



St. Edward's Church of England Academy
Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN
Telephone: 01538 714740
Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson
<http://stedwards.academy>

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are well and coping with the changing situation and guidance at this current time.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who completed the Remote Access Learning via our Survey Monkey.

Here is the information update this week.

Home Learning in case of Closure:

If a year group bubble or the whole Academy is forced to close due to COVID-19 or any other major issue, pupils will be provided with home learning via Microsoft Teams. Pupils are receiving training on this and we will be providing how-to videos and information for parents/carers in the event of a closure.

A timetable of the subjects that will be taught each day will be provided at the time of the closure for pupils and parents/carers to follow. This will cover all lessons to maintain our broad and balanced curriculum and will be a blend of live lessons, recorded lessons, online resources, and activities.

Home Learning/Homework:

Pupils will now begin to receive homework, or home learning as we refer to it within the Academy. This will be on a timetable that will be put onto the Academy website for each year group. We have phased home learning in for pupils this year as we wanted them to feel settled and to re-engage with their passion for learning and knowledge.

All home learning will be set on the Go4Schools portal. Your child has their login details for this written in their planner. Year 5 pupils are currently practicing how to access this in their computing lessons.

Go4schools is also the portal for you to access information on your child which is updated throughout the year.

Further details regarding Go4schools is available on the Academy website and reminders will be sent out at key points through the academic year.

R2 Commendations:

An R2 commendation is given to a pupil who shows one of the following: Excellent effort, exceptional work, outstanding contribution, or excellent improvement.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Thank you to those parents/carers who have raised questions via the FAQ link we provided last week. We will continue to run a FAQ process every couple of weeks to ensure parents/carers can raise any queries and questions whilst we are unable to hold face to face Parental Forums.

Here are the responses to questions posed this week:

Question: Do you know why the flu vaccine is not being offered to year 8 this year?

Response: The vaccinations program is provided by the NHS and this was a decision taken by them and not the Academy. If you contact your GP directly you should be able to arrange seasonal flu vaccinations for your child. Alternative you can contact the Immunisation Team on: 0300 124 0366

Question: Please can you inform us about home learning should the school be closed.

Response: Please see the section on page 1 of this letter explaining this.

Questions: When will we get Go4Schools logins?

Response: These are being shared with all pupils in computing lessons for their personal logins. Year 5 parents/carers will be receiving a letter regarding their child's login.

Question: If we had another lockdown would the school still be open for key worker children?

Response: This is dependent on the type of lockdown and will be in line with guidance from Public Health England. We will of course aim to offer as much support as possible for key workers and vulnerable pupils as we did during the previous lockdown.

Question: Why is it if two cases of COVID-19 are found in the Academy that you notify Public Health England?

Response: We report all confirmed cases of COVID 19 should they be reported to us. The two cases information refers to guidance from Public Health England that stated an outbreak is classed as two or more confirmed cases.

The following information is a reminder of information shared previously

Year 8 Camp:

Due to restrictions on all overnight residential trips we are currently unable to run the Year 8 camp trip prior to October half term as we would normally do. All Year 8 parents/carers will be receiving a letter regarding the rearrangement of this trip and its format.

Flu Vaccination

The Immunisation Team will be at the Academy on Monday 28th September. A letter from the NHS containing a link to the online consent form along with a leaflet has been emailed out to Y5/6/7 parent/carers. The form should be filled in whether you are consenting for your child to have the flu vaccination or not. There is an option on the form to say yes or no to giving consent.

Pupils will not be given the flu vaccination on Monday unless consent has been given. Any queries, contact the Immunisation Team on 0300 124 0366

Water Bottles:

Please can you ensure that your child has a full water bottle with them each day in the Academy. They are able to fill this up from a Year group bubble fountain during break and lunchtimes to stay hydrated.

Fundraising:

We will be asking the pupils to decide which charities we fundraise and focus on this year. We will always celebrate the European Day of Languages with pupils coming dressed as or in the cultural attire of a European Country. On this day we will also be raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support and have a Coffee and Cake morning for bubbles in their year group. More details to follow in a separate letter.

