



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Weekly Update



Our first full week with everyone back is complete and it has been a pleasure to have the babble of happy chatter, learning and play within the Academy.

The pupils as ever have made me and all the staff very proud by the way they have returned and simply got on with the tasks and challenges they meet in their learning. The way they support each other, the staff team and their can do, 10:10 attitude is something that continually inspires me and is an example to us all as adults.

Updates for this week:

Home Testing Information Year 7 & Year 8

All consenting Year 7 and 8 pupils have now completed 3 rounds of lateral flow testing in school. Their attitude and conduct during these tests has been excellent. From now on they will be provided with home testing kits for them to be able to conduct these with adult supervision and then report their results to us.

A detailed letter with further guidance on this has been sent out to Year 7 and 8 parents/carers. Information on this has also been posted on the Academy website. A Video and links with further information can be found below.

[How to do a Covid self-test video](#)

[Informing the Academy of your result](#)

[Informing the NHS of your result](#)

[Testing at Home Y7 & Y8 Letter](#)

[Privacy Notice for Staff/Pupils Testing at Home](#)



If you have a positive test returned, do not send your child into school. Please follow the guidance that can be found on the link below:

What to do if you have a positive test:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

I would remind all parents/carers that these tests are for the use of Academy pupils and each has an **identification code** that is linked back to the Academy. Please ensure these tests are solely used for testing of Academy pupils.

We recommend that pupils complete a test on a Wednesday and Sunday night and send the results to the school via the links on the letter/website.

You will need to continue to complete tests during the Easter holiday and the results should be returned to the Academy. You will need to complete a test on Sunday 18th April before returning on Monday 19th April as a priority.

Appointments and Collection of Pupils

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please can parents put a note in their planner to show the teacher and the teacher will allow them to leave during the lesson. The pupils can then ensure they are at the office on time for collection. Currently, lessons are facing disruptions due to staff having to locate pupils who are unaware they are leaving for an appointment and this is impacting the whole class.

Stakeholder engagement:

The views and queries of you as parents and carers matter to us at the Academy and help us to rethink and reshape in order to improve our practice and provision.

For this reason, parents and carers have the opportunity to submit questions or queries via the form (link below). The Principal will then provide a recorded video message of responses to these queries that will be shared with parents and carers as we are still unable to conduct face to face meetings.

If questions/queries are such that a response would identify an individual such cases will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

[Parent and Carer: Stakeholder Question Form](#)

Mobile Phones:

We are happy for pupils to have their mobile phones with them as they are a piece of equipment that keeps them safe on the journey to and from school. However, we do not allow phones to be used in school and will be reminding pupils about this. If phones are seen in school, they may be confiscated and held in the Academy office until they can be collected by a parent/carer. Evidently, we wish to avoid this situation to reduce the risk of transmission through unnecessary visits to the Academy office.

To avoid this please can parents/carers reinforce that mobile phones are not to be seen or used in school.

Year 8 Leaver Hoodies

Leaver hoodies for Year 8 pupils are now available to order via the School Leavers Company. The deadline for placing orders is **Thursday 6th May**. Please see this letter for further details about the hoodies and how to place an order: [Year 8 leaver hoodies letter](#)

Virtual Three Peaks Challenge

Well done to all the pupils who have completed the Virtual Three Peaks Challenge - we're impressed with how far you have all been walking, jogging and cycling!

The deadline for this District competition has been extended until Sunday 18th April so if your child has started the Virtual Three Peaks Challenge and would like to complete it or if they haven't yet started and would like to take part, they have plenty of time over the Easter holiday to walk, jog or cycle 26 miles to complete the challenge.

Further details can be found on the Academy website: [Virtual Three Peaks Challenge](#).

Pupils can let us know how they're getting on with the challenge and when they've completed 26 miles by adding a post on Teams on the 'Arts and Sports Extracurricular Challenges' channel for their year group. Pupils will receive a certificate once they have completed the challenge.

For their miles to be logged for the District competition, please could pupils also enter their miles using the following links. Can St Edward's be the winning school by completing the most miles in the District?

Link for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to log their miles by Sunday 18th April: [Year 5 and Year 6 results form](#).

Link for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to log their miles by Sunday 18th April: [Year 7 and Year 8 results form](#).

Spare PE kit donations

Please can I request if any parents/carers have any spare Academy PE kit or serviceable trainers at home that pupils have grown out of and you would like to donate could pupils bring it to their PE lessons, where we will quarantine them. We will give house points for donated items and redistributed them to pupils who need it or keep it in school as spare kit.

