



Exmouth Community College

Learn • Progress • Grow

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Friday 1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have enjoyed a pleasant summer, despite the unpredictable weather.

I firstly want to thank Andrew Davis for his service to ECC, the Exmouth community and the education sector. Seventeen years of Headship across three schools is an immense contribution to public service and I wish Andrew all the very best as he departs for new challenges.

I realise that a change of Headteacher can be a nervous time for people, but the warm welcome and generous time that I have received from Andrew, as well as governors and staff, has really helped me 'get to grips' with the College in preparation for the new school year and to ensure a smooth transition. I really look forward to welcoming all students back on Wednesday 6th September.

I said in my letter in July that there are lots of challenges in education at the moment, but that I am also very optimistic about the future for ECC and our young people. Being the sole Secondary school in such a strong community, in such a beautiful part of the world and with great links to Exeter is a pretty unique situation. In addition to this, the dramatic improvements to the school site continues at pace – following the opening of the Elizabeth Lee building in April, the old buildings on the Green Close site have now all been demolished. This has transformed the space and will make for a wonderful green and open 'heart' to our site once the landscaping has been completed in November. The new 'wing' of the Maths block (with catering facility on the bottom floor) is on track for completion by October half term, and some other significant works over the summer have tremendously improved other facilities.

Entrusting ECC with the education of your child(ren) is a very significant decision. We will work tirelessly to give every one of our students the very best experience possible – an environment in which they can access a wide range of subjects and wider opportunities that develops their academic skills, prepares them for the world of work and builds their character.

Doing so is a responsibility that I, and we, take extremely seriously and one that relies on your trust that we are acting in the best interests of all of our young people. To support this, we will soon share details of a number of 'Meet the Headteacher' events for parents / carers to come and meet with me, and to share your views, as parents, as how we can best support your child(ren).

The 'Secondary' years are a really challenging (and sometimes confusing) time for young people and so it is vital that the expectations and messages from home and school are consistent. That's why the partnership between families and school is so important. We will seek to communicate as best we can so that you can support the school's position, but if there is something that you're not clear about or something that you don't understand, please contact us so that we can explain the position and discuss it with you – 99% of the time, any confusion is very quickly resolved.

One of the changes being made from September is a return to wearing school uniform to school every day and changing for PE lessons in school. David Turner (Deputy Headteacher) will write to you in the

next couple of days about this, but I do need to ask parents and carers for their full support in this. The Senior Team considered the situation very carefully last term, and it was clear that the 'status quo' was simply not allowing the school to focus on our 'core purpose' – ensuring a really great learning experience for our young people. One thing that Mr Turner will highlight is our desire to engage with students more on aspects of their school lives (including on uniform and appearance) and allow them to have greater involvement in the leadership of our school, but this initial change is a necessary first step and we simply wouldn't be fulfilling our responsibility to you by not making this change.

Once the new school year is underway, we will continue to write to you on a regular basis through the *Parent and Carer News* to keep you up to date. We always try to keep communication purposeful and not overly long, but in a large school there is sometimes a lot to share. We'd be really grateful if you could find the time to read the communications. In the meantime, I have recorded a short welcome message for you to watch highlighting key points in this letter and emphasising the importance of the College and parents/carers working together [Welcome Recording](#)

Lastly, you may have seen the headlines on the news regarding reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). We have complied with the Department for Education's requests for information and, as of today, have not been contacted by the Department for Education. We do not anticipate being contacted but we will of course update you if we receive any news on the matter.

Wishing your child(ren) all the very best for the start of the new academic year, and especially to students joining the school this year, and I look forward to meeting you in person in due course.

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Inman
Headteacher