

PARENT SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE THE SCHOOL EVEN BETTER, GIVEN TO GOVERNORS AT YEAR 5 & 6 FOUNDATION PARENT EVENINGS APRIL 2024.

You said **we did...**

Friday 19th incident upper school - email needed to be sent to all parents reassuring them that everyone was safe, and the incident was handled effectively by all concerned, which would stop the Facebook bashing.

Can I refer you to the letter I sent on Monday morning which we have attached with the newsletter.

I want my child to go on a trip, but I am struggling financially can I get help?

We always post this information in the newsletter with any trip, along with the letters received by parents regarding trips.

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

Mrs Gant is not responding to my emails.

Please always cc my PA s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk into the email along with me, I receive over a 100 emails a day, and I will lose some, it is never deliberate.

My son found transition from primary hard. There appeared to be too many teachers, too much movement. He needed nurturing consistently and that didn't seem to happen. Perhaps a full parents evening in the Autumn term as well as meeting by Form tutor first half term

Transition to Edwinstree can be hard for some students, as we do operate more like a secondary your Form Tutor and Head of Year are really key people here and if your child is struggling, please contact them, no problem is too small. We will look at our Parents Evening again for year 5 consider and how we could offer a drop in session for parents if they are concerned.

I am really worried how SEND funding supports my child

I will offer an opportunity for parents to come and in and hear how it is distributed, at some point this term.

I have a child with a SEND diagnosis, I haven't a clue what help they are getting or what I can do?

Email the SENCO senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and request a meeting, the team will book you in and explain.

I would to see more evening social fun events, e.g. disco's

You will see more evenings for students reappear as we move to the summer and we make the most of the field. For Parents check out the flyer from the ESA advertising the barn dance.

Within newsletters please have a headline for each year group to remind, remind, remind me as I forget and miss things.

We will do, after the whole school information, if there is nothing to remind you of that week the header won't be there!

We need to see core subject books, that evening was cancelled and I want to help my child.

You are right and for the classes that had Mrs Hayes they will need a parent evening as well. We are currently looking at how we do this. In the past we would have *half term book looks* where we sent books home, but we lost so many books that way that never came back, particularly after Covid. I think we are ready again to get these home to you at least once a half term.

How can I support my child with Maths and English if I never see their books?

Yes, this makes sense, just make sure they bring them back. Can we also ask you to look on the web for the guidance on supporting students in the subjects it also gives you good advice, but practical maths, darts, snooker, cards, monopoly, cooking, building furniture, analogue clocks etc are really helpful. For English if you are modelling reading with your child and ensuring they are reading, this is helping.

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Communication needs improving in relation to core subjects, we want to see books and hear from their teachers.

Reports have been delayed due to absence of so many teachers last half term, but they are due out next week, you should receive a data report termly but we will now update this with a book look also.

More consistency is needed with Supply teachers as progress is affected and they don't always follow the behaviour policy. I am worried about the cover lessons with Supply teachers.

Rachel Heywood is the Senior lead for Cover, she briefs all supply and updates on our behaviour policy and SEND needs. The supply lessons are carefully planned, but a daily supply can never replace the real teacher. We were deeply concerned by the numbers of teachers absent last half term, with long to medium ill health problems including myself. Our Subject leads have tracked and marked books to ensure we know where our students are at, where they have not made progress. We have adapted our planning to support this catch up.

The newsletter is overwhelming, too much information but difficult to find headlines. When you need to pay a trip by etc. Possible solution suggested was timelines so all parents can see deadline dates for trips big projects and events straightaway.

We love the idea of a calendar for trips and payments and will look at this for next year. We know you need half terms notice if at all possible. See below for the suggestion that a parent offers that I think will solve your problem.

You said - Parentmail is so important, but you need headlines and then perhaps hyperlinks to connect to more information and payments as tracking back can take a great deal of time.

A brilliant idea and we are trying it today!

It's so difficult with several children in different schools following key deadlines line dates, and balancing the books for payments. A calendar is needed as a constant reminder please

We are looking into this, its a great idea, thank you.

Homework reminders are great but not at 7.30 am, I need this reminder the night before so I can ensure it's completed, also for big projects of several weeks I need a possible check list of what needs to be completed by when but in the very least more than due date reminder

You are so right, talking to SMHW about giving you earlier notice.

Changes to dates, PE kit changes all seem to happen last minute please be clear and consistent as changing your mind late in the day, it causes huge problems in many families.

We are sorry, the changes you are quoting I believe are due to absence and where this is long term, we should be able to give you notice, short term is much harder. We design the newsletter to be the vehicle that gives you as much notice as possible. But I take your point.

Not always sure who I need to speak to, e.g., head of year, head of PE, Form Tutor, Headteacher, feel helpless when nobody gets back to me.

Ok we will place this on the web. If you don't get hold of someone keep going and don't hesitate to escalate to Deputies and Head, If you are not being responded to, it will not be deliberate it will be overload.

My son apparently was very good at science on arrival in upper school, nobody ever told me that when he was here, maybe lock down issue, but I would love more feedback on strengths as well as areas to develop

Ok we will look at this. Glad to hear he is doing well.

I am concerned about low level behaviour being ignored by teachers, a lack of consistency between subjects is apparent.

When we are not covering for staff (last half term) this is part of our normal practice and Mr Rowlands leads the team who work on this. You are right it does work.

What opportunities are available for you and your family with the local area?

Below are a series of flyers for various clubs and talks that are freely available to you.