



St Edward's School

**Unity - Achievement - Faith**

PROSPECTUS

## Our Story

1963

### THE BEGINNING OF EXCELLENCE

St Edward's Catholic School opens with **500 students**.

1987

### A NEW COMMITMENT

Cardinal Basil Hume calls on Christians of different traditions to move from a position of co-operation, to a **new commitment to one another**.

1988

### WORKING TOGETHER

The **Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth** and the **Anglican Diocese of Salisbury** formally commit to **work together** in building St Edward's into the future.

1991

### CHRISTIAN COLLABORATION

St Edward's joint Church school opens on the **Feast of St Edward the Martyr** as "**a Beacon of Ecumenism**."

1995

### TECHNOLOGY GROWS

The Campus **Technology Suite** is officially opened.

2000

### CENTRE FOR SPORTS

Jubilee Building is opened - with **state-of-the-art sports and learning facilities**.

2006

### SIXTH FORM

The new **Sixth Form centre** is opened, housing study and learning suites for the most senior students.

2013

### YEAR 7 OPENS

St Edward's expands to admit year 7; now with over 1000 students on roll.

2015

### OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES

**PiXL National Award** for Outstanding Academic Outcomes.

2017

### CHAMPION SCHOOL

National Citizen Service **Champion School status**.

2018

### CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR WELLBEING

Selected to work with the **Universities of Oxford and London** in National research into adolescent wellbeing.

2019

### ENTERPRISING ACHIEVEMENTS

**Young Enterprise School of the Year**.

2019

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Finalist in the **National School of the Year** awards, and academic outcomes in the top 10% of schools nationally.

### ROUNDED EDUCATION

The **Eden Centre opens** as a centre of excellence for student futures.

2020



# Welcome

**St Edward's is a top performing joint church school, one of only a handful of such schools in the country.**



Head Teacher Mr M Antram

With a unique learning culture for happy and successful students and staff, academic outcomes among the highest in the UK, and a long standing reputation for brilliant pastoral care, St Edward's is a very special place. That's why it is one of the most over-subscribed schools in the area. Our Christian ethos ensures that learning will always focus on securing top outcomes for students, whilst keeping a close watch on their formation as a human person.

We are proud to be a truly comprehensive school, attracting students of all abilities. Aspirational parents recognise that the most-able students thrive here, and achieve academic outcomes to equal or exceed those of Grammar Schools, but want their child to grow within a co-educational setting that reflects society at large.

*"We recognise that the key to a happy and successful life does not rest on academic outcomes alone; we must equip children to navigate through life, to live well alongside people who are different, and to anticipate and seize opportunities when they arise."*



May we be one...



**National  
Citizenship  
Award**



**National  
School of the  
Year Finalist  
in 2019-20**



**NATIONAL  
SCHOOLS  
AWARDS 2019**



**...in purpose**

*educating for life in all its fullness*

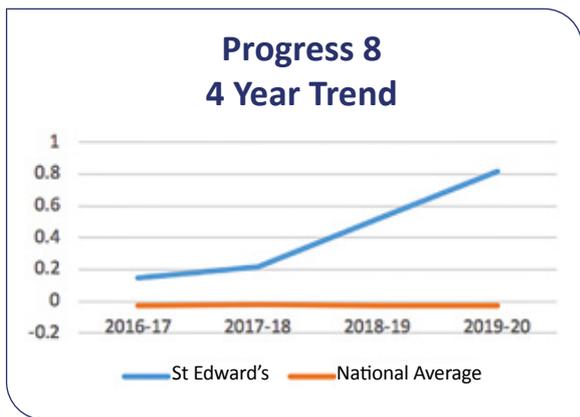
# Outstanding Outcomes

With academic outcomes in the top 10% of schools nationally, our position in the National Schools Performance tables speak for itself. Our reputation for excellent provision for student wellbeing led to an invite from Oxford University to join in their national research into the potential of mindfulness to promote positive mental health in young people.

Powerful learning can happen anywhere and students are encouraged to explore learning in different contexts, whether it is tending to our bee hives or helping to cultivate our woodland. We encourage students to engage with the local community in a number of ways and have been a Champion School for the National Citizenship Award since 2017. Our wider partnerships inspire students and enhance their learning, and have helped us secure success in many areas including the STEM challenge competitions.

