



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

15th October 2021

Updates for this week:



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope I find you all well. Thank you for all the support in helping us to start the term in line with our 10:10 vision. Your children, our pupils have come back to school, eager to learn, happy and ready to embrace all the activities the Academy has to offer.

We have a rising number of cases of Covid-19 within our community and the wider community at the current time and we all must take responsibility together to ensure that we can combat this virus and stop it spreading and affecting those closest to us. There will be more information in the letter below about this and I know that I can rely on your assistance and support as ever.

Many thanks

Mr. Hutchinson
Principal

Trips and Visits

We are happy to announce that we do have some trips coming up and we are very excited to being able to take the pupils out and about again to broaden their learning experiences. Letters have been sent out to Year 5 parents and carers about the theatre trip, Year 6 for Carsington and Year 8 for the Imperial War Museum visit. Please if you have not already done so complete these and we can then ensure that these trips take place.

We also have some careers opportunities coming up for pupils. A group of Year 8 pupils will take part in a virtual session about working in technology fields from a representative of EPIC games and the whole of Year 8 will have an "employer encounter" with a representative from a local army regiment - this will also help their work in

English as they learn about the conditions faced by soldiers in WW1 and the experience of conflict in modern warfare. Over the course of the academic year, we are expected to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about the “World of Work” in the curriculum, through visits and meetings with employers. Pupils will also learn about post 16 options- apprenticeships, further education and higher education. There is more information about our careers provision on the parent section of the academy website <https://www.stedwards.academy/parents-and-carers/careers-advice>

Equality Objectives for the Academy

THANK YOU! To all the parents and carers who have provided responses. There are too many for me to respond to each one personally but your input and insight plus that of the pupils, staff and Trustees is being collated and I will be contacting you in the coming weeks to demonstrate the equality objectives that we will be focusing on within the Academy for the next 4 Year cycle.

Open Evening

Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases we have made the difficult decision to hold a virtual open evening on the 21st October at 6pm in the evening rather than a walk around. This is to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of Covid-19.

If you have yet to sign up to this event please click on the link below and register your interest and a Zoom link will be sent out to you in due course so that you can access the session.

[St Edward's Church of England Academy – Virtual Open Event 2021 \(stedwards2022.co.uk\)](https://www.stedwards2022.co.uk)

Harvest Collection

As it is Harvest season within the Church calendar. Please can we request that all pupils bring in one or more of the items from the list below so that we can make an enormous donation to Leek Food Bank.

Cereal
Tinned Soup
Tinned Tomato
Jar Pasta Sauce
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish
Rice Pudding
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Sponge Pudding
Biscuits
Dried Pasta/rice
Tea Bags
UHT Fruit Juice
UHT Milk
Savoury Treats
Sweet Treats / Chocolate Etc.

The School Day and Supervision:



Please be aware that Academy Staff are on the yards and gates from 8:35 am. Gates may be open but pupils are unsupervised prior to this. Pupils must not be in the building before this time unless prior arrangement.

Covid Measures and Cases within the Academy

Due to a rapid increase in the number of cases within the Academy and the wider local community we are requesting that all pupils don face masks in all indoor communal areas at break and lunchtimes and between lessons, except when eating and drinking at lunch time. This does not apply to pupils who are exempt from wearing a mask. Pupils should bring a mask with them, though we do have some available that can be collected from reception should they forget or break one. This does not include pupils who are exempt from wearing a mask.

Other measures that are already in place and will continue to ensure everyone's safety and well-being are:

- Collective Worship being conducted via Teams.
- Adapting school events where possible to ensure they are as safe as they can be.
- Sanitiser provided for all around the Academy
- Windows and doors are open to provide ventilation
- Set seating plans to allow rapid track and trace within the Academy of any close contacts

Pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 and all households should continue to test twice weekly at home. If you receive a positive result from a lateral flow test, you should seek a PCR as soon as possible and then follow the isolation guidance as below.

What to do if NHS Track and Trace contact you:

1. If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, your child should continue attending school and you should arrange for them to have a PCR COVID-19 test. Only if this test is positive or your child is displaying one of the three COVID-19 symptoms do they need to refrain from school and self-isolate. In line with the latest government guidelines that were released in August 2021, identified close contacts who are under 18 years of age, do not need to self-isolate.
2. If your child does test positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home for the 10-day isolation period and the school will provide remote education from the second day, so that they can continue their learning if they are well enough to do so. Remote education will not be extended to children who are absent for other reasons.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation with the support of the Local Authority. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the day after their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Household members no longer need to isolate if they are under 18 years of age or are double vaccinated.

Further information is available at:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-forhouseholds-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day after the first person in the house became ill.

Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep everyone as safe as possible at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Hutchinson
Principal