



Diary Dates

	Entry and exit times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
12/4/21	Summer Term begins
8/7/21	County Transition Day

Reporting a student absent

Please remember to inform us **every day** that your child is absent from school. Please use the dedicated email address: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or you can leave a telephone message. Please do not use Parentmail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely checked.

KS3: Please continue with the twice-weekly testing programme, further testing kits will be available soon

How have the student's responded to the 3 session day and the reintroduction of their curriculum?

Students have really enjoyed attending the lessons they have not had an opportunity to fully explore this year and the 3 period day has lifted everyone's spirits. Over the next few weeks, we will work to improve students' listening and focus to make sure we get the most from the time available. As expected, the change has been really positive.

How can you help us to make sure we now have a term or rapid learning and where necessary catch up?

Published with this newsletter is the Homework timetable. Prior to Easter, we understood that for parents and students in some families, homework felt like a step too far. However, this will now be a crucial part of our catch up programme. We will use the models of English and Science who have been designing bespoke homework for students to help them catch up with the individual areas that they need. To spread this good practice across the school. **This will require your help**, to ensure your child completes this work at home and from next week, homework will begin in earnest in all subjects. Please make sure you are familiar with the timetable and that you have agreed a place and time for your child to complete their work and encourage them to read for 20 minutes 5 times a week.

To support, we will offer homework clubs for our most vulnerable students and our Administration Team will make personal contact with parents where we see homework is not being completed, and help with problems online with SMHW. If you have a problem with your child accessing SMHW, please do not hesitate to contact. Rachel Heywood on r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What assessments are students doing and why?

Over the next two weeks, students will be sitting assessment in their core subjects to assess where they are since their last check in December. This will help us to identify, as we did in November, what interventions we need to put in place to support students. You will receive a data report in May outlining how they did. We are keeping these assessments low key – and reassuring students that they are there to help us know where students are with their learning.

Will there be further parent consultations and reports?

Schools have a statutory requirement to provide a written report once a year and this will be completed once their term 3 assessments have been completed later in June. We will also consider how we can provide an opportunity for parents to speak to their foundation subject teachers (non-core subjects) about their progress after half term.

Will the school offer enrichment clubs?

At the moment, we continue to operate in class bubbles to minimise the number of students mixing and reduce the risk of students being required to self-isolate. However, we will consult with parents about moving to year group bubbles. This will increase the number of students mixing, but would allow us to return enrichment clubs, at least in year groups. Consultation with staff and parents will take place next week and if the news is positive, we would hope to offer these opportunities by half term, at the latest.

Will students be able to take part in day visits?

Currently, the guidance remains a no, which is disappointing, but we will consider how we can maximise the opportunities within our local community to provide students with outdoor experiences.

How do we put fun back into our calendar year, because we all need some?

As the lockdown relaxes, we are hoping to offer some of the events that students have loved and missed throughout this strange year. These include Fullness Days, where students can choose to raise funds for charity, while exploring and learning about the particular charity. Fundraising events are often suggested by students and Comic Relief was an example. This was the first time we had heard so much laughter in the school, something we need to hear more of.

We hope to continue to provide opportunities for students to connect remotely to different year groups through competitions. The rewards for a win will be an afternoon of swimming at the Ward Freman pool, rather than films. Normally, all these events would be calendared in to the school year, but due to Covid we continue to be cautious. However, if the roadmap out of lockdown goes as planned, you will see a calendar of events appear.

Will the school be exploring a summer catch up?

Yes. We are awaiting confirmation of the additional Government funding and hope to offer some tuition for identified students. We are also aware that students need

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to catch up on enrichment activities and we will invite students to sign up for an enrichment programme offering sporting and creative activities for part of the holidays. More about this once funding is available.

Preparing Year 8 to transition.

This week, Year 8 received an Assembly based around the process of transition. Freman College require us to provide information on students' attainment in all subjects and rank them by their language attainment as well as provide information on students' behaviour. The pastoral team at Freman will meet with the HOY and Headteacher for a detailed handover of each child. We hope to continue to offer a bespoke programme of transition for our more vulnerable students with additional visits.

Students will be consulted about their wishes for a leaving celebration and how we can mark their four years with us. We are ever hopeful that we will be able to hold a formal event for students, parents and staff to celebrate their time at Edwinstree.

Year 7 English topic - War of the Worlds.

This half term Year 7 will be studying the HG Wells science fiction classic 'The War of the Worlds'. In order to aid elements of our study, I would like to show clips from the 2005 film starring Tom Cruise, alongside reading the novel, and listening to the Jeff Wayne Musical version. The film has a certificate of 12/PG13 and I have therefore decided to seek out parental permission before showing any of it. If you have any issues or concerns with this film and you do not want your child to take part, please email the school office via admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and confirm that your concern is for the attention of Miss Davies. Thank you

School Meals

A gentle reminder to place your lunch orders. You can order for a day, a week or a whole term! The cut-off for ordering is 8:55am on the day in question and vegetarian options are clearly displayed on a green button. Please remember it is your responsibility to cancel a meal if your child is absent from school as the Catering Team will prepare a meal for your child and you will be charged. Please support your child to remember their water bottle.

Information from Herts County Council about Enhanced track and trace being piloted locally

We are in week two of a pilot scheme whereby an enhanced track and trace service led by HCC, will be updating workplaces, education settings and close contacts of individuals directly if someone tests positive for Covid-19 following a PCR test.

Employees, parents and carers should still report positive cases to the setting as normal, however this pilot scheme aims to provide a safety net to ensure that all cases are reported as early as possible, to reduce or prevent risk of transmission.

You may now therefore be contacted by our public health team (COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk <<mailto:COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk>>) if a staff member or child at your settings tests positive. You will need to follow the usual process for requesting self-isolation of staff and children in teaching bubbles or any people identified as close contacts.

Test and Trace £500 payment extended to parents

The DfE have announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria (which includes receipt of certain low-income benefits).

The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and borough councils in Hertfordshire, and ends on 30 June, ensures that parents receive some financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities and are unable to work from home, read more at: www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment <<http://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>>

Golden Broom Award

5D & 6A – non-uniform on Monday 19/4/21

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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