



## 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
<b>8/3/21</b>	<b>KS2 students return – Y5 &amp; Y6</b>
<b>10/3/21</b>	<b>KS3 students return – Y7 &amp; Y8</b>
<b>17/3/21</b>	<b>Comic Relief</b>
<b>26/3/21</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>12/4/21</b>	<b>Summer Term</b>

We are very much looking forward to seeing our students return to school. During the first three weeks, we will prioritise their well-being to ensure they feel confident and secure that school is a place of safety, learning, friendship and fun.

We welcome back Year 5 and 6 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March while Year 7 and Year 8 (unless key workers) continue to work online until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, when they return after their first negative test.

**As from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, all students return to our basic Covid school uniform.**

Please visit the 'letters home' page on our website [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) for information about when Covid-19 testing takes place, if you remain unsure about when and what your child is doing.

### Reporting a student absent

Our attendance phone calls will resume, as it is important that you inform us if your child cannot attend school. Please email [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) every morning or you may leave a telephone message. Please do not use School Gateway or Parentmail - thank you.

### How can you prepare your child to return to school?

If your child did not attend our Collective Worship on Wednesday or has not read their Student News, the Powerpoint, videos and student letters can be found on our website. Please do spend time with your child going through these documents as they include:

- Reassurance and that it is ok to feel nervous or worried
- What it will be like and that they will stay in their 'bubbles'
- Year 7 and Year 8 students explaining the testing process
- Example of some of the amazing as well as difficult outcomes from lockdown
- Praise for students' resilience during this time

### What do they need to return with?

- An understanding that while there is hope a vaccine will protect us, Covid-19 has not gone away and majority of staff and students have not yet been vaccinated, so we

all remain at risk. Therefore, the timetable and our structure of the day remains in 'class bubbles' for this term at least. We will need to use our compassion for each other to manage our social distancing.

- No equipment as it is provided by the school, but students need a **warm coat, gloves, hat and jumper as windows and doors remain open and it can get really cold.**
- **Outdoor and indoor shoes** as students will start the day in their bubbles on the field.
- A mobile phone is not essential but if they bring one, please remind them it should stay in their school bag during the day unless used as a teaching tool by the teacher.
- The reassurance that Edwinstree is compassionate and caring and here to welcome them back. Their friends will be as nervous, but equally excited to see everybody.
- **A mask – for Year 7 and Year 8** we will follow the guidance and encourage students to wear it in class and outside. We encourage you to provide **Y5 & Y6 with a mask** as there is one very small and tight corridor in the Year 5 area and we think when moving in this corridor, a mask would be helpful.
- **Bus children will need a mask for their journey to and from school**

### As parents, what do you need to consider for next week?

- It is ok and understandable if your child is extra worried about the return, use the resources on the website to support and reassure them.
- If you let their anxiety stop them returning it will only increase. Remember, if you are concerned; contact either the HOY or the Learning Zone Team to warn us in advance so we can help.  
[Hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)  
[Hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)  
[Hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)  
[Hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)  
[Learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)
- We will continue the very stringent social distancing and bubbles as classes in order to minimise the risk of social isolation for the rest of this term, but this does not mean we are safe from self-isolation. **If a child tests positive the class and teachers will need to self-isolate for 10 days, so please make sure you have back up plans in the event we have to contact you.** The school will also be at risk of closing year groups if too many teachers are required to self-isolate.
- Testing and mask wearing is not compulsory but **strongly advised.** We are a compassionate school and will force no-one but please provide your child with a mask, including Year 5 and Year 6.
- **Homework** – to settle students into school, English, Maths and Science will set as homework online SMHW and hard copy given out in the class. Please do not stop the amazing work you have been doing.

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Please make sure that they continue to complete independent learning at home

- **Please look at the timetable on the website so that your child knows what lessons they will experience next week and in particular on their first day back.**
- We will continue using SchoolGrid for all school meal orders, so please remember to place your orders as soon as possible to ensure you are ready for next week. 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.
- Distance learning continues for Year 7 and Year 8 on Monday and Tuesday. Please help your child to continue to complete it.

