



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

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Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

20th April 2020

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

I hope I find you well.

Welcome to the Summer Term.

It is three years ago today that I took up the role of Principal and there have been lots of changes and improvements at the Academy during this period. When questioned at interview as to where I saw the Academy in three years, closed with the entire school population working remotely due to a global pandemic would not have been my first response. That being said, I am very proud to be Principal and I hope and pray that you have had a happy and healthy Easter holiday and enjoyed the sunny weather and time together.

Paediatric concerns and guidance for parents/carers

Paediatric specialists have developed a pack for parents/carers to help identify when children who are displaying any health concerns should be taken to hospital. This is a very concerning time regarding whether to take a child to hospital or not and I feel this guidance assists in making it clearer. Please use the link below or visit the 'School Information Updates' section on the Academy website.

[Advice for parents/carers during coronavirus](#)

Free School Meal vouchers

Vouchers for all those who are in receipt of Free School Meals have now been processed. We apologise that this has taken a little longer than expected, but – as has been reported in the news – systems to provide this funding to parents from the Government have struggled to meet demand. We hope that you have received your vouchers.

Leek Food Bank

Leek Food Bank have asked that if anyone needs to use the food bank, please could they bring the referral letter with them which confirms that they can use the food bank.

The opening hours for Leek Food Bank are currently explained below:

At the moment we are managing to maintain our normal opening hours, Tuesday and Friday, even while using a vastly reduced volunteer base who are doing a fantastic job and have stepped up to the new challenges which vary day by day.

We can still accept your donations at the food bank between 10am and 12 noon on a Tuesday and Friday (please ring the bell and maintain social distancing). Alternatively, you may use any of our Permanent Collection Points which are still available at various locations listed on our website.

Please visit the Leek Food Bank website for more information: <https://leekdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Parental guidance with writing

To aid parents and carers with some of the techniques and key elements of writing, Mr Renshaw has kindly put together an excellent pack that explains what is required. This pack can be found in the 'School Information Updates' section on the Academy website at the link below:

[English Writing Support Pack](#)

Rights Respecting School

As a Rights Respecting School, we regularly reflect on different articles from the UN Convention of Rights for the Child. During the current period, the UN are releasing an 'Article of the Week' for you to examine and discuss the significance of on your lives.

This week's article is Article 24: Health Care, which I am sure you will agree is a very apt focus for us all to consider: [Unicef: Rights Respecting Schools - Article of the Week](#).

There is also a pack linked to the Rights Respecting School Award that Mrs Dickinson has collated. This will be put on the Go4Schools website for all pupils to work on and can also be found on the Academy website via the following link: [Unicef Pack](#).

Reminder: Mental health and well-being

At the current time more than ever, ensuring that we look after our personal mental health and that of those we care about is paramount. Below are a range of resources, websites and apps that you can access and that provide links to further mental health and well-being materials.

- <https://www.headspace.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

Reminder: Ordering Year 8 leaver hoodies

We have received confirmation from the manufacturer that hoodies for our Year 8 leavers are still in production. The manufacturer has informed us that orders are to be placed by 7th June.

To place an order, please go to: <https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-login>, entering the username SL47832 and password 47832sted.

Further information regarding leaver hoodies can be found in the Year 8 letters section on the Academy website.

Reminder: Communication and subject queries

To assist you in contacting the correct person at the Academy when you have a query, please continue to utilise the CONTACTS link on the Academy website for all general and office focused enquiries. For any subject specific questions, please utilise the following addresses to access key subject specialists:

For Maths	maths@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For English	englishst@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Science and Computing	scienceandcomputing@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Geography, History and MFL	humanandlang@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For RE	re-sted@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Creative Studies	creativestudies@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk

Reminder: Safeguarding

Keeping our pupils and their families safe is our most important job.

If you have any concerns, please call First Response on 0800 131 3126 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or Childline on 0800 1111. If you need to contact us, please do so via the Contacts link on the Academy website.

