

January 2026

Dear Parent

Happy New Year to everyone! I really hope everyone managed to have a restful break over Christmas. The first week back has been hugely successful for the Year 8 pupils for a variety of reasons; uniform on the whole is extremely smart, attitudes to learning have been very mature and pupils are refreshed and ready to learn, reflect and progress further. Thank you to all Year 8s for their mature return.

I look forward to a productive partnership with you during 2026 to ensure your child can achieve their highest potential. In order for your child to be successful in school they need support from both home and school. A strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. Please could I therefore ask you to monitor your child's effort with homework, which should be set on Seneca, Mathswatch or in their language booklet. Revision in the next few weeks will also be important in ensuring your child feels prepared for their Mid KS3 assessments, which start after February half term. Revision material will be available on the school website asap. Teachers will spend time before their assessments going through what to expect and pupils will have guidance in an assembly. This website may give you and your child suggestions of how to revise:

<https://lifemoreextraordinary.com/revision/how-to-revise-for-exams-in-years-7-8-and-9/>

Well done to the 100 students invited to the Head of Year reward before Christmas, this was for those with the top attendance in the Year group. I messaged those parents through Synergy to congratulate the students. My next Head of Year reward will be for 'most improved' students. Some students have the opportunity to get onto the trip through improved attendance or improved effort. All students have the opportunity to get onto the trip through improved commitment to clubs or improved demonstration of our school virtues. The pupils were introduced to this in assembly last week.

Our idea is to improve pupil sense of belonging and ensure they feel like a valued member of the Blessed Edward's community, creating a sense of safety. A sense of belonging is a core motivator linked to better mental health, confidence, engagement, and academic/social success, often stemming from feeling seen, supported, and that one's identity matters. Pupils have a wide variety of school clubs available each week. Our website lists the 'School clubs' under the student tab. Here are a few examples: Ukulele, Chess, Japanese, Lego, Coding, Cards, Health & Beauty, Choir, Soulband, Karaoke, Sewing, Board games, youth SVP (a charity that helps local communities), Homework, Film, Geolens, Mass, Garden & Eco, Poetry and Pickleball, netball, football, volleyball, basketball clubs. Please could I ask that you encourage your child to decide how they would like to try and improve.

Finally, if your child has lost an item please ask them to go to Pupil Reception where there are many items that have been handed in.

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.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pritchard
Head of Year 8

Dates for this half term:

Thursday 15th January : second PDE day

Wednesday 21st January : Teacher planning afternoon: Students leave at 1.35pm

Wed 4th, Thurs 5th, Fri 6th February : College Production

Friday 6th February: Non school uniform day

Friday 13th February: Last day of this half term: Pupils finish at 3.20pm

Summary reports will be available before half term finishes

Monday 23rd February: Year 8 mid KS3 assessments begin

Thursday 26th March: Year 8 Parents' Evening online 4.00pm - 7.30pm

Friday 27th March: Students finish at 12.30pm for Easter