### **Home Learning**

For the next three weeks, home learning will be set for Maths, English and Science. Where possible, please support your child to complete this learning. The work is set for students to learn and practise key concepts within the subject. Teachers are busy identifying any gaps in learning and will use home learning to support progress. Learning is on Show My Home Work and subject teachers also offer hard copies where necessary.

### **Distance Learning**

KS2 from Monday and KS3 from Wednesday: distance learning will return to using the red 'Class Work' Feature on Show My Home Work. This is for students self-isolating. As teachers return to full-time class teaching this is, unfortunately, in less detail than we offer in a lockdown. Self-isolating students are encouraged to use the 'comments' section to message their subject teacher directly should they have any questions or concerns. Completing this work ensures students keep on track with their class. Hard copies can be requested through the office.

### **As a school, what do we need to consider post Easter? Can you help us to make this decision?**

One of the saddest parts of being a Headteacher of a middle school during COVID, has been missing one of the greatest benefits of middle school system, which is a really broad curriculum with specialist teachers in specialist subjects. Since March 2020 we have not been able to provide this.

**Why have they not had all the subjects?** to avoid whole year groups going home, and or school closure we have grouped teachers in teams which meant minimising the subjects – ie we don't have 4 art teachers to place in 4 teams or 4 music teachers. This means that year groups have missed a series of foundation subjects.

### **How do we want to change this?**

At the very least we want to make sure at Easter that we swap the missing subjects into our two period timetable, so for example DT will move from Year 7 and Year 8 and go into Year 5 and Year 6, while Art and Music will move

into Year 7 and Year 8. This will mean that teachers will change year groups but will give students a term of their missing subjects.

### **Why did we not do this on your child's return next week?**

We have made small changes but feel that particularly younger students would benefit and settle best with as many of their current teachers that they already know as possible. We are aware that new staff covering maternity leaves could be unsettling.

### **Is there more we can do to bring back the best bits of the middle school post Easter?**

We are considering a 3 period timetable that would support students to have all their subjects return to their timetable, over a two-week period and/or our normal 5 period day. We are also considering whether post Easter we should broaden the bubble mix to year groups to allow students to play in years at break and lunch time. Both of these decisions come with a considerable risk to expanding the number of students and teachers that have to self-isolate if there was a positive case. However, we really believe that students need to experience their whole curriculum and at some point, the benefits of seeing all their friends outweighs the risks. To help us make this decision we would like to hear your voice. Please find link below, survey closes Thursday at midday.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8EC-9XP1151Oiw13yMnc4IVUQkk2TjIwOTNjNkJEUFIEMjNBRIzJRFrSWS4u>

To put these ideas in perspective, many secondary schools have been taking these extended risks throughout the pandemic and operating a full timetable, particularly in secondary schools. As part of our plans to consider these options, we are currently talking to staff and will also talk to students to hear their voice in the debate over risk verses the curriculum.

### **Prior to Easter, we want to take the time to celebrate Easter and have some fun!**

Please be aware that the 17<sup>th</sup> March is Comic Relief day and we will be looking to add some fun to all our lives by raising a little bit of money for this charity and doing some silly things that you can sponsor. Easter will also be celebrated at the end of term with a service over Teams, which you are welcome to join. Our COWO value for this term is 'friendship'.