There is a lot of support available to help keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- Think You Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL: <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net Aware: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

UPDATED: FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Question: What is the current situation concerning refunds for the Y7 French trip?

Answer: *We are currently in communication with our insurers and the travel company with regard to arrangements surrounding this trip. The Academy has already paid for this trip in full and therefore all funds are held by the travel company.*

The Academy is far from happy with this situation and wants to provide the best outcome for parents. However, we also wanted to provide parents with the options that have been presented to us at the current time. The Academy will continue to push for further information on this matter and we will update you as soon as we know more. We apologise for any concern this is causing.

Question: How do we complete the online tasks if we do not have a printer or if we only have access to one computer/device to share at home?

Answer: *Please ask your child to complete the tasks on paper and then you can look the tasks over with your child. If you need the shared computer/device to be available for multiple members of your household and your child has a mobile phone, they can take a photograph of the activity and work on the activity by referring to the photograph.*

Question: Does the Academy provide paper copies of all work?

Answer: *Due to the current restrictions regarding only essential travel and limitations surrounding these restrictions, we cannot provide paper copies of work at the current time. The risk to Academy staff members in the production and distribution of these resources is not an 'essential task'. Please refer to the online materials that are updated each Monday and Thursday, or refer to our Facebook page that has other online links for celebrities who are delivering sessions which can be watched on devices and via Smart TVs.*

Question: Can you provide me with my/my child's MathsWatch password please?

Answer: *We have recently changed our subscription to MyMaths and will no longer be using MathsWatch. All MyMaths passwords are now uploaded to Go4Schools for each class and each pupil.*

UPDATED: Additional web resources that may be helpful to parents/carers

Today, the BBC has launched an education package across TV and online, featuring teachers and celebrities, to help keep children learning at home and to support parents and carers. This education package is structured by age group and can be accessed in a variety of ways, such as via BBC Red Button, BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds. Visit the BBC Bitesize website for further information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

An education programme called Oak National Academy has also launched today with the support of the Department for Education: <https://www.thenational.academy>. We will be providing further information about how best to utilise these resources in line with the work already set on Go4Schools in order to support pupils and parents/carers to access these excellent resources.

Harry Potter at Home (activities for first-time readers and those already familiar with the Harry Potter books): <https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home>

Andrew Lloyd Webber is live streaming some of his musicals on YouTube on Friday evenings: <https://www.youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon>

The National Theatre are releasing live streams of some of their most popular plays on YouTube on Thursday evenings: search for 'National Theatre' on <https://www.youtube.com/>

Rosetta Stone (language learning at home – free of charge access for school children for three months): <https://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/freeforkids/>

<https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

Many of you have already been taking part in PE with Joe Wicks at 9am on weekdays and have let us know how much you are enjoying it. If you haven't yet tried PE with Joe Wicks, why not give it a go tomorrow morning?

Elementari (pupils write their own stories then create interactive animations): <https://www.elementari.io/>

<https://radioblogging.net>

This is a radio broadcast on the internet with a live lesson by English teachers at 9.30am to inspire writers. Click on the orange button on the Radio Blogging website to listen. Pupils need to listen live to access the lesson - set yourself a reminder for 9.25am so that you don't miss out!

Reading recommendations by age group: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

Audio books (free during school closure): <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Twinkl Home Learning Hub: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks: <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/>

Padlet (for collating and sharing ideas): <https://padlet.com/>

Chester Zoo Learning Resources: <https://www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/>

Scouts – The Great Indoors (indoor activity ideas): <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors>

The World of David Walliams: <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

Jodrell Bank – Science Learning at Home: <https://www.jodrellbank.net/sciencelearningathome/>

JCB – Build Your Own Hydradig: <https://www.jcb.com/origin2017/~/-/asset/14/46105>

Active History: www.activehistory.co.uk (Username: stewards / Password: junior21)

God bless,



Mr T Hutchinson
Principal