



Edwinstree Term dates:

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/school/term-dates.aspx>

Diary Dates:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 13/01/25 | Year 8 HPV Vaccination |
| 14/01/25 | 7A & 7C - Online Academic Review |
| 16/01/25 | 5A & 5D - Online Academic Review |
| 21/01/25 | 7B, 7D, 5B - Online Academic Review |
| 23/01/25 | 5C - Online Academic Review / Year 8 In Person Foundation Evening |
| 03-06/02/25 | Year 6 Mock SATs |
| 17-21/02/25 | Half Term |
| 25/02/25 | 6A & 6D - Online Academic Review |
| 04/03/25 | 6B & 6C - Online Academic Review |
| 10/03/25 | 6A Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2) |
| 11/03/25 | 6C Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6D Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2) |
| 20/03/25 | Year 7 In Person Foundation Evening |
| 04/04/25 | End of Term 1:20pm. |
| 22/04/25 | Start of Summer Term |
| 05/05/25 | Bank Holiday |
| 08/05/25 | Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening |
| 12-15/05/25 | Year 6 SATs |
| 26-30/05/25 | Half Term |
| 05/06/25 | Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening |
| 27/06/25 | INSET Day |
| 10/07/25 | County Transition Day Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm |
| 18/07/25 | End of Term 1:20pm. |

Contents: please click individual titles to take you to the relevant section in the newsletter, please ensure you open the document in pdf reader to use this function.

What does it mean to be living and learning in a Church of England school?

Is your child equipped and ready for learning?

A gentle reminder that our community has a right to disconnect.

What is the best form of communication?

Year 5 News:

Academic reviews

Year 7 News:

Academic reviews

Year 8 News:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation for Year 8.

Year 8 RE Lessons

Drama Production 2025

Alert for reading books.

Edwinstree Vacancies

Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS)

Neighbourhood Alerts system

[What does it mean to be living and learning in a Church of England school?](#)

At the start of each term, we consider with our students this question. We return to our bible quote that helps to frame all the work we do in the school.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit.

At its simplest, as a community we are living with God among us, and his teachings are guiding our work.

This bible quote helps to frame all the work we do and in the last 3 years we have been thinking about our work using the metaphor of a vine tree from the biblical quote. Our trunk is the vision that we share in every newsletter:

As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

You will see the vision coming through the academic reviews that take place this term with English, Maths and Science, where staff are working hard to know and support your child as an individual. You will hear us celebrating students *wonderful* through the rewards and celebration events that are taking place each half term and through the new addition to the newsletter that focuses on Sporting and outside success stories celebrating the many amazing achievements your children have inside and out of school.

We also support students to *flourish* by working hard on their academic learning, but also considering and helping them to frame the person they wish to be. We help them to recognise that diversity is something to be celebrated not shunned, through the work of the Dynamic Diversity group, who celebrate and promote difference through the promotion of Courageous advocacy. Our world can feel very troublesome, but courageous advocacy promotes that you can make a difference, that small changes in our lives if enough people make them can have great impact.

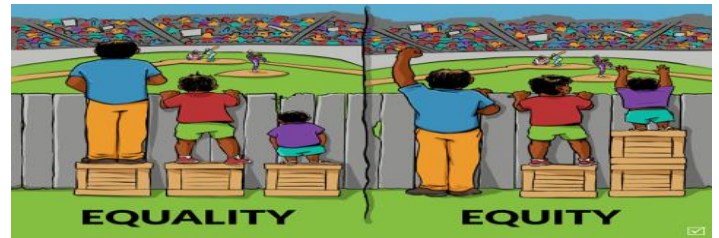
You can see this working in the fact that students and staff have once again agreed to reduce the production of climate gases and help us to reduce the soaring costs of energy bills through turning our heating off at 12 midday. We are monitoring the temperature closely and made adjustments today, post-lunch students are able to wear their outer clothing if they begin to feel cold.

You will also see courageous advocacy taking place in our charity fund raising, and we begin a programme of days where children have chosen the charity fund raising events for the remainder of the year and share why their chosen charities are important to them. Our first charity event takes place for Air Ambulance which was used by a loved one. We will be asking our bakers to support alongside a non-uniform day at the end of January.

We then have our branches; these are the values that we work on each half term in Collective Worship. This term we are returning to a value we have not looked at for two years, that of *Humility*. Both staff and students reflect on this value together and learn from it. Last term students considered *Trust* and *Koinonia* the power of many working together.

Our final part of the tree is the fruit, if we have got our work right then we can see in school, students who commit to learning and our community are empathetic with each other, have respect for our work and their lives, and family and friends.

In all this work, one of areas that Ofsted highlighted, and we are most proud of is that our community understands and supports the use of Equity in our school. We use this metaphor diagram to explain what the word means:



We believe the equality of our schoolwork is that we are looking to ensure by the time they leave us, that all children are able and ready for their next stage of learning.

But the equity is that we recognise that different children will need different and individual support to get there. We believe that abiding in God helps us to understand this idea and to live with it. The bible story that often goes hand in hand with this idea is the farmer and the Vineyard.

Is your child equipped and ready for learning?

Next week our tutors will check gently that your children are wearing the appropriate uniform and have the correct equipment (see last terms last newsletter for the details). If they are not, we will ask them to talk to you and we will give you a call to find out if we can help to make sure they come to school ready to learn.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

A gentle reminder that our community has a right to disconnect.