On October 9th we are celebrating 'Hello Yellow' day. This supports the charity 'Young Minds'. We feel this is really important especially at the current time and want to make a stand for young people's mental health as an Academy.

On this day a donation of £1 will be request and pupils can wear their home clothes as long as they wear something that is predominantly yellow.

Partial or full closure due to COVID outbreak:

If it is the case that 2 or more cases of COVID are confirmed in the Academy, we are advised to contact Public Health England and it will be upon receiving their guidance that the decision to close or partially close the Academy may be taken.

If this scenario occurs, we will contact parents/carers immediately and put our closure plans into place.

Evidently, this is a scenario we hope does not occur but we wish to reassure parents/carers that we are prepared in case of such an eventuality.

Mobile Phones:

Pupils are allowed to bring their mobile phones to the Academy as long as they are not seen, heard, or used on the Academy site. We understand that mobiles phones are a way of keeping in touch with parents/carers either on the way home or on the bus. However, as we are unable to provide lockers for pupils at the current time, parents/carers must be aware that the Academy cannot undertake liability for loss or damage to mobile phones which I know are very costly.

There is a range of much cheaper handsets available that simply allow calls in case of emergencies. We recommend if you want your child to have a phone and/or don't want them to bring their expensive handset into the Academy that you look to provide one of these.

Missing Library Books:

This is a plea from Mrs. Astles our Librarian. We are missing a small number of library books that were borrowed prior to lockdown. Please can you check that your child does not have any library books that belong to the Academy at home. If they have, please return the books to the Academy.

Dinner Time and Hot Dinners:

We have worked hard to be able to provide hot dinners for all the pupils who wish to have one in the Academy. At the current time, many pupils have moved to bring packed lunches which are also fine. If your child previously had hot dinners and would like them again, please ensure that they have money in their account via Parent Pay and then they can access a nutritious and hot dinner.

If your child has forgotten their lunch or water bottle the Academy will provide them with a meal/drink and inform their parents/carer via text. Please do not bring forgotten items to the office.

I am also aware that due to the necessity to wipe down the hall and marquee between year group bubbles the time to eat lunch is restricted compared to normal. We are monitoring this situation and will modify this if necessary. We are pleased that we have been able to extend the size of the marquee for year 7 and 8 lunches.

Equipment:

Please ensure that your child has the right equipment has stated in the equipment list. Due to the current restrictions, we are unable to supply essential stationery for every pupil in every lesson and then sanitise each item. To ensure that we can provide the best educational provision in these difficult times, please ensure that your children have the following equipment with them every day:

EQUIPMENT LIST:

The Academy pupil planner
Two pens/biros (black or blue)
A green pen
A pencil
An eraser
A ruler
A sharpener
A small glue stick
Highlighters
Coloured pencils
Non-permanent whiteboard marker
Rounded safety scissors
Headphones/ear-buds (for computing)
A reading book
A water bottle
Hand sanitiser
Calculator
Waterproof coat

P.E Kit:

Pupils only need to bring their PE kit on the days that they have double PE Lessons.
Pupils only need to bring their trainers on the days that they have single PE lessons.

Road Safety:

We have reinforced this message with the pupils in the Academy but can I request that parents/carers talk to their children about staying safe on the way to and from the Academy. The roads are very busy at drop off and pick up times and the nights and mornings are drawing in.

Stranger Danger:

We have reinforced this message with the pupils in the Academy but can I request that parents/carers talk to their children about staying safe should a stranger approach them. Staff always monitor the gates before and after school but many children walk some distance to get home. Please ensure your child has a clear understanding of what to do and who to contact if they feel vulnerable.

Contact Details:

If any of your contact details have changed and need updating, please can you contact the Academy office using the contact form on the Academy website and provide us with your new information. This is really important so that we can keep in touch with you.

Free School Meal Link:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/fsmweb/>

Donning and Doffing Masks Link:

All pupils/staff are encouraged to wear masks in and around the Academy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PXq43OJROw>

Yours sincerely



Mr. T Hutchinson

Principal