



# THE ARCHBISHOP'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

## Headteacher Newsletter Term 3

Dear Parents

It is a pleasure to write to you as we enter a new year and a new school term. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year break with your friends and family. A new year allows for a time of reflection on the successes and failures of the previous year, a time to treasure memories and accomplishments of things gone before, but most importantly a time to start afresh with infinite possibilities. I have been speaking to the whole student body about resolutions for 2020, and I hope they have been able to consider what changes they will make to create the best from these infinite possibilities. It is my hope that through regular communication in the form of a Headteacher Newsletter I can ensure that the whole community of The Archbishops School can be united in our vision to nurture and develop all students within our care. It is my renewed resolution and that of all the staff within the school, that we will continue to inspire, nurture, and support all students to reach their full potential and 'enter to learn, go forth to serve'.

### School Accomplishments and Trips

Term 2 was a busy time within the school, with amazing achievements made by the student body, from sporting accomplishments to academic successes. I am proud of all of the hard work put in by our students. It was not just in school that the student body was busy, we have also seen Year 9 visit the war graves in France and Belgium. This is always a powerful trip, particularly within the month of November. The school were proud to observe a two minute silence on the 11<sup>th</sup> November with a whole school assembly from the Revd. Simon Rowlands. He was able to share with the students his first-hand experience which undoubtedly made a moving event for both staff and students. The uniformed groups of the student body paid their respects with a formal parade to mark the two minutes silence on the school courts. The Humanities department also took their GCSE groups on a Geography field trip at the end of November and the Sixth Form attended their annual trip to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park after a hearty Christmas lunch in school. The annual Christingle service for year 7 was ably supported by the sixth form ambassadors led by the head boy and girl, Edward Evans and Megan Hayes. The service was conducted by our Chaplain Rev. Kevin Maddy and was a lovely opportunity to end the term with a time of quiet, prayer and reflection of the true meaning of Christmas and the opportunities that lied ahead in 2020.

With both the Ski Trip at Easter and the annual year 8 trip to Rockley, France, in May, I am sure we will be hearing more about the school's adventures abroad as we continue in to this academic year.

I would also like to thank the student and staff body for their stoic efforts in the second to last week of term 2 when we experienced issues with the boiler. I am pleased to report that we had a long term solution put in place over the Christmas holiday which we hope will resolve all issues moving forward.

### Farewells and Recruitment

As is often the way when a term ends, we said farewell to some of our colleagues moving onto pastures new. We would like to wish them all the very best and wish them every success in their future. Of special note, our thanks to Mr Davies, who as Deputy Headteacher brought a lot to the school and I know made a significant difference to the experience of many students who walked the halls of Archbishops. Staff we left us at the end of last term are outlined below:

**Teaching staff:** Mr Davies, Mr Martin, Mrs Barton, Miss McShea, Miss Lee, Mr Wassell, Mrs Tipping, Mrs Pilbeam, Mr Young

**Support Staff:** Mrs Pryce, Mrs Carter, Mrs Woods Miss Pryce Miss Cutting

An additional and longstanding member of the school support staff is also leaving us this term and as Mrs Sutcliffe moves on to share her expertise to support another schools finance team, she leaves a significant hole within the family of Archbishops. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to her.

We have endeavoured to establish security and stability for our students by appointing a number of new staff, with further recruitment continuing this term. It is with pleasure that we welcome the following staff to the school:

Humanities Teacher: Mrs Wicks

Maths Teacher: Mr Taheri

Music Teacher: Mr Bates

Business Teacher: Ms Ward

Art Teacher: Miss Jones

Our Senior Leadership Team has also been strengthened to help strategically and operationally direct the school moving forward. New appointments bring a wealth of expertise which we know will help significantly as we forge a path to move the school forward with regards to behaviour, teaching and learning and student wellbeing. We welcome to the Senior Leadership Team Mrs Hamer, Mr Clarke and Mr Lewer. As with all senior leaders they will have a range of responsibilities. Mrs Hamer will be responsible for Behaviour, Mr Clarke will be working on Teaching and & Learning and Mr Lewer will be overseeing Safeguarding. I am sure the school community will do all we can to welcome them.

It is also with pleasure that I can inform you that I have extended my time within the school and will be remaining as the schools interim Headteacher until the end of this academic year.

### **Timetable**

Over the past month we have been reviewing our current teaching timetable in order to ensure that we can develop a learning experience that is more optimal for our students. Looking at the spread of lessons within a day but also within the fortnightly timetable. I am pleased to say that the updated timetable will be launched from **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. Although for many students this will have limited impact on their lessons and teachers, please ensure you look through the new timetable your child brings home and ensure they have this updated version in their planner. I apologise for any anxiety associated with this change and the delay in which this change has been carried out, however we wanted to ensure we had looked at the timetable changes fully before we initiated the new timetable within school.

### **Website**

I hope you have already visited the schools new website [www.archbishops-school.co.uk](http://www.archbishops-school.co.uk). If you haven't, please take a moment to visit the site and begin to navigate the information we are uploading on to this. I hope that this portal becomes an informative site in which parents are able to ensure they are updated on school information. As we move through the year we will be adding additional information to the site to ensure we are providing ease of communication with our current and future school community, so watch this space.

### **Parent/Carer Forum and Surveys**

I wish to invite all parents to attend the forthcoming forum on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.00pm**, so add this date to your diary if you haven't already. These meetings have been highly successful so far with a strong representation, but we always welcome more to join. As an important part of our community, we strive to listen and reflect on parental voice and further parental surveys will be coming out in future weeks to ensure we are working together to build a community that we can all be proud of.

## Calendar Changes

I understand that over the past year information has not always been effectively communicated at times regarding the timetable and calendar. We are reworking the school calendar and will resend to all parents an updated version of this document moving forward. One key date that I wish to bring to everyone's attention is an additional **staff training day** that has been added to the school calendar. **On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** the school will be closed to students, as the staff have a day of training. The Year 8 Parent's Evening will still take place at 4pm that evening. Please can you ensure that you are aware of the schools closure to all students on this date and provision is made for your child.

## Parent communication and app

Many parents have been asking about technology that can be brought in to the school to help improve communication and I am happy to say that we are moving forward to bring the school up to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A small representative group of parents will be trialling an app so we can ensure through a pilot that we iron out any hiccups. Once this phase has been undertaken we will then invite all parents to use this app as a tool which easily installed on mobile devices provides academic progress updates, attendance records, behaviour reports, in addition to acting as a communication tool to succinctly book parents evening appointments and hear about news from within the school. We are excited to be launching this and we know that from the positive experience of those using similar software in other schools, that this will be a powerful addition to the schools communication methods.

## Uniform

As a school, we feel passionately that the manner in which students conduct themselves is highly important and that uniform is an important part of this. Through dressing smartly we hope students are able to act in a more professional manner and take pride in their own appearance and have pride in their school. I have spoken about uniform since my arrival and know that this is an important factor in also managing aspirations and behaviour of the student body. In addition to this newsletter you will be receiving information in the next week relating to the schools uniform expectations. I encourage all parents to read this letter carefully and support the school in ensuring that your child arrives in the correct uniform. I hope that the recent holiday has been used to ensure that students are coming to school with appropriate equipment and uniform. Please ensure you make contact with the school if hardship or financial issues are making it difficult for you to provide the required uniform.

I look forward to continuing to work in the school and await the infinite possibilities in front of us as we enter in to 2020. As the bible teaches us:

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29: 11

God bless.

Mr D. Elliott  
Headteacher