PE kit

Pupils will need to come in their PE kit on the following days:

Year 5	5Ed / 5Ei / 5Is	Monday and Friday	5Ne/5Fi/5Ni	Tuesday and Friday
Year 6	6Ed/6Ei/6Is	Wednesday and Thursday	6Ne/6Fi/6Ni	Monday and Friday
Year 7	7Ed/7Ei/7Is	Monday and Friday	7Ne/7Fi/7Ni	Thursday and Friday
Year 8	8Ed/8Ei/8Is	Wednesday and Thursday	8Ne/8/Fi/8Ni	Tuesday and Friday

PE lessons until Easter

For PE lessons until Easter, pupils in all year groups will be given a choice of the following activities:

- Field games - in addition to their usual PE kit, pupils will require studded boots and shin pads
- Outside yard games - in addition to their usual PE kit, pupils will require shin pads and a gumshield if they select hockey
- Inside games - no additional items required other than their usual PE kit

Studded boots and shin pads are available to borrow if required. Pupils should speak to their PE teacher at the start of their PE lesson if they wish to borrow studded boots and/or shin pads.

Gumshields are available to purchase **for £2 via ParentPay**. Once payment has been received, PE staff will be notified and your child will be given a gumshield in their PE lesson to bring home to be moulded. Please note that we are a cashless school so payments should be made via ParentPay rather than in cash.

Masks:

The majority of pupils are bringing and wearing masks correctly in school. Until we receive further guidance on when mask wearing measures can be relaxed please can you ensure that your child/children have a mask with them daily.

Can I please request that parents and carer wear masks when dropping off and collecting pupils from the Academy. Thank you!

Entry to School:

Pupils must enter the school via the playground entrances on Westwood Road and Beggars Lane. Pupils should only use the main school entrance and reception if this is agreed upon in advance due to medical conditions or other issues.

Crossing Warden:

At the current time there is not going to be a crossing warden during the AM window on the Burton Street/Spring Gardens crossing. This is due to unforeseen staffing issues and will be resolved as soon as possible.

Pupils with medical needs and/or diabetes who are returning

If your child has medical needs and requires medication (e.g. inhaler and spacer, Epipen, diabetic kit), please ensure that your child brings their medication to school with them ready to hand in at the school office on their return.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's medical needs, please contact us via the contact form on the Academy website.

Sims App Lite

We use the Sims app to collect the most up to date data about students and their parents, to comply with the GDPR safe data transfer. Please continue to use the Sims app to inform us of any changes to your details e.g.; address, mobile number.

Nut free school

Could I please remind you that we are completely a nut free school. We maintain this in order to protect both the pupils and the staff with severe allergies to all kinds of nuts. This includes any form of peanut butter or Nutella.

Water bottles

Please remind your child to bring in their own labelled water bottle every day to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

Haircuts

At the current time with hairdressers closed for the foreseeable future, we are aware that hair is beginning to get a little unruly and/or magnificent attempts at home, hairdressing is taking place. We will be flexible regarding haircuts for this reason but would politely request that parents/carers support the Academy in our high standards and maintain hairstyles in line with Academy guidance as much as possible, with long hair (i.e. below shoulders), tied up.

Peripatetic music lessons

At the current time, we are continuing to limit the number of people visiting the Academy to reduce the opportunity for transmission. For this reason, we will not be able to offer peripatetic music lessons at the current time. I will update you regarding this as soon as we are able to relax this control measure.

Remote learning

For pupils who are remote learning after Monday 8th March, teachers will be setting work and/or delivering live lessons on Teams as has been the case during lockdown but this will now follow the normal Academy timetable.

Where pupils have PE lessons on their timetable, either a task will be set, or pupils can take this opportunity to get some fresh air (in line with current guidance and restrictions) or catch up on their reading.

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:

- **glue stick and children's safety scissors (added since last week's letter)**
- 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

Travel survey

Please can we request that all pupils complete this survey about travel to school. The survey will take no longer than 30 seconds to complete.

[Pupil travel survey for all pupils to complete](#)

Active travel map

Please use this travel map to plan your active travel journey to and from school:

[Active travel map for St Edward's Academy](#)

Mental Health Support

North Staffordshire NHS Mental Health Support Team are hosting virtual parent support groups. For further details:

[NHS Mental Health Parent Support Group](#)

Lunch menus

Please see the updated menus from our catering team:

[Aspens Menu Spring Term 2021 - Week Two \(from Monday 15th March\)](#)

Parent Pay

Please make sure that you have checked your Parent Pay balance, cleared any debts and topped up ready for pupils to access their funds.

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 Sims App or 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.

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 28th March.

Interested bakers can apply online at WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK.



Thank you for your support in 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