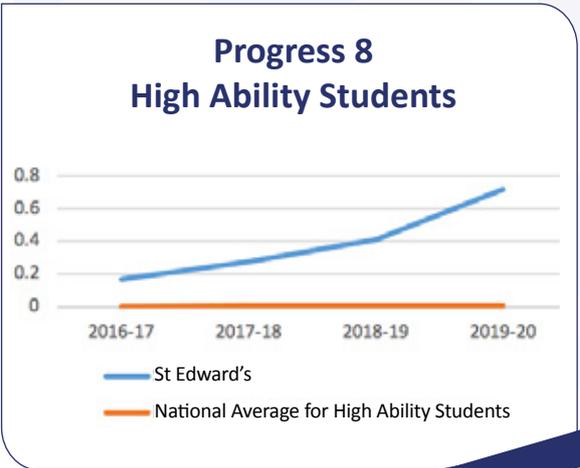


# Academic Excellence



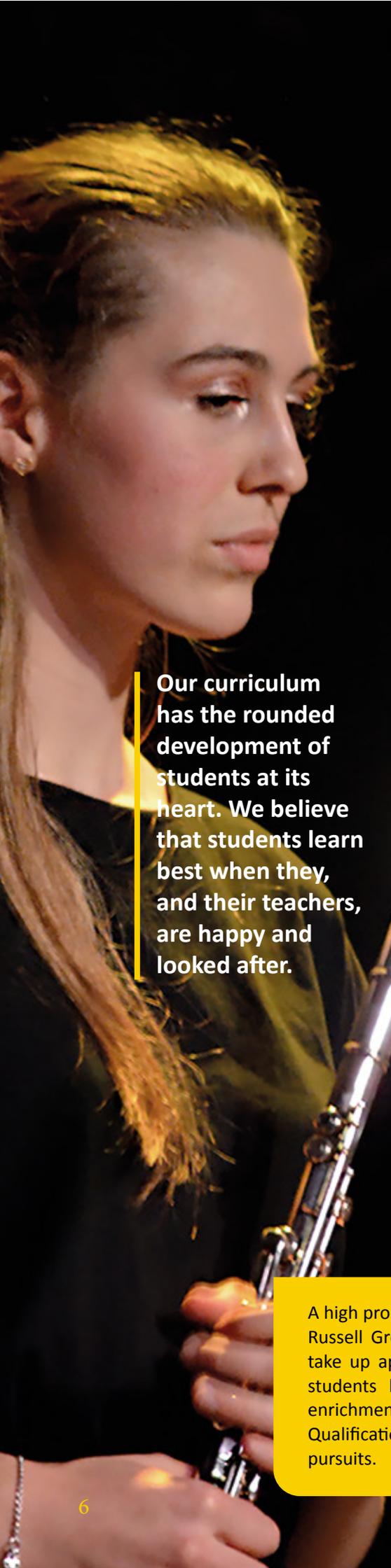
*(Left)* The National Progress 8 measure shows the progress made by students from the end of their primary school education to the end of Year 11. Over the past 4 years we have seen the school's P8 score rise significantly, and this currently puts us among the top schools nationally.

*(Right)* High-ability students at St Edward's who are predicted to gain the top grades at GCSE, go onto make outstanding progress. Over the past 4 Years, our high prior attaining students show a significant upward trend in the progress they make during their time with us compared to other high ability children nationally.



**...in faith**  
*encountering God who lives among us,  
 calling us to unity*

**“Combining high quality education set within a Christian ethos to provide a holistic educational experience.”**



# Curriculum

We are not driven by performance table outcomes, but we are in the top category for examination and other performance indicators nationally. This is a by-product of our approaches, not our aim. Fulfilling our students' potential and helping them to develop as young people ready to go into an ever changing world with the qualifications, confidence and range of skills, to lead successful and happy lives, is our goal.

Our curriculum preserves creativity, as personal formation is just as important as the acquisition of knowledge. It aims to meet the needs, aptitudes and interests of all of our students and allowing them to develop into well rounded, confident young adults. The most important lessons for life aren't just learned in classrooms, and so our programme of enrichment activities including opportunities to represent the school in a wide range of activities.

**Our curriculum has the rounded development of students at its heart. We believe that students learn best when they, and their teachers, are happy and looked after.**

## Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum secures rapid progress on learning at Key Stage 2 and aims to further develop the skills for essential learning, looking to deepen knowledge and understanding across a broad variety of subject areas. Students follow a broad 3-year curriculum which enables them to sustain academic *and* personal formation through a variety of subjects, with teachers focussed on bringing learning to life.

## Key Stage 4

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum provides a broad range of subjects, and KS4 students are able to select a bespoke learning pathway to create a more personalised curriculum based on career or future aspirations. Students have the opportunity to follow a range of courses including Creative Arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Arts and Sports courses to name but a few. Our EDGE programme runs alongside throughout Key Stages 3 to 5 for highly able and aspirational students.

## Key Stage 5

We have an exciting KS5 Curriculum which builds on the skills and knowledge of KS4. Students are able to select from a wide suite of A Levels and Vocational courses which open doors to the next stages of their learning journey.

