



# TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (Science & Sports College)

**Headmaster:** Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

**Website:** <https://tchs.uk.net>

13th October 2020

Letter [D]

Dear Parents & Students,

## ***Edward the Confessor***

Today, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of King Edward the Confessor, a saintly prince who ruled until his death on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1066. Edward lived a life of piety and charity, perhaps his greatest contribution to English history was the development of Westminster Abbey. Edward's death in January 1066 provoked one of the most searing and important episodes in English history, the Battle of Hastings and the conquest of this country by the Normans under Duke William. Our local area played a great part in this crisis which reached its climax at the Battle of Hastings on **October 14<sup>th</sup>** 1066. Tomorrow is the 954<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that battle!

William landed his forces at Pevensey and moved inland. Harold his rival, crowned on the day after Edward's death, advanced south to meet him. Harold's army, however, was depleted after the vicious and bloody battle he'd fought against the Northmen at Stamford Bridge. Harold realised the cause was desperate. The Battle of Stamford Bridge meant he lost many good fighting men. Just as importantly, two of his generals Edwin and Morcar were advancing south but seemed reluctant to meet him.

According to the chronicles, Harold paused at Waltham Abbey to pray and seek the blessing of the Holy Rood (crucifix) in Waltham Abbey Church. He is supposed to have stretched prostrate on the ground before the rood begging for divine help but the figure on his cross, simply shook his head, gazing sorrowfully at the Saxon king. Harold continued his march. He may well have advanced along what is now Woodford High Road, hurrying to trap William the Norman between himself and the sea. He reached Hastings or Senlac Hill on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. However, any attempt to take the Normans by surprise was frustrated. They say Harold's men feasted and drank that night, perhaps a little too much! On that fateful day dawn broke at about 6.50am and both armies were deployed. But, more of that tomorrow! I just think it's important to mark such an important event which took place in our catchment area. As for the battle, well we will do that on its actual anniversary.



**Main School Office:**

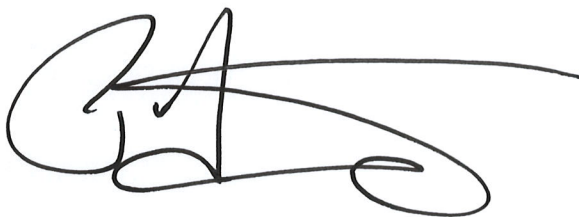
**Upper Site:**  
**Lower Site**

Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP  
Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB

**Telephone:** 020 8504-3419  
**Telephone:** 020 8504-8946

Thank you for reading this.

My best regards to you and yours,



Dr P.C. Doherty OBE

Headmaster

PS. Many, many thanks to all who supported our non-uniform day.



Main School Office:

Upper Site:  
Lower Site

Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP  
Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB

Telephone: 020 8504-3419  
Telephone: 020 8504-8946