



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

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope I find you safe and well.

We are about to enter the final week of January and what a start to 2021 it has been. In these very uncertain times with hope on the horizon the Academy is here to help and support our pupils and their families as much as we can. Have a great weekend and thank you for all that you are doing.



### **Here are todays updates:**

#### **Half Term:**

To provide you with as much notice as possible to arrange childcare provision I wanted to inform you that we will be closing the Academy to all pupils during the half term which is from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with pupils returning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This is to allow essential works to take place and for the academy to be deep cleaned.

#### **Challenge 50:**

Please keep encouraging your children to complete their Challenge 50 activities and then logging and sending us photos of them completing them. to: [information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)

We know it is not possible to complete all the 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 lock down.

#### **Free School Meals:**

All those eligible for Free School Meal should now have been provided with access to their vouchers. If you have had any issues with this please contact the Academy via the Contacts Form and we will assist you.

At the current time we are awaiting guidance from the Department for Education and Staffordshire County Council as to how Free Schools Meals will be delivered during half term. We will update you on this as soon as we possess this information.

## **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 the website.

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

## **Pokémon and other Game Playing Cards:**

Please can parents/carers of those pupils who are in school please remind their children to keep their Pokémon 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.

## **Rights Respecting Schools: Holocaust Memorial Day**

The 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi death camps. On this day each year we remember all those who died during the Holocaust and all those who have died in genocides since.

We have selected four articles to focus work on this topic around: Article 2, non-discrimination; Article 19, protection from violence; Article 37, children in detention; and Article 38, protection from war.

We have also included several activities for younger children that focus less on rights and the Holocaust explicitly and more on foundational concepts, like memory and identity, that form the basis of exploring Holocaust Memorial Day in later years.

[Find the activities here.](#)

## **St Edward's Academy Facebook:**

If you haven't already signed up for the Academy Facebook then please do. If you have you will have seen all the wonderful things that the Academy pupils are doing inside and outside of school.

If your child/children are completing activities or have something they have done that they are really proud of and demonstrates them being 10:10 people please send some images and a brief outline of what they have been doing to:

[information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)

## **Looking after body and mind:**

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

[Doing our bit website](#)

## **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 has now passed but don't worry you can still sign up.

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 7<sup>th</sup> January.](#)

### **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](mailto:maths@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)
- For English [englishst@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:englishst@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)
- For Science and Computing [scienceandcomputing@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:scienceandcomputing@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)
- For Geography, History and MFL [humanandlang@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:humanandlang@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)
- For RE [re-sted@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:re-sted@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk)
- For Creative Studies [creativestudies@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk](mailto: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: CEO**

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/>

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](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.

**Question:**

Why except for Maths and English live lessons are for the whole year group which consist of over 100 students? Why isn't a normal school timetable being followed?

**Answer:**

The timetable has been amended as we have pupils learning in school and at home. Both core subjects have larger number of specialist teachers due to the frequency with which they are taught per week. However foundation subjects have fewer specialist teachers and are taught on a different timetable and therefore allocated few periods per week. Therefore there are not enough specialist staff to facilitate teaching groups in English and Maths and offer the subject specialist content that the Academy prides itself on providing.

**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 Church of England Academy](#)

Yours sincerely,



Mr. T Hutchinson  
Principal