



# St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Covid-19 Update



Following the Government's announcement, we are very pleased that we will be able to welcome all pupils back to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We thank you for all your support during the past term, both with remote learning and with pupils in school.

We will be continuing with the same safety arrangements as before Christmas with some minor changes that are outlined below. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by following the safety measures that we have put in place.

### Pick up and drop off

This is unchanged from the system that was being run prior to the Christmas holiday.

A reminder for parents/carers not to wait in any of the gateway areas when dropping off or collecting pupils as this causes congestion for others who are arriving. Please also be considerate when driving and parking at busy times.

### Face coverings

All parents, carers and other adults who are dropping off or collecting pupils should wear a face covering when on site.

**Year 7 and Year 8 pupils** will be expected to wear face masks when entering school, when moving from classroom to classroom and in the majority of lessons. Pupils will be made aware when this is not the case. This will be monitored and under current guidance may be relaxed after the Easter holiday. **Please can you ensure that your child has a face mask with them at all times.**

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils may wear a face mask if they choose to.



### **PE kit and uniform**

Pupils will be able to wear their PE kit on the days when they have PE. This must be Academy PE kit and not alternative sportswear. Warmer layers in black/navy can be worn in addition to Academy PE kit. This is to avoid the need for changing rooms and to reduce the risk of potential transmission.

Full Academy uniform including smart black shoes (not trainers) should be worn on all other school days.

### **Personal belongings**

Please make sure that your child has everything with them that they need for school each day as we will be unable to take any forgotten items from the office to classrooms.

Your child will need:

- suitable clothing for the weather (coat, hat, gloves) as we will be going outside whatever the weather – please make sure that everything is named
- named water bottle
- named pencil case with pen, pencil, sharpener, ruler, rubber, green pen and coloured pencils if possible
- headphones/ear-buds for computing
- calculator
- planner
- reading book
- packed lunch/break time snack (unless purchasing lunch from Aspens, our catering team)
- any medication your child is required to keep with them at all times e.g. inhaler and spacer, EpiPen

### **Break times and lunch times**

We will be continuing with the handwashing/sanitising routines that have already been in place and the staggered lunchtimes for year “bubbles”.

Please can you ensure that your child has funds on their Parent Pay account to be able to purchase hot lunches that will be running as they did previously.

If you need any assistance with this, please use the contact form on the Academy website and we will contact you with support.

As a reminder, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will eat their lunch in the hall and Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will be utilising the marquee.

### **Free School Meals and Foodbank vouchers**

A reminder that we can provide **Foodbank vouchers** if you need them. Please contact us if you would like Foodbank vouchers and we will arrange this for you in confidence. If your circumstances have changed and you think you might be entitled to means-tested **Free School Meals**, please ensure that you go to the Staffordshire County Council website and make an application. The link can be found [here](#).

### **Completed work from during the ‘lockdown’ period**

We are aware that pupils may have accrued at great deal of work that they are rightly very proud of. During the lockdown period, we have requested that all completed work that required feedback was submitted via Teams either as an assignment, as a digital image or in the chat function.

Therefore, to reduce any potential transmission risk please do not send pupils in with the work they have completed. If we require any of this work, we will let pupils know and they can then bring this into school a piece at a time.

## **Returning in the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will be reopening the Academy with a staggered start for some year groups due to the requirements to carry out Lateral Flow Tests for secondary age pupils before resuming face to face teaching and learning.

Parents/carers of pupils in Year 7 and Year 8: if you haven't previously completed the consent form for Lateral Flow Testing, please do so by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the latest. The consent form can be found [here](#).

Further details on this Government guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Key wording from the guidance states:**

*“Secondary schools should offer pupils testing from 8 March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. You should offer 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart.*

*You have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8 March, depending on your circumstances and local arrangements, but you should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers.*

*Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with your phased return arrangements. Schools will have discretion on how to test students over that week as they return to the classroom.”*

Therefore, the following timetable for reopening will take place for the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

- All Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will return as normal as they are not required to be tested.
- Pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 who are currently in school during the lockdown i.e. critical worker and vulnerable pupils will also return as normal.
- Pupils in Year 7 who catch the bus (other than critical worker and vulnerable pupils) will not be able to catch the bus on this day and will need to be brought to school for their testing slot as explained below. This is to avoid potential transmission risks.
- No other Year 8 pupils (other than critical worker and vulnerable pupils) will return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March but will continue with remote learning at home.

All Year 7 Pupils will need to arrive a tutor group at a time during the day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. They will then be tested and held socially distanced for 30 minutes until a negative test is returned. Please can you ensure that your child has a reading book with them while they are waiting prior to and after their test. Remote learning will be provided via Teams during this day for those pupils awaiting their return, although this will be slightly different and follow the normal Academy 6 period day timetable to allow teachers and pupils in school to revert to this format.

For pupils in the **AM slots**: please can they arrive **in uniform and a face mask** with a **packed lunch** using the **main entrance up the drive** and come to the marquee where they will be registered. (Free School Meal pupils will be provided with a packed lunch for Monday and Tuesday.)

