outstanding performances from Jas Molden in the 100m and 800m, Harry Poole in the 800m, Tom Crick in the Shot and Tom Willshaw.

Y7 & Y8 District Athletics Championships

Our Y7 and Y8 athletics teams took part in the District Athletics Championships at Northwood Stadium on 14th June.

For some of our athletes this was the first time that they had competed on a specialist running track at an athletics stadium.

Teams from 7 schools in the Staffordshire Moorlands took part - Painsley, Endon, Churnet View, James Bateman, Cheadle, Woodhouse and St. Edward's.

They competed in 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m, 1500m and hurdles on the track and in shot, discus, javelin, high jump, long jump and triple jump in the field events, finishing the championships off with the 4 x 100m relays.

We had some excellent performances from many of our athletes, with several 1st and 2nd places.

When all the results were added together, we had won the Y7 girls competition; and both the Y8 girls and Y8 boys competitions for the third year running; with the Y7 boys team, depleted due to injury, narrowly missing out on the top spot by only a few points.

Y8 boys' Staffordshire Schools tennis league final

The Y8 boys' tennis travelled to Denstone College to play in the Staffordshire Schools North

Division tennis final on Tuesday. We had won our league, winning all of our matches and Denstone had done the same, so we knew that it was going to be a tough match. We arrived wondering which of the 19 courts we would be playing on!!!! We played our singles games first, which were all very close, competitive games.

Tom Crick, playing at number 2, won his game 6-4. Logan Johnson at 3 won his game 7-5. Roan Critchley at 4 narrowly lost his game 5-7 and Toby Gayes played an outstanding game against their number 1 player, which went to tiebreak, after both boys had held all their service games. After another tight battle, Toby finally won the tiebreak and the game 7-6. Going into the doubles we were 3-1 up in games. Tom Willshaw and Roan played in another very tight game, finally losing it in another tiebreak. Toby and Tom Crick held their doubles game 6-4 and St. Edward's were the overall winners of the match 4-2, after a thrilling league final.

This now means that the boys have to play in a triangular County final against the winners of the Staffordshire Schools Central Division and South Division to determine the overall County Champions.

