



# King Edward VII School

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new academic year to all our parents and carers, particularly those who are new to King Edward VII School in Year 7 and Year 12.

We have had an excellent, positive and optimistic start to the year and students across all key stages have responded well to:

- Our ambitious learning community in which we expect all students to challenge themselves to always strive to do better and succeed
- Their new timetables, lessons and teachers
- Our new Consistent Conduct Policy, particularly the reward stamps and achievement points
- Our extensive extra-curricular programme; if your child is not involved in at least one activity, encourage them to sign up to something!

## School Improvement Plan 2017-2018

The School Improvement plan is very thorough and includes specific development priorities under the following headings:

- **Leadership and Management** - e.g. lead the conversion of the School to academy status and build collaborative partnerships to improve teaching, learning and assessment; share best practice.
- **Teaching, Learning and Assessment** – e.g. review students' preferred learning styles to help them to improve and accelerate in their learning; any evidence-based research in relation to the most effective ways to explore this would be welcomed from parents/carers.
- **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare** – e.g. implement the new Consistent Conduct Policy for students and review during the year; create more opportunities for students to become mentors across all key stages (e.g. subject mentors, reading mentors, playground mentors); introduce the prestigious Cutlers' Ambassador Programme: Better Learners, Better Workers, to Year 9 students (see the attached document for more details).

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- **Outcomes for students** – e.g maximise student achievement with reference to Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures; embed curriculum changes to improve results for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 (Post 16) students.

## **Examination Results Summer 2017**

### **Key Stage 4**

I wish to congratulate all our Year 11 students and their teachers on securing their GCSE results this year against a more volatile educational landscape that has:

- Introduced a new grading system from 9 to 1 (9 is the highest grade) for GCSEs
- Required significant and continuous changes to the curriculum
- Produced a more challenging curriculum for students
- Seen English, English Literature and Mathematics assessed under a completely new grading system; other subjects will follow next year
- Removed coursework from almost all subjects meaning that all Key Stage 4 students will sit exams at the end of each course, after two years, in Year 11

In light of this, this year's results cannot be compared with those of 2016 or previous years. Simple comparisons between results need to be avoided because we cannot compare 'like with like' because the system has changed.

### **GCSE Results**

- 58% grades 4-9 (A\*-C) including English and Maths
- 19% grades 7 – 9 (A/A\*) including English and Maths (9% above the national average)
- 28% achieved the English Baccalaureate (6% above the national average)
- 22% of all entries were A\* - A

### **Key Stage 5 (Post 16)**

Year 13 students performed exceptionally well this summer and celebrated achieving some excellent A Level examination results. This enabled students to take up places on their chosen courses at many of the top universities in the country, including Oxford and Cambridge.

From 648 examination entries:

- 56.33% of all the A Level results were A\* - B (an increase of 7% on the 2016 results)
- 28% of all entries were A\* - A (higher than the national average)
- 29 students gained all A\* - A grades
- 45 students achieved one A\* or more
- 98.5% of the results were A\* - E
- 86 students obtained places at top (Russell Group) universities
- 180 students chose to go to university

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- 48 students chose to go to a university in Sheffield
- 5 students secured places at Oxford and Cambridge

The results signal another superb year for Year 13 students and the School. They signify the hard work, effort and determination displayed by the students during their time in the Sixth Form. The exceptional commitment of our teaching staff, the outstanding leadership of Mr Jeremy Twyman (Head of Post 16) and the unequivocal support of parents, carers and governors have all contributed to the success of our wonderful students.

## **Other important information**

### **Communication**

All letters are sent to parents/carers electronically using Groupcall 07860030426 so it is important that the School has your up to date contact details. Please contact the School if any of your details have changed: your name, mobile and landline telephone numbers and email address. Parents and carers can also contact the School via Groupcall, including leaving messages. All colleagues at King Edward VII School are always very pleased to respond to parental communications and will do their utmost best to respond within forty-eight hours. Occasionally, it might take a little longer and I would like to request your patience if there is a delay in responding to communications.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

The School is aiming to achieve 95%-100% for student attendance in 2017-2018 and requires your support to be able to achieve this figure.

The Local Authority has issued clear guidance to Schools stating that any persistent absence (below 90% for a student) or absence due to holidays being taken during term time will be subject to a penalty. A parent/carer could be issued with a fine of £120.00, reduced to £60 if paid within twenty one days, if his/her child is absent from School for the above reasons. Please be mindful of this penalty in relation to student absence.

Please support the School by ensuring your child attends School every day, on time, and avoid making appointments during the School day. It is equally important not to book holidays during term time because lost learning impacts on outcomes for students. Leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances.

### **Academisation**

Work is continuing in relation to the conversion of King Edward VII School into an academy. Solicitors have now been appointed to act on behalf of the School.

With reference to the consultation meeting for parents/carers during the summer term, I will be arranging further meetings for parents/carers after the October half term holiday. Thank you to all those parents who attended the meeting, shared their views via email or

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telephone and provided lists of 'non-negotiables' that will be taken in to account before any decisions are finalised in 2018.

### **Parent Pay**

We are now using an online payment system for items such as trips, visits, revision books and locker deposits. This system eliminates the need for cash or cheque payments and is called Parent Pay. Parents and carers should have received a letter from me explaining how Parent Pay works and how a new account can be set up for the School. If you have not received your letter, please contact the School so this can be sorted out for you.

### **Lockdown Procedure**

In the current climate, all schools must have a lockdown procedure in place in the event of an emergency situation. All staff in our School have received guidance on what action to take should we face a lockdown incident.

All staff and students will rehearse the lockdown procedure and drill so that should we ever have to respond to an emergency incident we will all be prepared and know what to do to stay safe.

### **King Edward VII School's Facebook Page**

Most parents/carers will know that we have an official Facebook page for King Edward VII School. For new parents/carers, our official Facebook page is detailed at the top of this letterhead, along with details of the School's Twitter account. We do not have any other Facebook page for the School on the internet or on any other social media sites. Please access the official page if you want to seek out information about our School.

### **OFSTED Inspection**

The School was last inspected in January 2015 and the next inspection is due in January 2018, or earlier. It is always difficult to predict when any School will be inspected since this is determined by the Department for Education and OFSTED.

Preparation work has already started for our next inspection to ensure that we are in a strong position when the OFSTED Inspectors arrive on site. We will be very happy to welcome OFSTED to King Edward VII School.

### **Staffing**

The following members of staff joined the School either during the summer term or at the start of the academic year. I am delighted to welcome them to King Edward VII School.

- Cover Supervisor – Mr A Hussain
- Curriculum Leader of Drama – Ms S Oates
- Curriculum Leader of Health and Social Care – Mrs M Allison

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- Teacher of Business and Economics – Miss M Cameron
- Teacher of English – Mrs H Goodhand
- Teacher of Health and Social Care – Miss R Colburn
- Teacher of Health and Social Care and Psychology – Miss E Firth
- Teacher of History – Miss V Howard
- Teacher of History – Mr J King
- Teacher of Mathematics – Ms Z Aslam
- Teacher of Mathematics – Mrs M Topliss
- Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages – Mr C Wilcox
- Teacher of Spanish - Ms M Mateo
- Teacher of Physics – Dr C Cooper
- Technical Engineer – Mr M Jones
- Support Engineer – Mr A Rogan

### **Key dates for the Autumn Term 2017**

- 27 September 2017 – Y11 Parents' Post 16 Transition Evening, 6.30pm-8pm
- 3 October 2017 – Y5 and Y6 Open Evening, 6.00pm-8pm, Upper School site, Glossop Road
- 24 October 2017– Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 13 November 2017 – Y7 Information Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 23 November 2017 – Post 16 Open Evening, 7pm-8.30pm, Upper School site
- 6 December 2017 – Y13 Joint Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 11 December 2017 – Ex-Y11 GCSE Certificate and Prizegiving Evening, 6pm-7.30pm
- 11 January 2018 –Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 18 January 2018 – KS4 Information Evening for Y9 Parents, 6.30pm-8pm
- 7 February 2018 – Training day – School closed to students
- 15 February 2018 – Y12 Joint Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 27 February 2018 – Y10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 7 March 2018 – Y11 Revision Evening, 6.30pm-8pm
- 15 March 2018 – Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 20 March 2018 – P18 Opportunities Evening (UCAS and Apprenticeships), 6.30pm-7.30pm
- 29 March 2018 – Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm-7pm
- 19 June – Y6 Information Evening, 6.30pm-8pm
- 9 July 2018 – Sports Day at Woodbourn Stadium

I look forward to working with you and meeting you during the year at School or at one of my community based drop in meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School should you require any further information or help.

Yours sincerely



**Linda Gooden**  
**Headteacher**

## **Better Learners, Better Workers**

### **Guide for Parents and Carers**

The Cutlers' 'Better Learners, Better Workers' programme is an employer-led approach, which operates in a number of key employment sectors: the healthcare sector, the engineering sector, the construction sector, the digital sector, the arts and cultural sector, emergency services and professional services. King Edward VII School is part of this very important and exciting programme.

In each sector a group of young people, the Cutlers' Ambassadors, are interviewed and carefully selected to experience a unique programme of activities. The activities enable them to develop awareness of the world of work and to develop the skills and attitudes employers want from young people as they enter the workplace. The programme also aims to encourage schools to develop industry led project-based learning within their curriculum offer and has supported teacher training and enrichment activities for other young people.

The Cutlers' 'Better Learners, Better Workers' programme brings together five important elements:

- A skills framework developed with employers
- A menu of activities and opportunities for student ambassadors, connecting learning to the world of work
- A skills passport validated and valued by employers
- A quality framework, including support for whole school impact and staff training
- A Business Champion offering individual support to schools/colleges

The advantage for students is that experience of the world of work helps young people learn about a particular occupation or sector, gain valuable personal skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork and understand the expectations of employers.

Students develop these skills at three levels, which are described in the student skills booklet. In each employment sector, a variety of high quality activities, visits and work experience provide students with the opportunity to develop these skills.

The programme is currently being used with a wide range of employment sectors brought together by the Cutlers Company and is currently training 600 ambassadors from 29 secondary schools and colleges across South Yorkshire. These programmes generally start in Year 9 and develop over two years; the students take part in visits and work experience placements with employers, world of work, life skills and team building sessions, and carry out employer initiated projects. The young people have regular feedback and reviews and are finally awarded an employer endorsed passport to recognise their achievements at a celebration event.

In each employment sector the employers have a team who co-ordinate, organise and deliver the activities while school colleagues support and mentor the ambassadors through regular school-based sessions. Employer champions coach and mentor the students through half-termly progress meetings.

We have developed an ambassador's handbook which will help young people create a portfolio of evidence to record the development of their skills. This is supported by a skills booklet, which the ambassadors can use to monitor, record and evaluate the skills they are developing through the programme.

The feedback from employers, teachers, students and parents and carers, over the last three years, has been used to further develop these materials and our aim is to continue to develop them for use in schools across the Sheffield City Region.

**We already know that our programme works. Evidence from employers, schools, students and parents and carers shows that the programme has had a significant impact on student skills, outcomes and achievements.** Schools' progress data indicates that students on the programmes make better progress than similar groups not accessing these opportunities. Our two independent evaluation reports by the University of Sheffield (2013) and Schools Linking Network (2014) confirm the value of the 'Made in Sheffield' programme as an "innovative, employer-led programme that helps prepare young people for the world of work by developing essential skills." Schools consistently describe seeing students who have developed personal confidence and motivation, career aspirations, awareness of the world of work and employability skills.

Schools have welcomed the success of the programme and the critical role played by Business Champions who mentor ambassadors and report seeing the students develop in maturity and confidence. Feedback from parents and carers shows that they feel the programme has had a positive effect on future aspirations, helping students to decide what career path to take, and giving a greater insight into what was required to succeed at school and in the world of work. The feedback from all stakeholder shows that the programme has created 'Better Learners and Better Workers.'

For more information please visit [www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk](http://www.betterlearnersbetterworkers.org.uk)

### **Ways to make 'Better Learners, Better Workers' work for your child:**

- Provide support and encourage your daughter/son to take up all the opportunities the programme offers, including those after-school, in half-terms and holidays.
- Encourage your daughter/son to work hard on the programme, complete all the assignments and go the extra mile!
- Attend launch and celebration events with your daughter/son whenever you can.
- Find as many ways as possible to discuss with your daughter/son what they are doing on the programme and what skills they are developing as ambassadors for the School, the sector and the Cutlers' Company.
- Look for other ways where these key skills can be developed in your daughter/son.
- Stress wherever possible with your daughter/son, the benefits of the programme in terms of the impact on their learning and GCSE outcomes.
- Work positively and creatively with the School and the businesses involved as partners and champions for your daughter/son's route into the world of work.