



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

22nd April 2020

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

I hope I find you well.

New learning resources for all

As the lock down situation continues and develops, further resources and support are being developed to assist in a range of ways. For you as parents/carers and pupils, the new **Oak National Academy** and **BBC Bitesize Daily** are providing excellent teaching aids that are accessible to all. BBC Bitesize is available via the 'Red Button' on your television as well as online.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

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

I have asked teachers to make reference to these resources where possible and applicable on the Go4Schools website by linking the resources to the tasks the Academy is setting for our pupils. However, if you are struggling to access Academy resources, please feel free to utilise these documents, quizzes, videos and activities. They are arranged age range and subject although they do not currently cover the entire curriculum, unlike the work set by the Academy.

Government offer of technology for vulnerable pupils

The Government has announced that they are providing technology (e.g. computers and 4G routers) for vulnerable pupils.

This equipment is currently only allocated to Key Stage 3 pupils (our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils) and only for identified specific groups. The Academy will make applications for this equipment once the mechanism to request this equipment has been released. At the current time, this application process has not been released.

Support – Survive Together: Leek

The Survive Together: Leek project has been established to provide support to a range of people in Leek, Cheddleton and the surrounding areas.

Firstly, Survive Together: Leek is looking for volunteers to assist them in a range of ways. If you are interested in providing support, you can contact them via email on volunteer@survive-together.uk.

Secondly, to request support or to make a referral for someone who needs support at the current time, please phone 0345 605 3010 or 01538 398378.

The Survive Together: Leek flyer has been attached at the end of this letter. All details can also be found on the Survive Together: Leek Facebook page.

Reminder: 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](#)

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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/>.

Reminder: 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](#)

Reminder: 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)

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Question: Can work be set for completion by pupils hour by hour?

Answer: *We are setting work to provide tasks for all pupils. When pupils are in school, they would not be working for the entire day so please keep this in mind. Spending two to four hours working with breaks is a suitable amount of time, considering that in school there would be group activities, sports, music and creative tasks to break up individual written work.*

Setting tasks that are specified to one hour is difficult when providing for class groups remotely. Pupils should work on tasks as set, but if this takes several sessions that is not an issue. The work set is also there to support pupils. If tasks are leading to pupils feeling anxious or spending excessive time periods to complete a task, then this is not our expectation. If pupils have tried their best and completed a task to the best of their ability, then we expect nothing more than this as this is in line with our 10:10 vision!

Question: Can the Academy set up Zoom sessions and/or video lessons?

Answer: *The Academy is not going to utilise Zoom with pupils due to the potential safeguarding concerns and occurrences of 'Zoom Bombing'. This has led to a blanket ban on Zoom by several national education systems abroad.*

The new Oak National Academy resources and BBC Bitesize resources I have highlighted at the start of this letter provide video lessons and linked resources that are secure and are in a format accessible to all.

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, the web resources section at the end of this letter, or 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.*

Additional web resources that may be helpful to parents/carers

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

Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Jodrell Bank Beyond the Rainbow: <https://www.jodrellbank.net/beyond-the-rainbow-multiwavelength-astronomy>

The Copley Prize 2020 is a competition for pupils up to the age of 11 to enter a drawing or painting inspired by L S Lowry: <https://thelowryblog.com/2020/04/08/the-copley-prize-2020/>

Sport England 'Stay In, Work Out' – tips, advice and guidance on how to keep or get active in or around your home: <https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

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)



If you are able to leave the house and go shopping then we
NEED YOU!

The vulnerable, elderly and isolated in our community
NEED YOU!

If you have the time and are well enough to do so, then
please, email your details to:

volunteer@survive-together.uk

To start helping in your community
today and building for a better
tomorrow.



 /SurviveTogetherUK  /survive-together-uk

Survive Together Leek

Hi my name is _____

I am a volunteer for the Survive Together project in Leek & Cheddleton to help anyone in my local area that might need it during these worrying times.

Please contact me if you need:

Shopping Collected A Friendly Phone Call Urgent Supplies

You can call me or text me on _____

You can also get support from the project by calling Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on **0345 6053010**, and help & advice from the Haregate Community Centre on **01538 398378**.

Find us on online at: survivetgether.uk
Printed & Delivered by Survive Together



Survive Together.uk

Providing COVID-19 Community Support
in Leek, Cheddleton & Surrounding Areas

Need help? Call our SMDC helpline

0345 6053010

 www.survivetgether.uk  [/SurviveTogetherUK](https://www.facebook.com/SurviveTogetherUK)  [/survivetgetheruk](https://www.instagram.com/survivetgetheruk)

God bless,

Mr T Hutchinson
Principal