



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
15/2/21	Half Term

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, whether in school or on line, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Any other absence please contact us via attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Weather forecast – snow predicted for the weekend Please have a back-up plan in place in the event of heavy snowfall causing travel disruption on Monday.

Online students:

A huge thank you to the vast majority of parents and students actively engaging in online learning. Please remember, if you are struggling for whatever reason, focus on the Core subjects (Maths, English and Science) and keep this moving forward. The wellbeing of your family is paramount. Try not to put yourself or your child under pressure. As many of us are also parents, we empathise with how difficult it is to hold down a job and support your child! Please contact admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk **no problem is too small please talk to us**, don't leave a worry.

Y8 Maths online Learning Due to ill health, the Leader of Maths has been unable to complete the maths online learning for Year 8. The maths team will produce a 'cover version', it will not meet the Monday deadline for next week but should be ready for Wednesday 27/1/21. Apologies for the delay.

What contact is the school making with parents if they have a concern about online learning?

The school daily downloads student activity on SMHW and we can see when a child is not active. Unless we are aware of the reasons they are not working online (ie in school, separate learning programme, problem at home) we will ring to check that all is ok so we can offer support to get your child learning.

Every Tuesday, the Year Teams meet to discuss student progress with a particular focus on English, Maths and Science. They agree support to make sure that, wherever possible, your children have the support they need to submit the work and complete their learning. In December, we knew where the students' learning was and we had plans to push for rapid progress. Realistically, this is difficult online, but what we are trying to do is gently, and with wellbeing in mind, support your child to keep on learning in these core subjects above all others.

What are we finding the most effective forms of learning online?

Video – the ability to play and replay introductions and model exercises currently minimises the requests for additional support and or problems that students face in the week. We also see that this is likely to produce the most submitted work (work that comes back to us to mark and commented on) and you will see this vehicle of learning continue to increase.

LIVE lessons – We are finding that as a lone teacher, this is difficult to deliver at the same time as teaching in a classroom and the opportunity to feedback to students in class and at home is lowered. However, for some students listening to the teacher explain what learning there is and modelling how to do this has helped.

LIVE helpdesk to support lessons – for those students who have engaged in this form of help, rather than posting a comment online, this has been really productive, particularly for maths which can cause deep anxiety. We encourage you to help your child attend a LIVE helpdesk session if they are struggling with work. It is really helpful and the sessions act like mini tutorials. They only have to stay till their problem is solved!

LIVE chat to support wellbeing - you will see HOYs and other staff offering wellbeing sessions to students if they are feeling disconnected and a little down. Again, it requires them to have the courage to share their worries with the teacher but those who have accessed these chats have again left feeling better.

A Timetable of when live sessions and helpdesks will be taking place is attached. This is also available on our website where it will be updated as and when things change.

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 As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

How can you support your child during this time?

- 1) Firstly by looking after you and remembering the school is here to help. Prioritise the welfare of your family over everything.
- 2) By recognising that if you can keep their Maths, English and Science learning going you are doing really well.
- 3) Sadly, by recognising that this is unlikely to be over by half-term and may well continue for a whole term, so any work you can achieve is important.
- 4) Find what works for you as a family. Some want to follow a timetable and although the work arrives on Monday, the website has all the year group timetables in school if you wish to follow one. This may not work for some families, but you can set your own timetable to meet your needs.
- 5) **By recognising that learning can only take place if a child submits the learning back to the teacher, so that they can mark it and return it with feedback.** Please help your child to identify what work is to be returned and help them to achieve this. Again, if you don't know how to do this email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk If you don't have the equipment to do this let us know.

SMHW – Important Reminder

Please can we remind parents and students to check the noticeboards on SMHW? Staff are (rightly) putting links to live lessons / helpdesks here but very few seem to check the noticeboard – Thank you.

I don't have a printer and I need to print some work, what can I do? Jonathan Hunt Estate Agents in Buntingford High Street have kindly agreed to support Edwinstree families by offering to print work out. We can't thank them enough for this support.

I collect a hard copy weekly, am I expected to return the work that has been completed?

Yes please. When you pick up a new pack, return the completed work for marking and feedback for future learning.

When will we have Parents Evening? We have now purchased the same IT Parents' Evening software Freman College use and we will be asking staff to take part in further training in the next two weeks. We hope to role at this programme this term and give parents an opportunity to book an appointment with their child's CORE teachers. Further information and key dates to follow.

Guidance on Remote Learning for students and parents

Further information can be found in the Policy section on our website

www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

If you are struggling please contact the school office.

Congratulations to Miss Campany.

Miss Campany surprised herself and all of us by giving birth to a baby girl six weeks early. Although the baby is in NICU as expected for early arrivals, both are safe and well. Please be patient while we adjust to her earlier than expected maternity leave. Please direct all SEND communication to the senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. The SEND Team will meet on Monday to discuss how quickly we can implement the maternity arrangements that we had planned.

When will Year 7 have Live Lessons?

As from 25th January, Miss Bustard will begin to host live sessions with each Year 7 tutor group. Please encourage your child to log in to the session which will be hosted via Microsoft Teams. Invitations will be sent via your child's school email address and a link will be posted in Show My Homework in case they cannot log into their school email.

The purpose of this session is to have a look at the work that has been set, help your child organise their tasks, check how their distance learning is going and to support them. It is also an opportunity for them to see their classmates and share ideas. See Timetable attached

Student Enrichment opportunities

Singing opportunity - 'The Greatest Show!'

You may have seen that the BBC are giving anyone the opportunity to take part in a virtual sing-along to 'Any Dream Will Do' from the musical Joseph. More details can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1K99K1SzWGLb3n2HD3V7Jlz/take-part-in-musicals-the-greatest-show>

It would be great to hear if people have given it a go. The deadline is Tuesday 26th January so there isn't long to get your entries in!

Online Dance opportunities

In the spirit of community and wellbeing during these difficult times Buntingford School of Dance are offering Edwinstree students 4 FREE dance classes on Zoom. The classes will be fun, energetic and lively, require no previous experience, and will aim to promote that 'feel-good' factor which can be quite elusive at the moment! The offer will be to attend classes in

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the weeks commencing 8th Feb & 15th Feb,
when there will be 2 classes both weeks. See
document attached for more details

**Hertfordshire Police have arranged a 'Lives
not Knives' live event on 26th January 2021**

All parents and/ or students are invited to
attend this event, please see the link below:

If you would like any further information, please
do not hesitate to contact PS Croughton at
helen.croughton@herts.pnn.police.uk<mailto:helen.c
roughton@herts.pnn.police.uk> or PC Liversidge at
danny.liversidge@herts.pnn.police.uk<mailto:danny.l
iversidge@herts.pnn.police.uk>

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Live session Timetable

Dance info

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