

FROM THE HEADMASTER

1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new School year at St Edward's. It is a pleasure to be writing to you again at the start of another exciting and busy year. Please find enclosed your Calendar of Events for this term – as usual your son or daughter will have been given their own copy and they should try to remember to keep it with them at all times. It is as full as ever and I would encourage students and parents to leaf through it over the next few days so that no opportunities are missed. I hope that all of our students throw themselves into as many extra-curricular activities as possible – education is about the development of the whole child and applying oneself outside of the classroom as much as within is a very important part of that.

I would like to draw your attention to certain dates in particular: our Open Morning is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Lower School Play, 'A Christmas Carol' will run on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November and our Carol Service at Tewkesbury Abbey will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

I have included with this letter our Public Examination results for this summer. Again I am very proud of what our students have achieved. At A Level our A\* rate has increased to almost 13% - and in what has been a very competitive year for university places, the vast majority of our leavers have secured their chosen courses for this coming autumn. At GCSE the figures were excellent with an A\* to A rate of 46.3% and over three quarters of all GCSEs taken graded B or above.



*(Richard Allen, Alex Chan and Kit Menzies-Wilson all secure their Oxbridge places)*



My congratulations go to all of our students. They have worked hard and deserve their success.

This year we welcome three new members of staff:

Mrs Jo Kurlbaum will be joining the Modern Languages Department to teach French and German. She is a very experienced teacher who has also found the time to write various educational and non-educational books - and raise three children. Jo is a keen traveller and has organised many school trips throughout Europe.





Mrs Pamela Moore will also be joining Modern Languages to teach Mandarin. She is a native Mandarin speaker having grown up in Taiwan before moving to the UK 20 years ago. Students will already know her well as she has been helping with our GCSE classes last term. Pamela has taught both Mandarin and Textiles for the last four years at various local schools.

We also welcome Mrs Louise Forbes, our new Clerk to the Trustees. Louise is joining the School after careers in retail, travel and the military. She spent 17 years as a training officer in the RAF, instructing on a range of subjects, including media handling and English as a Foreign Language. More recently, she has run her own business, undertaking several training evaluation projects for the MoD and been employed at GCHQ.



There have been a few changes internally as well and I am delighted to confirm that Mr Hunter has taken up the role of Head of English and Mrs Quiney that of Head of Mathematics.



The CCF has been busy again during the break with two demanding camps. In July twenty nine cadets went to Warcop, climbing, kayaking and planning assaults on other teams. Mud seemed to be the theme for the week and they returned exhausted. The cadets were a credit to themselves and the school. In August a smaller cohort drove to the mountains of Austria for long treks and the chains and pegs of Henna. Again, all involved rose to the challenges presented and were first rate ambassadors for the School.

Finally I would like to repeat one of my messages from Speech Day. This year I am very keen to formalise a wider programme of charitable work – of giving back to the community. Of course our students are already engaged in many activities in this regard, but I plan to broaden our involvement. As we start to develop our ideas, I would be very grateful for any input from parents who have links with worthwhile causes and who think that there are areas in which we, as a School community, may be able to contribute.

With all best wishes for the coming year,

**Mr Paul Harvey**