

January 2026

Dear Parent

I wish to extend a warm welcome back to Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College to all our students, parents, and caregivers. I do hope that for those of you who celebrate, you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas, and that those of you who do not, were able to enjoy a restful break.

It has been wonderful getting to know your child over the past term and I think all staff would agree with me when I say that Year 7 have settled in well to college life. In the first half term, myself and Miss Bone, the Deputy Head of Year, along with form tutors, put considerable time into launching a virtues programme within form time that was completed by each Year 7 child. This helped them to embed our school virtues into their daily routine and understand what it truly means to be a person of good character. Last week, it was our pleasure to present trophies to two students from each form group who were nominated by staff for regularly demonstrating our college virtues. I continue to be impressed with the year groups' behaviour and enthusiasm for learning, and I am confident that this will continue throughout their time at Blessed Edwards.

Assemblies

Throughout your child's time at Blessed Edwards, they will experience a weekly assembly. These assemblies are often themed around significant events or our college virtues. Each week in assembly, we celebrate students who have been nominated for pupil of the week by their teachers, and it has been encouraging to see so many pupils nominated each week. It is important to me that we celebrate the successes of our pupils both inside and outside of school. If your child has achieved something outside of school that they would be happy for you to share with us, please do send me an email and I will be sure to praise them in our assembly for their achievements.

Uniform

Year 7 continue to wear their uniform proudly, and this is something that reflects the cohesive nature of their cohort. However, in recent weeks, I have noticed an increase in students attending college without their tie. If for any reason your child does not have their tie, please send them to college with a note from home explaining this, and if possible, giving an approximate date upon which their tie will be replaced. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to remind pupils that the uniform policy states that coats should be plain navy/black and free from large logos, and that trainers are not permitted. Please ensure that belongings are clearly named so that if lost, they can be returned more easily. **Please get in touch if there are any difficulties regarding uniform.**

Attendance

Last term, the attendance percentage for Year 7 was 93.2%. This is lower than we would ideally like to see, with our year group goal at 96% or higher. As the winter sets in, we understand that pupils may suffer with colds and runny noses, however, if your child is well enough and is not exhibiting a temperature or other signs of illness, we suggest that they still attend school. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the school office via the Synergy App or call 01905 352615. Please note that medical evidence may be requested for extended or repeated periods of absence due to illness.

Behaviour

Our behaviour policy is designed to ensure that all students can learn in an environment that is safe, secure and rooted in mutual respect. Our three rules in school are Kindness, Honesty and Respect. When students occasionally fall short of these expectations, appropriate sanctions will be put in place. In most cases, talking through the issue with the student and agreeing better future choices will be all that is required, but if poor behaviour is persistent or if a student needs to be removed from a lesson, then they will be issued with an afterschool detention, in line with our behaviour policy. If you have any concerns with your child's behaviour, please do not hesitate to get in touch so that we can work together to support them.

Social Media and Online Activity

With many students receiving phones as presents for Christmas and birthdays, it is only natural that they will want to use them for social media, online games and group chats. However, I strongly recommend that parents resist the pressure to allow their children access to social media platforms as the age limit for these sites is a minimum of 13 years old. If you do allow your child to access these, please insist that you are added as a contact with full access to see what they are posting and who is communicating with them. In the event of any friendship disputes, please encourage your child not to get involved in social media disputes and to report any concerns to a member of college staff.

Research suggests that a better night's sleep is had when phones are not kept in bedrooms, and that children accessing the internet should be doing so in communal spaces of the home; this may be something you wish to consider for your child. If you have any concerns regarding online safety or safeguarding, please contact us in college.

PGL Residential Trip

The PGL trip is fully booked, and work is already underway behind the scenes with myself, Miss Bone and Mr Taylor working to make sure the trip is exciting and runs smoothly. The final balance must be paid by 23 March 2026.

Parents/carers or guardians of Free School Meal, Looked After and Service Children may be eligible through the Pupil Premium Grant for assistance with the cost of Educational Trips and Visits, please contact the finance office for more information.

This Half Term

As always, there are many things to look forward to this year. Below is a list of key dates for this half term for you to be aware of:

- **Wednesday 21 January-** Curriculum planning afternoon - students leave college at 1.35pm
- **Wednesday 4 - Friday 6 February** - Matilda, The Musical! College production. Tickets available from the Finance Office
- **Friday 13 February** - Students finish for half term at 3.20pm

If there are any issues, questions or if you need any support with any aspect of college life, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

With best wishes

Mrs K Rice
Head of Year 7