### **Subject news**

#### **PSHE Corner - RSE Policy**

We will shortly be publishing our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy to follow the Government's statutory guidance. We have included a draft version; although there are currently a few gaps, we would welcome any feedback before we publish it. It includes an overview of the PSHE and RSE curriculum as well as your rights to withdraw your children from these lessons. The

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new government policy makes Relationships Education compulsory in all primary-aged schools and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary-aged schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. Edwinstree is now starting to follow the new Jigsaw scheme throughout our two key stages – this scheme fully meets the requirements of the new guidance. We would welcome any comments or views from parents. Please email on comments to [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

### Year 6 PSHE – KS2

Year 6 are continuing their new topic about Celebrating Difference including some ideas of what being normal and different might mean. The next lesson does touch on some sensitive issues including those around transgender. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

### Year 7 and Year 8 PSHE – KS3

To give the K33 team some extra time to get ready for your children returning to school, for this week the home-based PSHE lessons will be using the Oak Academy online lessons. This week your children will follow the Oak Academy online lessons about recognising concerns about our mental health (links given on Show My Homework). Over the next week or two in lessons, we will continue to look at aspects of Healthy Living and this will include looking at medicines and substance misuse.

### Gourmet Baked Bean Challenge

Thank you for all of the Gourmet Baked Bean competition entries; it was a delight to see so many enter the competition. The level of creativity and presentation of each dish was outstanding; the students surpassed themselves and should be very proud of their achievements. Thank you to all parents/carers for supporting this event home, especially when you are juggling so many other things, we really appreciate your support!

### Competition results: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £10 voucher - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £5 voucher - Runners up certificates

	Year 8	Year 7	Year 6	Year 5
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	Rohan H	Harrison D-N	Faith A	Penny P
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	Seth C	James W	Henry R	Bobby H
<b>Runners Up</b>	Bear W Isobel G Damien B Tori L Harry W	Charlie W Lauren C Alexis W Grace H Maddie T-E	Thomas Y Katy T Darcie H Finn W Ciara H Darcy M Hannah E	Toby H Erica N Daizee-Mai D Hugo P Isabella M

Certificates and prizes will be formally presented when students return to school.

Well done everyone! Mrs Booth Design and Technology Lead

### KS2 Computing

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If your child has computing lessons, it would be great if they could bring in their own headphones. The headphones need to have a mini jack input (3.5mm), not a large jack or Bluetooth connection. We do have a supply of headphones at school, but it will aid cleaning and sanitising if children have their own.

### Instrumental Lessons

Individual music lessons will start to return to the school from this week, starting with piano and brass. The rest of the lessons will start from the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The guidance for these lessons remains the same as before Christmas. The instrumental teachers will also be undertaking twice-weekly COVID tests as part of their return.

Please note: It is the students' responsibility to attend their lesson. Whilst we will do our best (timetables will be in classrooms), we cannot send staff across bubbles to collect students, nor can we expect the instrumental teachers to do the same. The teachers will be in contact with you about their return.

**Recruitment:** We are currently have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant, and will shortly be advertising for maternity cover Science teacher please visit our website for more details. [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

### Teaching Awards

Many of you have written to thank a particular member of staff for their efforts over the last year and below are the national awards for teachers and support staff that I thought you might like to see. Below are details to promote the Pearson National Teaching Awards and the Thank a Teacher campaign. [teachingawards.com/supporter-pack](http://teachingawards.com/supporter-pack) [thankateacher.co.uk/forschools](http://thankateacher.co.uk/forschools)  
Full details can be found at [teachingawards.com](http://teachingawards.com). The deadline for submissions for this year's awards is midnight, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**The 'Lockdown Hero' award for outstanding learner and community support** was launched on BBC's The One Show. This is a brand new award to recognise inspirational teachers and school staff for the amazing work they have done to support pupils learning both at home and at school during lockdown. Entries are welcomed from parents, teachers and schools for this 'Lockdown Hero' award, deadline of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Find out more at [Pearson National Teaching Awards | The 2021 'Lockdown Hero' award for learner and community support](http://Pearson National Teaching Awards | The 2021 'Lockdown Hero' award for learner and community support)

For further information, please visit the relevant website.

### Jo Gant Headteacher

Timetable w/c 8/3/21

HOY5 Letter

RSE Policy