



**Diary Dates:**

16/9/19	Y6 SATs Workshop 9:50am
26/9/19	New Parents Meet the teachers 3:30pm-5pm
28/10/19	Half Term
6/12/19	Occasional Day – School Closed
20/12/19	End of term – 2:30pm finish

Our newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what is happening, alert you in advance to up and coming events and to share our thinking and strategies as we continue to move the school forward.

**Who do I speak to if I have a worry or a concern?**

No worry is ever too small so please always come and talk to us. Email is a really effective way of communicating with us, our website [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) has the names of our team to contact. The Head of Year email details can be found at the front of the Record of Achievement [ROA], or you can put a note in the ROA if you have any concerns. If your child is feeling vulnerable, then Edwinstree has a place to go to called the 'Learning Zone'. Here students have a chance to talk through their worries. We warn students it isn't a 'comfy duvet' that you can hide in for the day, but a place to go to get support to help deal with worries. Students respect this area and the staff highly. The team can be contacted on [learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) if you have any concerns. Please note, the Learning Zone is available from 8am till 1:50pm each day.

**What is the homework for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3?**

The Homework timetable can be found on Page 222 & 223 of your child's ROA. Key Stage 3 homework will be placed on our website every Friday so parents can check what homework has been given. Key Stage 2 teachers commit to ensuring the homework gets into their planners.

**Thank you to all the Parents who followed our Uniform policy.**

We have once again seen that the trainer companies are one-step ahead of us, one particular trainer meets our criteria and has no white strip, is relatively formal, protects students from health and safety risks in workshops and can be polished. Please can we ask if your child is seeking to push the boundaries that you bear in mind, the majority of parents who stick to the guidelines only to find their child fuming because they weren't allowed to buy them but a certain student has got them! If you forgive me, I would like to remind you that uniform should be a unifier that shrinks the divide between those that have and those that don't, rather than exacerbate it!

**What happened on the staff Inset Day?** – As well as preparing for the start of school, Staff spent a part of the morning answering the following questions:

*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.*

**What are the strengths of a middle school and how do we capitalise on them?**

- The curriculum remains broad – the fizz of Year 5 in a "real" science, art and design technology room is lovely!
- The mixture of primary and secondary teaching can produce exceptional learning with planned provision to advance literacy and numeracy, whilst really pushing forward with specialist subjects
- We have an opportunity to become experts of these year groups – only 4 years compared to 7 in primary and secondary
- Expectations are lifted within this system. For example, our Buggy Malone production supported Year 5 and Year 6 to engage in something that is rarely seen in primary, while our Year 7 and Year 8 students were able to take lead roles that in secondary would have gone to older students
- We know the purpose of Key Stage 3 is to sow the seed for A level and to generate passionate students who wish to specialise
- Literacy and Numeracy delivery has to be exceptional from all subject areas.
- We can dig deep and enjoy our learning – no syllabus or time pressure! So, if students are really enjoying something, we won't rush on

**What are the disadvantages of a Middle school that means we have to work extra hard?**

- We have one and half years before our major external exam; currently there is no agreed scheme and or assessment process across schools
- We have to teach out of our specialism in one other subject – so our schemes of work are essential to support teachers with the expert view
- We have to be competent in KS2 maths and English and model this in all subjects
- 90% of all mental health issues in adulthood will present by the age of 14. Presentation of most occurs in the middle school years
- Highly able autistic children are likely to present signs in year 3, but fully develop their autism in Year 6 and Year 7. By Year 9 they have more coping mechanisms
- The girl and boy brain-development-divide as an average is greatest here. Boys are still 'me, me, me!' Girls are 'What does everyone else think about me?'

**What does it mean to be a Church of England school?**

- A school that is inclusive to all, faith or not
- A school that commits to support every student to succeed.
- A school that trusts the students and parents  
 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7.12

**So how does this all come together? What is our Vision and Curriculum intent.**

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- **Individual:** We treat all students as unique individuals. We get to know students swiftly and **plan for the learning of each individual.**
- **Wonderful:** God made us all wonderful – we help staff and students to find their wonderful and to own them. We relish and plan to celebrate the wonderful that each subject offers and take time to explore them. We seek the best for all
- **Flourish:** Without a strong Key Stage 2 grounding in literacy and numeracy, students cannot succeed. This is not embedded by age 11 so must be supported throughout our school to secure this. We knot our learning together. We are determined that our students are curious, ask questions and are critical in seeking evidence. This will not always make quiet or compliant children! We know that failure is an important part of learning and we do not shy away from it
- **Fullness:** We plan for and relish the opportunities to support children to understand life, its fullness, sorrow, joy, and contentment. We value spirituality. We use our values to explore how to live well together, and gain dignity and respect for ourselves and others

**So what does this mean in the classroom? What are teachers committing to delivering in the classroom?**

- We will trust your child
- We will follow the Scheme of Work and Lesson Plans written by our subject experts
- We will swiftly get to know your child's learning, through marking work and questioning them, then plan for their individual needs in all our lessons
- We will challenge them and help them to accept that getting things wrong sometimes is a necessary part of learning and not to be feared.
- We will model what we expect of them regularly, so that we have worked examples to help them understand what to do
- We will have 'no hands up' when we ask questions and select students to keep them focused and curious
- All our Learning Objectives will be questions to explore and discover
- We will never ignore and move on if they have not learnt something
- We will never move on because it is half term or a new term; we dig deep into learning.
- Literacy and Numeracy come first in our thinking, planning and quality assurance!

