

Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**St Edmund Campion Catholic School**

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Headteacher:  
Mr A Grant MAEd, BSc, PGCE

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the end of another academic year here at St Edmund Campion Catholic School. The year has no doubt come with its very many challenges but it has given me an enormous sense of pride and admiration for how our school community has risen to the circumstances thrust upon us. The year hasn't quite ended as I would have liked with sadly rising Covid cases meaning that numbers of pupils are having to self-isolate and us having to revert to remote learning for the last few days. From 16<sup>th</sup> August children under 18 years will no longer be required to isolate if they are identified as a contact which means things should be different in September. A letter will be sent to all parents alongside this letter which outlines the the new Covid guidance for schools.

In order to help me write this letter I looked back over a previous letter which I sent out in the summer of 2019. This was just prior to me taking up the Headship here at St Edmund Campion School and the letter was full of all the sporting and academic achievements of our pupils that had happened that year. It was a little sad reading today, knowing that our pupils have not been able to show off all their amazing talents and achievements this year to the extent that they would have done before the pandemic. However, it has made me even more determined to ensure that all those opportunities we usually provide for our pupils will be well in place next year.

Looking back on this year, despite all the challenges, as a school we have still achieved so much. The challenge of remote online learning during the January and February lockdown was tackled with real determination and vigour and we were one of only a handful of schools to provide our full curriculum through online interactive teaching. We still held parents' evenings albeit remotely and this proved to be very successful. I need to extend my thanks to the teaching staff once more, for the manner in which they tackled the online remote learning. In particular, I would like to thank our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Quoroll who led on this area and really made sure that the pupils were able to continue with their curriculum entitlement.

In addition the staff rose to the challenge of once more providing teacher assessed grades for pupils who were due to sit GCSEs, A Levels and BTECs. This was an immense task thrust upon the profession by the Department for Education. Once more our staff stepped up to the challenge and were able to set and mark robust and rigorous assessments meaning that all pupils will achieve accurate grades reflecting their true capabilities.

Last week we finally held our sports day, the first in two years. We did so over two days so that we could keep to our zones and bubbles and both days were huge successes. The PE department did a fantastic job in organising it amidst all the restrictions and I think the children really appreciated the opportunity to show off their many sporting talents. We took the opportunity to have some fun this day too with a couple of inflatable assault courses booked in as well as an ice cream van!

*'Achieving Together through Christ'*



**St. John Paul II Multi Academy**

Registered Office: c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

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Acting Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M. Emery Company House Registered No. 08706247



Over the course of the year, thanks to Mr Oxley, we have still ensured that the Catholic ethos of the school has remained at the fore of all we do. We were still able to raise significant amounts for various charities in particular continuing our support for CAFOD and the various overseas work they do. Our contributions to local foodbanks was also very much welcomed especially during this time. Each week we have held an online collective worship service held by Mr Oxley and for each of the Holy days of Obligation we were able to gather online for virtual Mass with Father Joe and often with our local Catholic primary schools who are part of our St John Paul II Multi Academy.

Although we were unable to hold our induction day for our new pupils we were able to once again produce a video showcasing the very best of our school. You can view this here on our website:

<https://www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk/523/announcements/announcement/56/induction-day-video> We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our new year 7s in September although most are joining us for the two week summer schools which promises to be fantastic so I will see you then!

Other highlights from the year include our super learning days; saying goodbye to years 11 and 13 following their farewell Masses (this was very emotional!); the online parents evenings; prayer services with primary school children; delivering Christmas hampers to some of our most vulnerable children and their families; sending out hampers to our Champion community pensioners; and working closely with our colleagues within the St John Paul II Multi Academy, strengthening our ties with them.

The next academic year promises much and I am very much looking forward to seeing the school returning to some kind of normality with teachers in their base rooms and pupils moving to them rather than the other way round! We are no longer required to zone the school or stagger the starts and ends to the day although we do intend to keep a staggered lunch. I would ask that you continue to send your child in to school with their own hand sanitiser and encourage regular use and whilst not compulsory, pupils can continue to wear face coverings and I would encourage this. We will continue to be setting the very highest expectations for your children to ensure that they are able to achieve of their very best. As always we will be looking out for your children and thinking about their well being. Mrs Fleming and her team do a fantastic job around this and I would recommend that you take a look at the safeguarding and well being newsletter that are regularly published. You can find them on our website here:

<https://www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk/1015/safeguarding-and-sen-newsletters>

Alongside this letter we have produced a powerpoint for you to go through with all the information you need for September. This includes the start dates and times for your children and also when they will be required in school to take their lateral flow tests. The school will be open from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July throughout the summer holidays between 9.00 and 15.00. You can purchase ties, badges, equipment pencil cases and scientific calculators here all at £5 each (second hand ties are £2; a spare is always handy!) We are also looking forward to our new catering provider Miquil who will be starting with us in September. The new menus were sent out with the newsletter a few weeks ago but we will ensure that they are published on the website. We will be using ParentMail pay from September rather than Parentpay so please ensure you are fully signed up to ParentMail.

Some sad news to end on. Some of you may remember Keith Ash who was the Headteacher here at St Edmund Champion Catholic School before Mrs Steele. Sadly Mr Ash passed away last week following a stroke and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. Mr Ash actually appointed me all that time ago to the Maths department and I'm sure he had no idea at that time that he was appointing a future Headteacher to the school! He was responsible for ensuring that the school site became one site as at that time it was split between our current site and a second site off the Chester Rd (now residential apartments near the Digby Pub), which I'm sure you can

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imagine was a real challenge for the staff to navigate! Our prayers go out to Keith and his family. *'Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen'*

Finally, I would like once more to thank everyone who is part of this wonderful community here at Champion. The staff have been extraordinary here, stepping up to the daily challenges that have come our way during this year. Every member of staff, whether that be those in the classroom or elsewhere around school have done our school proud. Governors have continued to meet and hold us to account; mostly via Zoom! You as parents offer us the support we need to provide the very best for your children and this is very much appreciated. And finally, our children, who continue to impress and amaze me everyday. When we look back on this Covid time we will remember rightly the contributions and sacrifices our children made.

I hope you all have an enjoyable, restful and safe summer break and I look forward to seeing all your children back in school in September.

God bless and take care



Mr Grant (Headteacher)

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