



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

January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope I find you safe and well and that as we enter our second week of 'Lock Down' that the 'new systems' are once again beginning to become the 'new normal'. I know that the learning curve for you as parents/carers whilst trying to balance life, work and education is an epic task but one we are here to support in you in as much as possible regarding the education of your children.

Teams:

Again thank you for your patience as we work through the teething problems that have arisen regarding home learning. One of your emails described it as akin to building a plane whilst flying it. I appreciate and agree with the sentiment. We are dealing with any concerns and queries as quickly as possible and we will continue to do this until all pupils are accessing the very best education and support that we can provide.

Regarding elements on Teams such as Assignments and the addition of APPs etc. we are working to bring a consistent pattern for all pupils as quickly as possible now that we are up and running. I will keep you updated on this but once again thank you for your understanding.

Could you please remind your child that whilst on teams they should not be setting up their own groups or starting their own meetings on Microsoft Teams; only the groups and meetings set up by Academy staff should be used. If your child is unable to access the relevant groups or meetings for their schoolwork, please use the contact form on the Academy website to request assistance.

Teams Guidance Notes:

Click here: [St Edwards Academy](#)

Register your Place for September 2021:

I know this may seem a long way off however, the deadline to register your place at St Edward's for Year 5 or Year 7 new starters is the 15th January 2021.

Please complete 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 and currently do not have one 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 where ever possible.

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

FSM – Hamper:

Parents who are in receipt of Free School Meals, please fill out the online form that is emailed to you on a Monday and return to the academy by a Wednesday. Hampers will be ready to collect from reception on a Friday, please ensure you collect before 3.30pm. Form can be found here:

[Free School Meal Request Form](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

If you have a question you would like answering regarding the Academy, please click on the link below:

[Frequently Asked Question Form](#)

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(information to follow 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'.

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 link 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 get a response via these lines of communication at the current time. Whereas with the Contact Form to you will 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 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)

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 Be Helpful to Parents

<https://radioblogging.net>

Some info to be sent to parents with the above link:

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/](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>

Responses to FAQs:

Question:

Can you confirm that parents evening is going ahead for Year 6?

Answer:

Yes this will take place in line with the bookings that you made. We want to give parents and carers the opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss the first terms progress. We look forward to meeting with you.

Question:

Are staff wearing masks in classrooms and if not why not?

Answer:

At the current time neither members of staff or pupils are required to wear masks in class. This is in line with Government and Public Health England Guidance. All pupils and staff wear masks when moving around the school and social distance in the corridors.

Staff where ever possible maintain 2 meter distance from pupils and all classrooms are set up to allow this to occur. Where staff are required to come into prolonged close proximity with pupils they don the necessary PPE to maintain safety.

Should guidance change we will update our practices immediately and update our risk assessment also.

January 2021: Remote Learning Timetable

Remote learning Timetable for Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8. Please click on the link below:

[St Edwards Academy](#)

Yours sincerely,



Mr. T Hutchinson
Principal