



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope I find you safe and well.

We have entered February and with the half term holiday only round the corner we have nearly completed six weeks of this half term. I would like to once again thank you all as parents and carers for all the work you are doing to support your children, not just in their learning but also in keeping them safe and happy. I know I have thanked you before, but I will continue to show my own and the Academy staff's gratitude for your 'can do' attitude as we all work together during lockdown. You are all 10:10 people!



This week's updates:

Arrangements for After the Half Term Holiday

The Prime Minister has announced that schools may reopen in the week commencing 8th March. At the current time, we do not know if this for full school opening or whether the opening will be staggered. Once we have received further details regarding how the full school will return, we will update you.

Half Term Holiday

To provide you with as much time as possible to arrange childcare provision, I would like to inform you that we will be closing the Academy to **all pupils** during the half term holiday which is from Saturday 15th February with pupils returning on Monday 22nd February. This is to allow essential work to take place.

Free School Meals Over the Half Term Holiday

The Free School Meal vouchers for the half term holiday week will be provided by Staffordshire County Council's Covid Winter Grant; these vouchers will be sent to those of you who are eligible shortly.

If you have any concerns that you may not be able to feed your children during the half term holiday, please contact us via the contact form on the Academy website and we will reply to you regarding any support we can provide.

Online Meeting with the Principal

An online meeting for pupils is available via Microsoft Teams from 12.35pm until 12.45pm on the below days. A meeting invitation will be sent via your child's Microsoft Teams account.

Pupils in Year 5 pupils = Monday

Pupils in Year 6 pupils = Tuesday

Pupils in Year 7 pupils = Wednesday

Pupils in Year 8 pupils = Thursday

Wellbeing Week and Survey

Thank you for supporting Children's Mental Health Week 2021 (1st – 7th February).

This year's theme is 'Express Yourself' and we're encouraging children (and adults) to explore the different ways we can 'Express Ourselves' and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas.

More information and some of the resources that we have used and provided to you this week can be found here: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk.

We also request that all pupils take the time to fill in the survey below, if they haven't already done so. This survey from the Children's Society is to allow us to capture the feelings and concerns of our pupils. In turn, this will allow us to develop our strategy, training and provision within the Academy to support our pupils.

Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey

Server Updates During the Half Term Holiday

During the half term holiday, we are having major works completed on our ICT hardware to enable vastly improved provision for you and your children.

This means that during the half term holiday certain functionality may be impacted whilst we migrate from one server to another. This may affect some communication involving emails, Microsoft Teams and potentially our website. We will update you via text message regarding if and how the provision is being impacted. We are aiming for our systems to be fully functional for the reopening of the Academy after the half term holiday.

Assignments on Microsoft Teams and Expectations

Please check that your son/daughter is completing the assignment tasks set by their subject teachers on Microsoft Teams. The guide in the link below will show you how to do this. Work should be uploaded in the 'assignments tab' in the general channel for each year group, unless the teacher has specified otherwise.

The assignments often take the form of a quiz or a worksheet which can be completed online and then automatically saves in the assignment tab. In some cases, pupils can take a photo of their work and upload it. Teachers can then provide individual feedback to pupils.

For pupils who are currently in school, the assignments are generally completed in their exercise books in school which will be marked as normal; however, pupils may occasionally need to complete work at home.

Here is a video demonstrating [how to upload files as assignments](#).

Rights Respecting School

February is LGBT+ History Month. Founded in the United States in 1994, LGBT+ History Month is a period dedicated to exploring and celebrating the history, experiences, culture and challenges of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The month also helps people outside of the LGBT+ community learn about this group's experiences, rights and history.



This week's activities look at Articles 2 and 13. If you would like to explore some of these resources with your children, they can be found here: [LGBT+ History Month Resources](#).

Half Term Challenges

St Edward's Church of England Academy's Arts and Sports Faculty will be setting pupils a number of extracurricular challenges this half term! These challenges are optional and all pupils are welcome to complete the challenges whether they are currently home learning or whether they are in school during the day then taking part in the challenges after school.

Each week, pupils will be set a new challenge. Pupils can choose to complete all, some or none of the challenges - they are designed to be fun!

WB 11/1 – Three Peaks Challenge (walk/run/swim/ride the equivalent of the 26 miles of the Three Peaks)

WB 18/1 – St Edward's Bake Off (create a 'Show Stopper' of your own choosing)

WB 25/1 – St Edward's Got Talent (create a video or sound bite of your musical ability; it could be a show tune, a piece recorded on an instrument or a song you have created)

WB 1/2 – Photography competition (see further information posted on Microsoft Teams)

WB 8/2 – Jewellery design competition and winners of the Three Peaks Challenge celebrated

In addition to the above, we will also be posting on Microsoft Teams two fitness classes a week that have kindly been recorded by the staff at Fit Bodies Gym in Leek (these fitness classes will be suitable for pupils in all year groups).

Pupils can find more information about each challenge, watch the fitness classes and return photographs etc. of their completed challenges on Microsoft Teams by going to the folder labelled with their year group then 'Arts and Sports Extracurricular Challenges'.

