



ST EDWARD'S
PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY



STRATEGY UPDATE 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to reach out to you as we conclude my third year as the Headteacher of St Edward's with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. These past three years have marked a significant milestone for our school as we embarked on a strategic plan to navigate the challenges of COVID, foster a strong sense of community, tailor our curriculum to meet the unique needs of our children and introduce coeducation to modernise and ensure a sustainable future for our beloved school.

I cannot emphasise enough how grateful I am for your support throughout this transformative journey. Your partnership has been instrumental in our achievements and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you. I would also like to recognise our outstanding staff members who have displayed dedication, going above and beyond to provide your children with the exceptional care and individual attention that St Edward's is renowned for.

JONATHAN PARSONS
HEADTEACHER



HIGHLIGHTS

Please join us in celebrating just a few key milestones from everything we have accomplished during the last three years.



We have experienced tremendous success in the development of our Early Years Programme. Through substantial investments in resources, classroom enhancements and landscaping, we have created an inspirational learning environment that our children truly thrive in.



Our children make remarkable progress during their time here, and we consistently deliver exceptional value to their lives. Our approach to education, balancing a strong focus on core subjects with our exciting inquiry curriculum and excellent IT provision, equips our children with the necessary tools for now and the future.



Our Year 6s have enjoyed great success in gaining entry to their preferred senior schools. We prioritise supporting our families with comprehensive guidance and the information they need to make informed decisions that align with their child's individual needs and aspirations.



Our engagement with parents has been a source of immense joy and fulfilment. The World Record event, Nativities, Celebration Assemblies and countless other memorable occasions have united our community, providing entertainment as well as incredible learning opportunities for our children.

THE FUTURE

It is wonderful to have so much to celebrate despite some challenging times. We are poised to embark on an exciting new strategy, which will be outlined later, but first we must address a potential change for independent schools in the coming year.

The immediate future

In a recent communication, we discussed how the Labour Party may introduce changes affecting the operations of independent schools if they are elected. As a proprietor-owned school, many of these will not impact us significantly.

However, one potential issue is the proposal to introduce VAT on school fees. Specific details have yet to be published, including the applicable VAT rate, implementation timeline and the scope of fees coverage, but we understand this raises concerns within our community.

We have already addressed this with you, outlining the measures our industry and school group are taking to challenge and mitigate any potential school fee increases. You can [read more here](#).

A change in government could also bring updates to the National Curriculum and wider changes to the education system. However, upon reviewing Labour's proposals, [summarised here](#), we have found our developments in recent years and plans for the future have set us in the right direction.

The longer-term future

Looking to the future of education, extensive research offers clear insights.

The focus will be on nurturing skills spanning different subjects, with an emphasis on supporting children to become independent learners and lifelong seekers of knowledge and new skills.

As well as subject-specific skills, education will also cultivate a deep comprehension of the world, empowering them to thrive at personal, community, national and global levels. Naturally, this requires a significant emphasis on digital learning, creative outcomes and active contributions to the world, as well as focusing on the importance of personal development and understanding how to achieve good levels of wellbeing.

Does this sound familiar? I certainly hope so because it aligns seamlessly with what we have already implemented at St Edward's. I trust that this gives you confidence in our provision for your child, giving them the opportunities they need to flourish and become fulfilled, successful adults. This is very much my hope for my children.

ST EDWARD'S STRATEGY

Academic

We know we are already moving in the right direction with our innovative curriculum and we will continue to deliver learning that equips children for the world they will enter, developing vital transferable and learning skills.

We plan to create opportunities for children to develop new technological, creative and life skills, whilst maintaining our strong focus on core subjects and preparation for senior school entry.

Within the next five years we will also expand our Music and Media provision to include more filming and recording facilities, allowing children to experiment with a wider range of media and supporting more digital outcomes. We will also further develop our Art and STEM facilities to widen children's educational experience and ability to achieve higher levels of creativity.

Pastoral

A key focus will be on building future strength and resilience for our children, ensuring that they leave school with a good understanding of the meaning of wellbeing and how they can work on it personally.

Our Pastoral Curriculum development will build on the work we have done around the five areas of wellbeing, including staying healthy physically and mentally, having the confidence to make a positive contribution to society and having the knowledge and capability to achieve good economic wellbeing.

