St Edmund Arrowsmith
Catholic High School
A High Performing Specialist Technology & Music College with Leading Edge Status

Rookery Avenue,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan, WN4 9PF
Telephone: 01942 728651
Fax: 01942 402630
Email: office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk
Web: http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.u
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

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Dear Parent/Guardian

After a very successful first half term in school I am writing to you to inform you of three important issues relating to the first assessment point of the year which is being completed this week, understanding our BfL grades, attendance and homework. Our parent portal will have this important information ready for your perusal on Tuesday 17th November. You access this by clicking on 'The Portal' at the top of the homepage on the website and then typing in your username and password. If you have forgotten your details, click on *'Forgotten your details?'*, and you receive a reminder to your registered email address. You can access information about punctuality, attendance, the latest academic progress statement, achievement and behaviour points, as well as the current 'Behaviour for Learning' grades.

You may notice that the Behaviours for Learning (BfL) grades given this time are lower than the BfL grades given last year. This is not due to a lowering of behavioural standards and should not be a cause for concern. It is a heightening of expectations and teachers applying the criteria more stringently. Please find the statements for our BfLs attached to this letter which outline the different levels from 1 to 6, with 1 being the highest (exceptional performance) and 6 being the lowest (cause for concern). They are also shown on pages 18-20 in the pupil planners. This should help to give you an indication of the type of learner your son/daughter is in each of his/her lessons.

Attendance is obviously crucial in determining the overall academic success of pupils, and I know I can count on your support in encouraging your son/daughter to attend school as much as possible for the remainder of the year. It is also one of the most important contributory factors in ensuring our pupils excel personally, socially and spiritually. To illustrate just how important attendance is, I have included a table below showing each attendance band from the Year 11 who left us in July and the relative academic success of pupils in each band. A pupil would only have to have 10 days absent in a year to fall into the 'Below Average' band.

DFE % attendance band	GCSE % 5A*-C including English and Maths
Good – 97% or above	**81.1%**
Average – 96%	**73.7%**
Below Average 95% and below	**67.5%**

If homework is a concern for your son/daughter, you could always encourage them to attend our supervised homework club which takes place every lunch time (1.10pm – 2.00pm) and every night after school (3.15-4.15pm) in IT2, where pupils have access to computers and teaching assistants are on hand to help them with their work.

It is so important that we work together to make the experience of your son/daughter as productive and as happy as possible during their time at St Edmund Arrowsmith. If you have any concerns about any aspect of school life for your son or daughter, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your on-going support, it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

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