Stonewall Award

The Academy community has been awarded the Stonewall 'Bronze Award' in recognition of our work in supporting diversity and inclusion. This is a national award scheme run by Stonewall – a leading charity which supports the LGBTQ community.

The Academy provided evidence of the work that takes place over the academic year in four key areas: challenging gender-based stereotypes; staff training and lessons for pupils to help to challenge homophobic and transphobic bullying; celebrating diversity; and developing a curriculum that gives visibility to the contributions of the LGBTQ community.

Our feedback was very positive: our activities were developed to meet the age and experience of our pupils and were embedded across the Academy. We will now continue our work towards the 'Silver Award'.

This also links to our Rights Respecting School Award as this is part of our work to meet the needs of all children as defined by the Convention on Children Rights and how pupils have the right to an identity (Article 8) and right to be free from discrimination (Article 2).

I would like to publicly acknowledge how well the pupils responded – with maturity, empathy and compassion – when discussing these issues. The pupils are the 10:10 people that make the Academy award winning!

PE Kit for Pupils in School

To help to reduce the potential for transmission within the Academy, the decision was taken to allow pupils to wear their PE kit on the days when they have PE.

Please can I remind parents/carers that wherever possible the Academy PE kit is the only suitable kit that should be worn.

Currently we have an assortment of different leisure and sporting attire being worn, some of which is very costly and leads to issues within the Academy should it go missing or be damaged.

Therefore, please can pupils wear Academy kit; in the case of needing spare kit/warmer layers, please can this be dark in colour to align with our uniform and to maintain our high standards and consistency for all pupils.

Challenge 50

Please keep encouraging your children to complete and log their Challenge 50 activities. Please send photographs you are happy for us to share on Facebook to information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk.

We know it is not possible to complete all of the Challenge 50 activities within the current lockdown guidance, but if you complete some other challenges please record them too and let us know. We really want to hear about the creative things you are doing during lockdown.

Academy Phone Line

Due to the current situation, the Academy office telephone is for emergency use only. If you need to contact the Academy, could you please use the contact form on our website.

To report a pupil absence, please use the absence line as normal.

Pokemon and other Game Playing Cards

Please can parents/carers of those pupils who are in school remind their children to keep their Pokemon or other game playing cards at home. Some of these cards are valuable – both sentimentally and financially – and we do not want them to go missing and cause upset.

St Edward's Church of England Academy Facebook Page

If you don't already follow the Academy Facebook page, please do. If you already follow the page, you will have seen all the wonderful things that the Academy pupils are doing inside and outside of school.

If your children are completing activities or there's something they have done that they are really proud of which demonstrates them being 10:10 people, please send some photographs and a brief outline of what they have been doing to information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk for us to share on our Facebook page.

Looking after Body and Mind

Staffordshire County Council have provided an online resource to guide and support you all in keeping your body and mind healthy and active. The link to these resources can be found below:

[Doing our bit website](#)

Remote Learning and Microsoft Teams Guidance Notes

Click here: [St Edwards Academy](#)

Register your Place for September 2021

I know September 2021 may seem a long way away, however, the deadline to register for your place at St Edward's for Year 5 or Year 7 new starters in September has now passed. But don't worry, you can still sign up by completing this form on the Staffordshire County Council website:

[Admission to primary and middle schools September 2021 entry - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Group Places

We were awaiting further guidance from the Government regarding the expectations around pupils and who can be in school. We have now received this information and it informs us that we are to accept Critical Worker and Vulnerable pupils where they require a place.

If you require a place and fall within the criteria that can be found in the link below, please complete the form that can be found here:

[Critical Worker and Vulnerable Group Request Form](#)

I would urge all parents/carers to **consider** wherever possible to keep their children at home. We are doing everything we can to control and mitigate the transmission of the virus, but I am sure you are aware that the current national situation is alarming and the 'Stay at Home' message is one for us all to heed wherever possible.

[Here is the Government Guidance from 7th January.](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question regarding the Academy which you would like us to answer, please click on the link below:

[Frequently Asked Question Form](#)

Contacting the Academy

To assist you in contacting the correct person at the Academy when you have a query, please continue to utilise the **contact form** on the Academy website for all general and office focused enquiries. Please avoid sending texts and wherever possible calling the Academy as you may not always receive a response via these lines of communication at the current time. Whereas with the contact form we will be able to reply to you as soon as possible. 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

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 contact form 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)

Staying Safe Online: CEOP

As we are all needing to use the internet more and more to access communication, information and resources for every part of our lives at the moment, it is even more important that we are all aware of the dangers that being online and working online can pose. This is particularly important for your children and our pupils who are utilising the World Wide Web. CEOP and the Thinkuknow education programme are generating worksheets and guidance each week on a Tuesday to support everyone to stay safe online. Please use the link below or visit the 'School Information Updates' section on the Academy website:

[CEOP Thinkuknow Online Safety Guidance](#)

Additional Web Resources That May Be Helpful to Parents

<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 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>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

<https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/>

<https://padlet.com/>

<https://www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/>

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors>

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

<https://www.jodrellbank.net/sciencelearningathome/>

https://www.jcb.com/origin2017/~/_/asset/14/46105

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Hutchinson
Principal