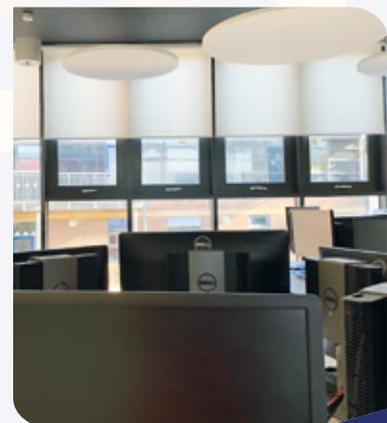
A high proportion of our students go on to study at Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities, move onto their chosen career or take up apprenticeships. As well as the academic curriculum, students have the opportunity to take part in a range of enrichment opportunities including the Extended Project Qualification, programmes of philosophical enquiry, and sporting pursuits.



**Our greatest assets are our teachers and students who work together to bring learning to life.**

We are very proud of the quality of our facilities. Our science laboratories give students the opportunity for extensive practical work. Our spacious art studio encourages students to work in a variety of media. High quality productions in music, dance and drama are enhanced by the excellent creative arts studios.

ICT facilities are located throughout the campus with computer suites situated at different points around the school. As well as the well-maintained outdoor recreational and sports areas, we have a large sports hall, and newly equipped Fitness suite and Dance studios. However, it's not just the facilities that bring learning to life, but the teachers and students who teach and learn in them. It is they who are the greatest asset of our school.



**...in dignity**  
*nurturing confidence and maturity*

**“Students speak highly of the quality of teaching and support they receive from their teachers.”**

Ofsted 2017

Visit our [website](#) to find out more



# Learning, Growing & Flourishing

**Our culture for learning is characterised by challenging, engaging lessons, and students who are independent and curious learners.**

In a fast-changing world with an evolving global economy and increased competition for jobs, children and young people need to be able to learn, unlearn and relearn as they expand and diversify their skills, in order to seize advantages and opportunities that present themselves.

Our research-driven approaches to teaching ensure that great attention is paid to ensuring that students acquire such skills to a high degree. For us, self-knowledge is highly important alongside deep subject knowledge, as the key to a successful life is holistic formation.



The adults that we send out into the world utilise their individual strengths and skills, as they seek to make a positive contribution to society within a satisfying and meaningful working life.



**...in community**

*striving together for justice, love and peace*



### WISDOM

DISCERNMENT  
CURIOSITY  
LOVE OF LEARNING



### DISCIPLINE

SELF-MASTERY  
FORGIVENESS  
HUMILITY



### HUMANITY

TEAMWORK  
SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE  
LEADERSHIP & LOVE



### SPIRITUALITY

REFLECTION  
GRATITUDE  
CREATIVITY & HOPE



### COURAGE

LEADERSHIP  
RESILIENCE  
HONESTY & BRAVERY

# Virtues

We believe in the formation of the whole person. Our rewards and recognition systems focus on the development of character. Our school virtues were developed with students, and both encourage and form positive behaviours for learning. We want to give credit for both hard work and positive qualities of character that our student arrive with, and continue developing throughout their time with us.

These virtues are integrated into the life of the school through daily reflection and worship. Students are rewarded for their mastery of these virtues at celebration events throughout the year, marking the progress from primary to secondary education, and upwards through each of the higher Key Stages.



Courtesy is encouraged both in the classroom and during breaks

By developing a broad range of character virtues in students we are helping parents to prepare their children to live life to the full in the wider world.



### Distinctive because...

*we form learners of individuality and character*



# The Edge

**Extra curricular activities for highly able and aspirational students.**



*(Above)* Former St Edward's student, **Professor Philip Murphy**, gave an inspiring presentation to Year 10-13 students on his work with GlaxoSmithKline as Head of Medical Imaging, and shared important research which is being conducted to improve medical scanning apparatus and techniques.

The EDGE Programme is designed and tailored to meet the needs of highly able, and highly aspirational students. It is open to any student who seeks such broader and deeper academic and personal development, from the moment they arrive in Year 7 until the time they leave us in Year 13.

Combining wider extra-curricular opportunities, focussed seminars, bespoke careers support including top-university outreach programmes and mentoring by more senior students; we bring the best of St Edward's and beyond to enhance their educational journey.

The programme is informed by meta-analyses of the best approaches to education globally and enhanced by elements of private school education. It is led by some of our most senior and experienced staff, who bring years of insights gleaned from coaching and supporting our students into some of the best universities in the world, and connects our highest performing senior students with their counterparts in younger years.

**Bespoke careers support**  
Guidance that assumes ambition

**Senior student mentoring**  
Linking young minds to experience

**Top university outreach**  
Aiming high from the outset

**Broader curricular provision**  
Widening exposure to the best that has been thought and said



**Distinctive because...**  
*we are a joint church school*



# St Edward's School

**We look forward to welcoming you to our school**

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