**Parent support**

Are you available to support pupils with reading in Year 5 and Year 6? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please email Miss Devonshire on [HOY6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:HOY6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

**Meet the Teachers CHANGE OF DATE**

This is an opportunity for **Parents of all new students to visit on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 3:30pm-5pm.** Please come and join us for an opportunity to look around the school, meet the teachers who teach your child and ask any questions. At 4:30pm some key messages will be delivered in the hall.

**Year 5**

A huge welcome to Year 5 Parents and students, they have succeeded in surviving their first week and have managed the size of the school and increase in staff and classrooms very well. You can feel the excitement they are experiencing as they enter their first Science, Art, Computing, DT etc classroom, which is lovely to see.

**Year 6**

Students in Year 6 have settled really well this week. We can feel a little anxiety creeping into the year group over the SATs and we would like to offer our support. Over this half term, we will be providing Parents with opportunities to attend workshop sessions to find out how they can help and provide information about what the SATs involve. However, please begin by reassuring your child that the important part of SATs is that at the end of the year they look back and say, *'I really did my very best, I gave it my best shot.'* The result has little meaning for our school, unlike if they were going to Secondary, where it is often used to set students.

**Year 6 Parent SATs Workshop**

On 16<sup>th</sup> of September from 9:50-10:50 (Lesson 2) we should like to extend an invitation to all parents of Year 6 to join their children in an English and maths SATs workshop. The aim of the session is for us to deliver key information regarding the SATs week and to give advice on how to support your children at home during this year and the run up to SATs. There will be time for your questions and for you to work alongside your child on some SATs questions. All the Year 6 maths and English teaching staff will be on hand for support. Last year our Year 6 Parents commented that this was the most effective method of support for their child. We look forward to seeing you. Mrs Earnshaw and Miss Devonshire

**Year 7**

A positive and calm start to the year. Students were excited to meet so many new students and to feel the effect of a full year group. Please make sure you have noted the homework timetable and are supporting your child to make the significant change between KS2 and KS3 homework demands. They will need your support to organise themselves to get their tasks completed. You can access all their homework via our website.

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## **Year 8**

Reminder: Freman College Open Evening - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

Students have started really well and were introduced to this year's curriculum which is tracked and develops learning towards their GCSEs. Schemes of work have been planned in conjunction with Freman College, to make sure they are able to make the leap in expectations with the new GCSEs. Students are also experiencing the opportunity to attend Freman College weekly for PE and German lessons.

They also have a new curriculum subject called 'Enterprise' in their learning. This is part of the technology carousel and involves students learning a variety of skills in upcycling and creating products to sell and raise funds. Students will have 10 lessons in the skills of entrepreneurship and put them into action. This the equivalent of a Level 4 at GCSE; however, students are completing only one 10-week unit in their allocated time slot.

A gentle reminder that the Normandy payments for this month are now due. If you have missed any payments, please contact Mrs P Cox and or Mrs Grainger in the school office for advice.

## **Road Safety**

### **A gentle plea from the residents in White Hart**

**Close** - Please use Sainsbury's car park when delivering or collecting students from school; this car park is free before 9am and after 3pm. At the start and end of the day the gates and road to our school are incredibly busy with traffic and buses. If you use the car park, you ease the burden and help the residents and visitors to the Medical Centre immensely. We are all keen to keep your children safe and support the families and Medical Centre who are our neighbours. Thank you for your support.

**Enrichment clubs:** Please note our clubs begin next week, please see attachment. Students will be registered in the first session and will need to confirm whether they are being collected or walking home. Please be aware there are exceptions.

**Starlight Stars:** Drama Club begins on Tuesday 10/9/19, for further information please email [inspiring@examstars.co.uk](mailto:inspiring@examstars.co.uk) or visit their website [www.examstars.co.uk](http://www.examstars.co.uk).

**Filmmakers Club:** The club commences on Wednesday 18th September 2019 and runs for 10 weeks. Parents can log on to [www.hertsbedsfilmclub.webstarts.com](http://www.hertsbedsfilmclub.webstarts.com) & select bookings or email Gillian on [northhertsyounghfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:northhertsyounghfilmclub@gmail.com) or ring on 07341305131 for any queries. There are still spaces available for this term.

## **Learning Surgery**

Mrs Earnshaw and Miss Company will be holding a learning surgery on a Thursday lunchtime in room 11 (Mrs Earnshaw's teaching room). Learning Surgery is open to all students and there is no need to book, you

can drop in anytime over lunchtime! Bring your packed lunch if you like.

The purpose of Learning Surgery is to support students with anything they have found difficult or not quite understood during lessons, or for home learning support.

Teachers may request that children come to learning surgery or children may decide to bring themselves along. This is not as a punishment but to further support their learning. It can be for any subject across the curriculum. We look forward to working with your children. Mrs Earnshaw and Miss Company

**Jo Gant**

**Headteacher**

After school Clubs

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