



**Diary Dates**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | Entry and exit times<br>Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm<br>Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm<br>Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm<br>Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm |
| 15/2/21 | Half Term  |
| 4/3/21  | World Book Day   |

**A huge thank you to all parents taking on the difficult task of home schooling.**

This is not mean feat and we appreciate all the time and effort you have made to support your child’s learning, we could not do this without you. We have been considering the value of ‘Service’ this half term, which seems very apt. As teachers, we know educating someone else’s child is far easier than your own! We empathise, sympathise and marvel at your valiant efforts and we feel extremely blessed to have a strong and supportive community. Thank you!

Included with this week’s Student News, is a link to a questionnaire as we would like to gauge the thoughts and experiences of our students’ online learning this half term. It would be appreciated if you could support your child to take part. Survey closes at 12pm on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8EC-9XP1151Olwl3yMnc4lVUMThaWTBFUTY5OUNONj1SDZVWE5aQU04UC4u>

**Will this second school closure harm my child’s future education and is the damage irretrievable?**

Having spoken to a significant proportion of the parent body this week, one of the key messages coming back was your continued worry and concern regarding the long term impact of being out of school for so long. This has led to some parents thinking they were letting their child down. I understand completely, having recently attended a parents evening for my daughter in Year 9, I had not realised the level of concern that I had pushed down and ignored over this half term period. I found myself facing a wall of anxiety about her future and the impact of lockdown. I don’t think the press has helped, with their ever sweeping statements about the months students are behind and the plans to “catch up”.

Please remember, your children have time on their side in order to reach their best potential, prior to GCSEs and A levels. If this had to happen, far better it occurred at this stage of their education and I would like to reassure you that the capacity of children to learn, once secure and settled back in school is strong.

**As a Parent, how do I maintain the wellbeing of myself and my child around school work?**

Remember, your wellbeing is a priority. Make sure that you focus on Maths and English first. If your child is struggling, notify the teacher via the comments box in SMHW, and or attend the live lounge/ chat events. These sessions really help students to speak to the teacher and iron out problems. Celebrate the different learning that is taking place, many of you have told us of a new skill they have acquired. Cherish the time you have had together as a family and take comfort.

**Do we have any idea when schools will return?**

No – There is potential for the 8<sup>th</sup> March but this is not official and we have had no confirmation. We are hoping that we will have some clarity on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, but again please be aware this will remain dependent on COVID-19.

**What about catch-up, extended days and shorter summer holidays?**

Apologies, but most of these announcements come as surprises to us. As soon as we have clarity we will let you know. Edwinstree is clear that any catch-up programme is not a quick fix, but will need to be long term and sustained in order to support students to make concrete learning steps.

**When students return, will they be on their COVID timetable or will they return to a timetable with all their subjects?**

Unfortunately I don’t know, but we plan to prepare for the timetable we hoped to put in place after October half term, which allows all students to experience all subjects over a two week timetable. This involves a greater mix of teachers and students, however, if we cannot instigate this before Easter, we hope to after the Easter break.

**What about the missing subjects from my child’s timetable? When will they get to cover these?**

We hope to return to a fuller timetable after Easter, but in the meantime, we have made a few changes to the curriculum to support new foundation subject learning in each year group.

**Timetable after half term**

A copy of the timetable we will be running after half term is attached to the newsletter and available on the school website. The changes were being made to enable core subjects to be in a better position to support students at home. We have managed to do this for our Y5 and Y6 students.

These are the headline changes to the provision being offered in school:

**Year 5**

- Art instead of Humanities
- Mrs Barrett delivering science

**Year 6**

- Miss Bull delivering Science
- Mr Kelly delivering Humanities and RE
- Mr Hamilton delivering ICT

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## Year 7

- Ms Gravelle delivering in school Science; Ms Sanders supporting online
- From 8/3/21 Technology will move to Humanities

## Year 8

- Wellbeing through Art instead of Technology
- History instead of Geography
- Ms Gravelle delivering in school Science; Ms Sanders supporting online

## Live events

With the changes to the timetable, there will also be changes to the live events offered. We will publish this list towards the end of the first week back. However, links will continue to be published with the work and available in Teams. Please can we encourage you to log into Teams as this is the best way to track when live events are taking place? A reminder of how to do this is below.

**What is the best way to access LIVE lessons?** The calendar in Teams will show them when the sessions are taking place and at what time. You also have the option to turn on notifications for events. You could download the Teams app (available on a laptop, computer, tablet, or phone) or log into Teams through Office 365. All students have a login, which is their school email address and password.

**What is their school email address?** It is their computer login plus [@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). Their computer login is the year their year group started at Edwinstree, their first name and first letter of their surname (with a few exceptions). An example, the login for a Y7 student called Sarah Winter (even if she started this academic year) would be [18sarahw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:18sarahw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**What is their password?** The password is the same password they would use to log into the computers at school. These cannot be reset or changed at home. If your child struggles to access Teams and/or remember their password please contact Mrs Heywood on [r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). If you don't want to use the app or Office 365 and enter sessions as a 'guest', your child needs to enter their full name and class name as their 'guest name'. We are monitoring who we let into the Teams lobby for safeguarding purposes.

## Will Lateral Flow Tests be carried out in school on their return? What about the children currently in school?

We have LFT kits for testing Year 7 and 8, but the latest guidance from Public Health has advised against using lateral flow testing in school because of the increased risks of the new variants. Testing of students will be suspended until we have further notification.

## Will we still get daily phone calls to check if my child is not online?

Yes – It is a Government requirement to register daily online learning. We check at 11am daily and will contact you if we cannot see that your child is online, collecting hard copy, on an in-school learning track or registered as unwell.

## What happens if my child or a family member tests positive for Covid-19?

If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email: [covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). Any other absence please contact us via [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## Year 6 Science

After half term, Year 6 will be studying the heart in more detail. We will be dissecting a lamb's heart to gain some practical experience of a heart and details of how to safely dissect a lamb's heart will be published in the distance learning pack. We wanted to make you aware so you could order a whole lamb's heart from the butchers if you wish to complete the dissection with your child at home. If you are unable to complete this practical at home, there will be a video included for students to use to watch to inform their learning.

## What staff changes are taking place after half term?

We are exceedingly sorry to say goodbye to our science teacher Ms Davies. Mrs Barret will be taking over the lead for Year 5 and Year 6 in school and out. We also are pleased to welcome Ms Gravelle, an experienced science teacher, who will join our science team. We are also alerting you that Mrs Van Wyk will be on loan to Freman College from 8th March until September, in order to cover maternity leave for Food Technology. We are currently recruiting a replacement Humanities teacher and we will then return Geography and RE into the Year 7 curriculum. Mrs Van Wyk will return after the summer.

## SEND update

As Miss Campany is now on maternity leave we wanted to alert you to how we will distribute the SENCO role during her absence. We are pleased to advise you that Ms Malley, SENCO at Freman College who will be supporting us in an advisory role, overseeing the Educational Health Care Plan reviews and guiding us through the new 'banding' process. Ms Malley will arrange for parents and carers of students who are due a review of their EHCP in the summer term to be contacted next half term. Please continue to email [senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) if you have a concern.

## World Book Day

WBD on 4<sup>th</sup> March is just around the corner and we have a number of things happening for you to get involved in. We would really like it if you could sign up for the WBD Book Club which you can do by

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following this link. Please make sure you get your parents' permission.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/bookclub/>

Each year group will have a World Book Day themed lesson in the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March and you can choose to complete this on any day in this week or save it until 4<sup>th</sup> March. There will also be a WBD CoWo on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. As usual, World Book Day offers a £1 book token and many books are available for just £1 in a range of supermarkets - why not take advantage the next time you're helping with the big shop? Miss Devonshire

Click the links or copy and paste into your browser to receive your token

[KS2 shorturl.at/qHVX3](https://shorturl.at/qHVX3)

[KS3 shorturl.at/doZ38](https://shorturl.at/doZ38)

### **Events and activities you may wish to take part in over the holidays.**

If you are looking for activities to take part in online, with various theatre, museum groups etc we would like to recommend the below site. Many of the events listed here are free as long as you can access the internet.

<https://www.list.co.uk/events/kids/online-events>

<https://www.timeout.com/london/kids/activities/top-half-term-activities>

**Recommended Half Term Reading!** Please see the attached information

### **Buntingford Film Club**

Thank you for your ongoing support with this year's short film competition. We are delighted to announce we received 130 entrants from students all over the world including many local entries.

Our finals night will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7:15 pm live on Buntingford Film Club Facebook page and Buntingford Shorts YouTube channel. This will be a great opportunity for your students to see other examples of student film work, perhaps sparking ideas for future work of their own. We will be showing all category winners in full on the evening.

### **Nature Photo Competition (Optional!)**

Regularly getting out into nature is really important to me and my wellbeing. I'd really encourage you to get out for an hour a day, with the permission of your parents.

To encourage you, I'm thinking of starting a little nature photo-competition. There will be a prize, probably a chocolate bar!

The rules:

- Include nature-only photos with no people - this will allow me to create a montage of all our photos.
- Please send me just a single photo, whichever is your favourite.

- It must be taken by you between now and 23<sup>rd</sup> February

- Please send as a JPEG

- Send to Mr Galanides on SMHW or the following email address: [hoys8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoys8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

This attached photo might be my own entry! It does not have to be a snow scene.

### **Hertfordshire young people's coronavirus webinar - Wednesday 17 February 2021**

The webinar is Free for 11-19 year olds and will take place on Wednesday 17 February between **11.30am and 12.30pm**. This is an ideal opportunity for young people to listen to reliable information from the panel members below, who will be talking about some of the anxieties many people are experiencing and answering questions and concerns raised by young people living in Hertfordshire

Please see attached flyer and link below for further information.

[Hertfordshire County Council | New COVID-19 webinar for young people](#)

### **Jo Gant Headteacher**

Library info

Timetable – 22/2/21

Photo

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