For pupils in the **PM slots**: please can parents/carers who are dropping off wait while their child is tested as they will be able to leave straight after their test. These pupils will be able to attend for their test in their **home clothes with a face mask** but please could they bring a reading book to read while they wait.

If a positive test is returned, we will care for the pupil and contact their parent/carer to collect them in the AM testing slots or alert their waiting parent/carer via phone for the PM testing slots.

Pupils who have been tested in the morning and have then returned to lessons will be able to catch the bus home.

Please can parents/carers park with consideration of our neighbours and the safety of pupils leaving the site while dropping off and waiting for pupils to be tested.

**Running order for pupil testing on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March is as follows:**

- 7 Edward: 8.35 AM
- 7 Elgar: 9.30 AM
- 7 Isaac: 10.45 AM
- 7 Newton: 11.45 AM
- 7 Florence: 1.30 PM
- 7 Nightingale: 2.30 PM

For clarity: all Year 8 pupils who have not been in school during the lockdown period will remain at home on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. They will be provided with remote learning via Teams, although this will be slightly different and follow the normal Academy 6 period day timetable to allow teachers and pupils in school to revert to this format.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

- All Year 5, all Year 6 and all Year 7 pupils plus Year 8 pupils who are critical worker or vulnerable pupils should return to school as normal.
- All other Year 8 pupils will then need to arrive a tutor group at a time during the day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. They will then be tested and held socially distanced for 30 minutes until a negative test is returned. Please can you ensure that your child has a reading book with them while they are waiting prior to and after their test. Remote learning will be provided via Teams during this day for those pupils awaiting their return, although this will be slightly different and follow the normal Academy 6 period day timetable to allow teachers and pupils in school to revert to this format.

For pupils in the **AM slots**: please can they arrive **in uniform and a face mask** with a **packed lunch** using the **main entrance up the drive** and come to the marquee where they will be registered. (Free School Meal pupils will be provided with a packed lunch for Monday and Tuesday.)

For pupils in the **PM slots**: please can parents/carers who are dropping off wait while their child is tested as they will be able to leave straight after their test. These pupils will be able to attend their test in their **home clothes with a face mask** but please could they bring a reading book to read while they wait.

If a positive test is returned, we will care for the pupil and contact their parent/carer to collect them in the AM testing slots or alert their waiting parent/carer via phone for the PM testing slots.

Pupils who have been tested in the morning and have then returned to lessons will be able to catch the bus home.

Please can parents/carers park with consideration of our neighbours and the safety of pupils leaving the site while dropping off and waiting for pupils to be tested.

### **Running order for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March is as follows:**

- 8 Edward: 8.35 AM
- 8 Elgar: 9.30 AM
- 8 Isaac: 10.45 AM
- 8 Newton: 11.45 AM
- 8 Florence: 1.30 PM
- 8 Nightingale: 2.30 PM

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

All pupils return to school as normal.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will then be tested again in school prior to the end of the week and once more during the following week.

Home test kits will then be provided after the third and final test in school. Further guidance will be provided about this in the coming weeks but current guidance states the following:

### **“Home testing**

*Both pupils and staff in secondary schools (including middle schools) will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and pupils should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with their school to help with contact tracing.*

*Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs. Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.”*

### **Covid-19 symptoms**

**Please make sure that if your child has any symptoms at all of Covid-19: you self-isolate, arrange a test as soon as possible and let us know straight away via the pupil absence line or website contact form.** If we have a positive case confirmed at school we will need to close that “bubble” of children and staff for 10 days which means that the children affected will not be able to come to school and we very much want to avoid that but we need your help to do so. If this happens, we will need to contact you straight away so please **make sure that we have up-to-date contact numbers for you in case of closure.** Please notify us of any changes to your contact details via the contact form on the Academy website.

### **Before and after school club**

Kids Space before and after school club will resume as per the arrangements prior to the Christmas break. If you require any further information regarding this, please call Lyn on 07534 839280.

### **Returning laptops that have been loaned during lockdown**

For those pupils who have accessed laptops from the Academy during the lockdown period, we are requesting their return so that they can be utilised in school to aid learning. Please can all loaned laptops be returned to school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Pupils should bring their loaned laptop carefully into school where the laptops will then be checked and received by our IT team. If any damage has been incurred during the loan, we will be contacting parents/carers regarding any costs for repairs.

### **World Book Day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

We are all looking forward to seeing you wearing your costumes dressed as your favourite characters from your favourite books. Get your costumes ready and we will let you know more information next week about the activities that are taking place for you to be involved with.

As part of this and as a Rights Respecting School, [here is the link](#) for the materials provided by UNICEF that link to Articles 17, 29, and 31 of the Convention on Children’s Rights.

### **Junior Bake Off**

We have been contacted by a production company at Channel 4 who have recently opened applications for the 7th series of Junior Bake Off – a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

They are looking for young budding bakers between 9 and 15 years old. Filming will take place from July 2021, but the applications close on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Interested bakers can apply online at [WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK).



Thank you for your support with helping us to keep everyone as safe as possible at school. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to allow all pupils to return to in-school learning as soon as possible in line with the Government guidance. We look forward to seeing everyone back soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Hutchinson  
Principal