At the start of the term, can we put a plea to all parents that we understand as parents ourselves the stress and strains for life – but would ask that you respect that we believe we all have a right to disconnect and spend time with our families in the evenings and weekends during the working week. Wherever possible we will get back to you with 24 – 48 hours of an enquiry – and please chase us if we do not. But can we steer for all our wellbeing that a late-night email particularly if sent in anger – does not support any of us, or your child. We love the draft option on the email, where I might rant a reply to County or the Department of Education, but I then have the morning to review and rethink before sending. Of course, there are emergencies, but these are rare.

What is the best form of communication?

A general enquiry or if you are looking to contact a tutor should be sent via the admin email address.

Contact email addresses are as follows:

- Head of Year 5: hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 6: hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 7: hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 8: hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- School Office: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- To report a student, absent from school: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- If you are worried about your child's mental health: wellbeinghub@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

A phone call is good for a general enquiry, but if you are looking to speak to a teacher, we are working all day with students, so an email can often work best to let us know you need advice and support. NO problem is too small to share with us.

Year 5 News:

Academic reviews

Booking slots for these subjects opened at 6.00pm on Tuesday 7th January. These are consultation evenings with the Core teachers of English, Maths and Science. They take place online during the winter. Teachers will have the students' books there for you to review.

Year 7 News:

Academic reviews

Booking slots for these subjects opened at 6.00pm on Tuesday 7th January. Please note that 7C's Maths reviews will take place after February half term due to the change in teacher: English and Science will take place as normal.

Year 8 News:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation for Year 8.

In line with the National Immunisation Programme, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust's School Aged Immunisation Service offers the HPV vaccination to all eligible boys and girls in year 8. This is a course of a single dose of the HPV vaccine. Children and young people who are immunosuppressed may require three doses.

The School Aged Immunisation Service will be visiting this school on Monday, January 13, 2025.

Please find attached a letter from Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, with a link to a form that is required to be completed by 13th January 2025. You must accept or decline this vaccination.

Year 8 RE Lessons

Within RE, in the new year, pupils will be looking at the Holocaust and Islamophobia as part of the Spring term scheme on prejudice and discrimination. At Edwinstree we believe in embracing life in all its fullness, this includes sensitively and appropriately looking at emotionally challenging subjects.

The Holocaust is not the story of millions of lives lost; it is the millions of stories of individual human beings who were persecuted simply for who they were. We have a duty, as educators, to those who lost their lives, continue to suffer and to our future generations to ensure we reflect, remember, and respect.

Pupils will be informed that there are several parts of these lessons where they will be confronted with upsetting information. They will be assured that it is ok to be upset, angry or worried, that the classroom is a safe space where we will support each other. If pupils need time, they will be allowed to step outside the classroom. Post the lesson, pupils will be assured that we will continue to support each other and that if they need to talk, they can see myself or one of their trusted five adults.

They will be guided through the BBC Newsround guide –

[Advice if you're upset by the news - BBC Newsround.](#)

-Share your worries

-It is normal to feel upset

-Do something that makes you happy

-Remember it is rare

Due to the emotional impact that comes with studying the Holocaust and Islamophobia, we encourage you to help your child process the material they will be learning. Please be open to their questions--it is all right to not have all the answers. It is just as important to talk with your child about their thoughts and ideas as it is to talk about content.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for further resources, please do not hesitate to contact me on a.kelly@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We thank you for your support, Mrs Kelly

Drama Production 2025



We are excited to announce that the school production this year is “Wizard of Oz” by Tom Kirkham. There has been a lot of interest from the students from the sign-up sheets on Mrs Gant’s door – if your child is interested in auditioning, please complete the permission form linked below. Students must be committed to attend full rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays until 4.15pm and be available for show week: w/c 30th June for technical and dress rehearsals during the school day and the shows on 3rd and 4th July.

<https://forms.office.com/e/FdpkqzGC0s>

Singing Auditions will be on 20th January after school with Mrs Brock and Miss Jackson. If your child is unable to make this, please ask your child to see Miss Jackson to arrange a suitable date.

Thank you, Mrs Brock and Mrs Booth.

Alert for reading books.

With the release of the movie version of the popular musical Wicked, we have had a lot of interest from students in reading the original book. While it is lovely to see students so interested in reading, we would just like to caution parents that the novel Wicked is not suitable for children, as it contains very adult themes and language.

Edwinstree Vacancies

Please find attached our current vacancy for a Site Assistant, please see our website for an application form.

Hertfordshire’s Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system wants to understand what parents and carers need when they are faced with supporting their child or young person’s poor emotional wellbeing.



It can be difficult to understand why they might be experiencing low moods, anxiety or self-harming behaviours, how to cope as a family, or knowing the strategies that could help at home. In preparation for commissioning a new service, we want to make sure parents and carers feel supported, have professionals and peers to speak to and share experiences with, all while knowing they are far from alone.

[Complete the survey here](#)

The survey will be open until Sunday 26 January 2025

Neighbourhood Alerts system

Launched by Hertfordshire Police in April 2024, Herts Connected is a really useful tool and allows residents to receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in their area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm. To signup, please use this link:

<https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk