



September 25

Dear Parents,

A warm hello from me as your child's new Head of Year. It was a pleasure welcoming back our Year 8s last week after the summer. I look forward to working with your children this year and supporting them in reaching their full potential academically, emotionally and socially.

You may already be aware of your child's tutor for Year 8, but there have been a few changes so here is a refresher of the Year 8 tutor team:

8 Ashley - Mr Xia

[cxia@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:cxia@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Clitherow-Mr Ebbage & Mrs Hall

[AEbbage@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:AEbbage@blessededward.co.uk)

[dhall@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:dhall@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Jones – Mrs Ford & Mrs Deane

[SFord@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:SFord@blessededward.co.uk)

[kdeane@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:kdeane@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Line – Mr Peacock

[APeacock@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:APeacock@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Pritchard - Mr Gittens

[zgittens@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:zgittens@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Sutton – Mrs Fearn & Mrs Thomas

[kfearn@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:kfearn@blessededward.co.uk)

[kthomas@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:kthomas@blessededward.co.uk)

8 Wall – Mrs Sparey

[NSparey@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:NSparey@blessededward.co.uk)

The tutors and I will be working together to support your child and to help maintain excellent attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform. Thank you for your ongoing support with attendance. Last year, 12 students in the year group achieved 100% attendance, and an additional 84 students maintained an attendance rate of over 96%, which is a fantastic achievement. The average attendance for our year group was 94.3%, which highlights that a significant number of students had attendance hovering around 90%. While 90% may sound reasonable, it equates to approximately 20 missed school days, or four full weeks of lost learning. Research from the Department for Education clearly shows how even modest absences can have a lasting impact on both academic outcomes and future opportunities. We strongly encourage all parents to aim for attendance of 96% or higher. You can monitor your child's attendance in real time using the Synergy app, which provides live updates throughout the year.

As a parent you can use the 'Synergy' app to have an immediate overview of many aspects of school life, including behaviour, attendance and communication. If you would like your login details re-sent to you please contact our front office: [office@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:office@blessededward.co.uk)





Annual Attendance percentage	Days attended	Days missed	Hours of missed lessons
100%	190	0	0
95%	180.5	9.5	47.5
90%	171	19	95
85%	161.5	28.5	142.5
80%	152	38	190
75%	142.5	47.5	237.5

Year 8 uniform has been really smart this week. A summary of the uniform policy is available on the school website under the 'parents' tab. Please could I highlight a few points of the policy about school shoes and make-up/nails/ jewellery:

**"Sensible plain, all black shoes, with no logos, are to be worn. Boots, trainers and pumps are not allowed. Please note that any footwear that resembles trainers or has sportswear branding is not allowed."**

**"Make-up, false nails, nail-varnish, false eyelashes, (visible) body piercings including tongue piercings, nose studs and other jewellery including wrist and ankle bracelets, necklaces are not acceptable."**

We have high expectations for uniform and so the Year 8 tutor team and I will continue to monitor pupil uniform and may message via the Synergy app about any issues we have. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring uniform is of a high standard.

Finally, we have lots of new lunchtime clubs starting this year and we would encourage all pupils to take a look at the array of clubs available to them. There is something available to all Year 8 pupils everyday from sports clubs, to music clubs to lego, gardening, health & beauty, board games, mass and homework club. Pupils will be introduced to these clubs soon and there will be a link on the school website under the 'students' tab.

Please pass on our thanks to your child for their great start to Year 8. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or you can contact me on:

[NPritchard@blessededward.co.uk](mailto:NPritchard@blessededward.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Pritchard

Head of Year 8

### **Key dates for Year 8 this term:**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September: Students leave at 12.30pm (teachers to prepare for Open Evening)

Mid October: Reports due

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October: Students leave at 1.35pm (Staff planning)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October: Students finish at 3.20pm for half term week





Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: students return to school

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November: Flu vaccinations

Mid December : Reports due

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Carol Service 7pm

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December : students finish at 12.30pm for Christmas holidays

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January :Students return to school

