

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and a restful start to the New Year. It has been lovely to welcome Year 10 students back to College, ready to build on the successes they have achieved so far. The start of a new year is always a great opportunity for reflection and for setting fresh goals.

One of the key targets I have shared with students is to raise our year group attendance to 95%. Currently, attendance stands at 91.3%, which is a fall of 1.2% compared to the same point last year. Research consistently shows that strong attendance is a clear indicator of academic success. Put simply: if students are not in school, they are not learning. While 90% attendance may sound positive, it actually equates to one day off every fortnight, a level most employers would not accept. We greatly appreciate your continued support in encouraging excellent attendance. I would also like to congratulate the 91 students who currently have attendance above 96%.

At Blessed Edward Oldcorne, we strive to make school an engaging and rewarding experience. Our house system continues to grow, offering a wide range of competitions and activities for students to enjoy. As spring approaches, the PE department will expand its sports clubs, and our teaching staff remain committed to innovative approaches that inspire learning. We are proud to be one of the top-performing schools in the county, and my message to Year 10 students is simple: **make the most of your education, hard work now will pay dividends in the future.**

Work Experience Week is fast approaching (24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026). Many students have already secured placements, but some still need to do so. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to speak to our careers team if they require support.

Thank you for your continued support of our uniform policy. Standards remain exceptionally high, and this commitment to excellence is evident across all aspects of College life. All policies, including those on uniform and mobile phones, are available on our website.

As always, College life is busy, and this half term is no exception. Please note the following key dates:

- **Thursday 15 January**, Personal Development Day 2 (details to follow)
- **Wednesday 21 January**, Planning Afternoon (students finish at 1.35pm)
- **Wednesday 4 February to Friday 6 February**, College Production of *Matilda*
- **Friday 13 February**, Students finish for half term



Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of College life, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mr C M Taylor

Head of Year 10

