

8 October 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians

My name is Dr Giles Campion, and I am a proud St Edward's parent of one current pupil and one former student now at university studying medicine. As I know you are well aware, St Edward's is an established Oxford institution and is synonymous with excellence, vibrancy and intellectual rigour.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about another Oxford institution synonymous with these extraordinary qualities, the Ashmolean Museum, and in particular the Elias Ashmole Patrons Group of which I am a member. The Ashmolean, Britain's oldest public museum, has undergone a £61 million redevelopment providing its unique collections with a world-class home. Reopening this November, there are over 30 new galleries designed by award-winning architect Rick Mather to explore. The transformed Ashmolean has 100% more display space and hundreds more objects on view, temporary exhibition galleries, a dedicated education centre, state-of-the-art conservation studios and Oxford's first rooftop restaurant. I'm sure you'll agree that this is a once in a lifetime transformation.

The Elias Ashmole Patrons Group provides vital support for the Ashmolean and enjoys exclusive access to the Museum's collections and experts. Benefits include invitations to handling sessions, private evenings, and an annual dinner in the Museum as well as trips around Britain and Europe.

Whether you are a resident of Oxfordshire or further afield, I am inviting you to join the Elias Ashmole Patrons and tap into this unique resource. Already, St Edward's and the Ashmolean have embarked on an important partnership. Teachers Margaret Lloyd, Chris Pollitt, and Mark Stephenson have incorporated visits to the Ashmolean into the curriculum for this academic year. Both St Edward's and the Ashmolean are committed to providing our students and the public the opportunity to learn from this rare collection. **Warden Andrew Trotman has expressed a commitment for every St Edward's student to visit the Ashmolean in the first year after reopening.** I have no doubt that this will enhance your sons' and daughters' experience here at St Edward's.

If you join the Elias Ashmole Group by Tuesday 20 October, you will have the opportunity to attend the exclusive preview opening reception on Friday 30 October and see the new galleries yourself before they are opened up to the public. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a registration form and further contact details are listed below. I do hope you will join me by taking advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to join the Group and support your child's education as well as one of the world's most important museums at this historic time.



Dr Giles Campion