



ESHER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL
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Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Christmas Bulletin 2018

Here we are at the end of the longest term in the academic year and I want to thank you for your support over the past months. Our themes for the year are challenge, excelling and teamwork and these have been evident in so many ways across the school. It has been a delight to lead and see the young people in our care develop and grow in confidence in these three areas: being challenged in their thinking, doing their very best and working effectively with other members of the community.

We started the term reflecting and analysing the results that our students achieved last summer. We were delighted to see that we are now ranked in the top third of all schools nationally for the attainment (grades achieved) and progress (improvement over 5 years). This is a significant achievement over quite a short space of time and one that has been built on careful planning and high expectations of students and staff. We have been very pleased to see how well the school compared to similar schools and we are working hard to maintain and build the outcomes for our children in this and future years. If you would like to see the comparison tables, please check on the following link: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/140650/esher-church-of-england-high-school>

Throughout this term we have also been focussing on the method of learning as well as the content of the curriculum. All of us have emphasised with our students the process of improving knowledge and using feedback to improve and refine understanding – this is known as metacognition. It is through this approach that our young people will develop the tenacity and resilience to flourish when faced with challenges and learn how to overcome hurdles that they may face. This takes time to develop and students often find self-regulation difficult, so we are giving them the framework and language to improve this aspect.

Attendance at the school has improved and I thank you for your support with encouraging your son or daughter to come in, even when sometimes they are a bit under the weather. Attendance for the term is above 96%, which is very strong and will lead to more children being in lessons and developing the skills and knowledge they need.

As well as learning in lessons, we are developing more opportunities for our children to develop in other ways. We have maintained the excellent extra-curricular programme this term, and enhanced leadership opportunities through subjects and out of class positions. Another key focus is the mental health of our children, which we are addressing through PSHCE lessons, with a superb team of support staff to provide someone to talk to when needed. Students have heard from the Revolution tour and Consent presentations this term to open their thinking in different ways on these topics.

Like all schools we are finding recruiting and retaining staff a considerable challenge and this has meant some group changes this term. We have a brilliant, dedicated staff team and we try to use our own colleagues wherever possible to cover for absence, but on occasions there may be some carefully planned changes to help ensure the best possible teaching for all our students.

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and reflect on the message of hope and peace that the story of Jesus' birth describes. We look forward to meeting your children again on 7 January for another productive term.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Yours faithfully



Mike Boddington