

Dear Parents and Carers

I think there's no doubt that 2020 will live long in the memory and in years to come, people will look back and reflect on how this was a year like no other. Unfortunately, for far too many, it will have been a year of great sadness; when loved ones and acquaintances were taken from us far too soon, where jobs were lost, businesses damaged through no fault of their own and opportunities of all sorts, snatched from so many. However, extraordinary and difficult times can also generate equally extraordinary achievement. In a year where the school has faced more challenges than anyone could have possibly imagined, it really is remarkable that Edwinstree Middle School has succeeded in delivering as rich an education as anyone could have hoped for.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the staff at Edwinstree for their exceptional resilience and hard work. I thank our teaching and learning support staff for their extraordinary energy and sustained creativity throughout the year, adapting so often to changing circumstances; to new 'do's and don'ts' of teaching in a Covid-safe environment and always giving of their best to support the students with their learning, whether they be in the classroom or at home.

I thank Mrs Gant for her inspirational leadership and her Senior Management Team who have provided her with such valued and precious support. I thank our office and support staff and all those who have worked behind the scenes to keep the school open, clean and safe. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their support for the school and our staff and for all their work in supporting and encouraging the children's learning, sometimes in quite difficult circumstances and in the face of their own personal challenges.

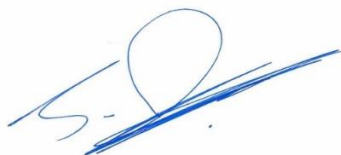
I would also like to thank my fellow Governors for all they have done to look after the interests of the school and the wellbeing of both staff and students. Although we can't by any means compete with what others have had to cope with, this has been quite a challenging year for Governors and I thank them for all they have done to rise to those challenges. It has been a very significant year in terms of school governance with our decision to move to Academy and ultimately Multi Academy Trust status, which offers both ourselves and Freman College so many exciting opportunities and I'm really looking forward to us progressing on that journey next year.

Lastly and by no means least, I thank and congratulate our amazing students for their own personal courage, determination and good humour. I commend them for and all they have done to progress their own learning, as well as doing such a great job looking after those around them. Even though they have been denied some of the opportunities that others will have enjoyed in previous years, our students have made the very best of things this year. They have shown that the 'Spirit of Edwinstree', the positive energy and enthusiasm, underpinned by the school's Christian values which gives Edwinstree its own unique identity, can thrive - even in this most challenging of years.

I have no doubt that in January, there will be more difficulties ahead but all the evidence from this year suggests that students, staff, parents and Governors will take what comes in their stride.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and the best of fortunes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



John Boulter
Chair of Governors