Provision

The St Edward's Holiday Club is thriving and over the last year we have expanded our provision and put a strong team in place to ensure children get the most from their sessions. We will continue these developments, aiming to welcome more children and strengthen our place in the local community.

We will also be improving some of our facilities in the next three to five years, starting with the refurbishment of the current Prep toilets.





STRUCTURE AND SCHOOL NUMBERS

When thinking about future challenges and trying to mitigate any impact of VAT on fees, we are looking at a number of different options.

Over the last few years we have contemplated expanding to two-form entry, especially when we went coed. However, it is clear from talking to parents that our families like St Edward's because of its size and individual care and feel we do not have the space to do this.

I agree that without significant investment and site expansion, two-form entry would not be a sustainable model.

Whilst we need to be a little flexible in the coming years, we will be looking to move to one full class per year group and a bigger Nursery to maximise use of our site and the numbers.

There are two actions we will take:

1. Consider opening to two-year-olds
2. Increase class sizes by a very small number whilst maintaining our high standards of provision and keeping the lowest numbers among our comparable schools.

This is unlikely to affect many as there are few classes currently reaching capacity but will have a substantial impact on our future success and development

STAFFING CHANGES

We have some exciting staffing updates to share with you, highlighting the growth and positive changes happening at our school. If you have any questions, please do ask them during your Transition Meetings.

Reception

Firstly, after a successful tenure in Reception, Mrs Helen James is ready for a new challenge and will be transitioning to Year 2 this year. We are thrilled to welcome Mrs Anna Williams as our new Reception teacher. She is an outstanding educator with a wealth of experience both in international and UK settings, most recently at Dulwich College Kindergarten, an excellent and highly regarded school.

Mrs Williams will be supported by the Reception Team, consisting of Miss Monica Nyilas and Ms Sadiya Mahmood. Together, they will provide exceptional instruction in two adjacent classrooms located in the Pre-Prep area, ensuring a strong foundation for our youngest pupils.



Year 3

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Miss Clark will be returning to Year 3 after her maternity leave, starting with one day a week from September and progressing to a minimum of four days a week after the half-term break. To ensure continuity within the class, we are actively exploring a temporary post, long-term supply and internal options. Miss Clark will work closely with her cover teacher to provide a smooth transition for the children and will also be present for Step-Up Day to assist with their adjustment.

Art Provision

In an effort to enhance our offerings and expand different areas of the school, Mrs Wilson will be dedicating more time to teaching Art. This focus on Art education aligns with our goal of developing well-rounded individuals and fostering creativity.



TEACHING AREAS

As our school continues to thrive, we have taken the opportunity to reassess our room usage and optimise the facilities for our pupils. This year we will implement some changes, creating distinct areas and providing ample space for growth and enrichment. Here is our plan:

Class	Role	Staff	Location
Little Griffins	Early Years Coordinator & Nursery Lead Early Years Teaching Assistant	Mrs Kelly Turner Mrs Tracy Lauder	Snow Block (current Nursery Classroom)
Reception	Reception Lead Teacher Support Teachers	Mrs Anna Williams Ms Mahmood Miss Nyilas	Downstairs in Pre-Prep building (current Reception & Year 1)
Year 1	Year 1 Teacher Music PE & Games Computer Science	Miss Cromore Miss Nyilas Mr Winship Mr Hounsome	Peach Block upstairs classroom
Year 2	Year 2 Teacher Music PE & Games Computer Science	Mrs James Miss Nyilas Mr Winship Mr Hounsome	Peach Block upstairs classroom
Year 3	Year 3 Teacher Music PE & Games Computer Science	Miss Clark Miss Nyilas Mr Winship & Team Mr Hounsome	Peach Block downstairs
Year 4	Year 4 Teacher Music PE & Games Computer Science	Mrs Wilson Miss Nyilas Mr Winship & Team Mr Hounsome	Peach Block downstairs
Year 5	Year 5 Teacher English & Computer Science Maths & Humanities Science Art Music PE & Games	Mr Winship Mr Hounsome Mrs Hunt Mr Parsons Mrs Wilson Miss Nyilas Mr Winship & Team	Main House
Year 6	Year 6 Teacher English, Computer Science & Humanities Maths Science Art Music PE & Games	Mr Hounsome Mr Hounsome Mrs Hunt Mr Parsons Mrs Wilson Miss Nyilas Mr Winship & Team	Main House



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THANK YOU