



12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents,

### **'Old Cedarians'**

When A Level results are published next month, you can be sure that consoling words will be offered by 'celebrities' for the benefit of those students who did not achieve as well as they hoped. You know the sort of thing: "I got three 'U's at A Level and I'm just deciding which Ferrari to take out today..." I'm not sure how many people own multiple Ferraris, regardless of their A level results, but the deeper problem with such comments is the assumption that success is to be measured by material possessions.

I very much hope that our first Sixth Form leavers – the 'class of '19' – will be pleased with their grades next month but I await their results in the knowledge that their finest qualities cannot be weighed by exam grades. The sense of sadness among teachers at the Y13 leavers' dinner was tempered by an even stronger sense of pride, and the hope that these fine young men will blaze a trail in their lives with their generosity, integrity, sense of responsibility and, yes, their intellectual powers. This school, and others like it, was founded to work closely with parents to help its pupils become generous and happy adults who will add value to the lives of others. Whatever happens on August 15<sup>th</sup>, I feel confident that these young men, the first 'Old Cedarians', will do us all proud. *There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.*

All of this applies also to boys in Year 11, albeit in a slightly different way, and we wish every success to those who have taken public exams this summer, and to those who are leaving The Cedars, whether in Year 11 or 13. We hope you will keep in touch!

### **Goodbye**

We said goodbye to a number of staff earlier today.

**Mr Ciaran Daly** has been employed as a Teaching assistant for the last two years and has decided to return to full-time study so that he can complete his degree. Mr Daly has been a great help in many areas of school life, not least music and sport, and he brought great energy to everything he did. His willingness to help and unflinching good humour made him many friends and he will be greatly missed.

**Mr Dan Harland**, who joined The Cedars as a newly-qualified physics teacher in 2016, is returning to the north where he plans to get married in a year's time. Mr Harland is a fine example of a teacher who loves his subject and loves his pupils. His concern for those he taught was evident throughout his time at The Cedars and was on display again today after our emotional final assembly when he addressed Year 10 one last time to give them a few pointers for their summer revision work.

**Mr Greg Teague**, my son, has been here for the last two terms as a gap-year volunteer. I've enjoyed having him around of course and I'm told that he has made a great contribution to history, classics and school trips during his brief stay. He leaves to take an MA in History at KCL starting in the autumn.

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**Mr Johan Thisanayagam** leaves to take up a position on the Senior Leadership Team at Willington Prep School in September. It is hard to summarise Mr T's contribution to Cedars sport over the last four years and that is perhaps because 'contribution' isn't the right word to describe what he has created here. Mr T has not just put us on the sporting map but he has also created a culture of enthusiastic participation in sport within the school. It is a remarkable achievement and one which I hope he will look back on with great pride in the future. It is a measure of what he has built up that even after his departure we can confidently look forward to further sporting progress next year. Mr T is a man of many talents and he joins Willington at an important point in its history. I am sure he will do a great job there and I will be watching for developments with great interest. Mr Ashton has been appointed as Mr T's replacement as Director of Sport and I have no doubt that he will continue the work that has been begun and take Cedars sport to even greater heights.

**Mr Stephen Trafford**, our Head of Theology, Philosophy & Ethics, leaves to train for the priesthood. He will start at the seminary at Womersley in September and, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood in 2025 after six years of study. Mr Trafford was on our radar long before he joined The Cedars and we were delighted when he joined us in 2017. The impact he has made over the last two years is astonishing. Not only did he launch the new RE GCSE at The Cedars, achieving spectacular results in the process, but he also turbo-charged school debating, entering us in various national competitions including the Oxford Union and the English Schools' competition, for which we hosted (and participated in) the London finals. Mr Trafford will be a great loss though we take consolation from the knowledge that he will be in a position to do great good in the future.

All of these colleagues will be missed and they leave with our very best wishes.

### ***New staff***

New teachers are listed below. There will also be some new non-teaching staff who I will introduce in September.

**Mr Ray Cilia** has been appointed as Head of Theology, Philosophy and Ethics. He has a wealth of teaching experience in local schools including The John Fisher School and Bishop Thomas Grant School. Mr Cilia will also be involved in debating as well as lending a hand in the football season.

**Mr Alec Magee** joins us as a Physics teacher from September. After graduation at Bath University, Mr Magee gained a PGCE and he now has four years teaching experience, most recently at the British International School in Washington DC.

**Mr Thomas Part** takes up the role of Head of Science from September. Since completing a Chemistry degree at Leeds and a PGCE in London, he has been teaching at St Matthew's Academy in Lewisham. Mr Part has represented his county in both cricket and rugby and he is keen to be involved in Cedars sport alongside his science role.

**Mr Ben Potter** joins us as a teacher of History & Classics. An Australian, Ben trained as a teacher of both PE and History, gaining a Master's in Ancient History from Macquarie University in New South Wales. A keen sportsman, he is looking forward to assisting with rugby and cricket at The Cedars. He also has a passion for the dramatic arts.

Mr **Sam Tiffin** has been appointed as a PE teacher for next year. Originally from Cumbria, Mr Tiffin has been teaching at University College School, Hampstead, for the last two years. As you would expect, Mr Tiffin is an all-round sportsman.

### ***Thank You!***

Last Saturday's barbecue was a wonderful occasion and I would like to thank all those parents, too numerous to list, who contributed in some way or other to the success of the day. In a wider sense, we are all grateful

for the support that we receive from parents, whether it is manifest in practical help or in other ways. The partnership between parents and teachers is the bedrock of the school.

I spoke to your sons about use of time this morning. I hope they will rest so that they return refreshed but I hope they will also use time constructively. Much can be achieved in seven weeks! I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer.

The new term begins at **8:35am** on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019** for **Years 7, 12 and 13** and at **11:00am** for **all returning pupils**.

With every good wish,



*R. Teague*

Mr Robert Teague  
**Headmaster**

