



Edwin Tree Middle School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

Student News

27th March 2020

Dear Edwin Tree Student

I thought it would be appropriate to write to you as well as your parents and update you on our plans after the Easter holidays, when we are pretty sure you will still be at home. However, if you are a student attending school daily, this letter will not apply to you as we update you daily at school. You can read it, but it might repeat what you already know.

How are you?

We genuinely miss you, the school is quiet and there are no hymns on Friday which is making us all sad. I miss your singing and seeing you enjoy the music, I even miss the Year 8 impressions of gold fish, whilst avoiding at all costs the option to sing! We miss the fizz of Year 5, the dedication of Year 6, the maturity of Year 7 and the sarcasm of Year 8.

Life from home is very strange and I had cabin fever yesterday, and I have only had one opportunity to work from home so far. I hope that you are managing to keep up with friends, taking Mr G's PSHE advice to look after your mental health and or Mr M's PE advice to keep active and work out with Joe Wickes?

I have bumped (metaphorically not physically) into a lot of parents who have been impressed with your work commitment - Well done! We have been working hard at school since last we saw you to make sure that the work we set after Easter is meaningful and continues the learning we had planned for you in the Summer Term. It is a serious matter to be out of school for so long, you will be the first generation since World War 2 to experience such drastic changes to everyday life.

What should you be doing next week?

Out of school this week and next

You should be working through the subjects that are on our website or the hard copy learning packs, using the books we gave you to complete the work set. We don't mind when, or how you choose to do your work, as long as you do it.

Please remember to prioritise Maths first, then English, then Science, the other subjects are a bonus.

What are the plans over the Easter holidays?

Please make sure that you continue to read for 20 minutes 5 times a week, but do take the holiday, stop and rest up!

What is happening post Easter?

Out of school learning post Easter It looks very much like social isolation and home-schooling will continue long into the Summer Term for the majority of you, and the school has been preparing to make sure that your learning continues. Whether you are a child learning at home or in school, you will complete the same learning journey, so that when you return to school, you will be united in what you have learnt.

To improve the learning we set you at home, our staff took part in online training for a package called “*Show My Homework*”. This is something that Freman College already use and it can be downloaded onto a desktop, laptop, tablet and phone. It will be the place that we store your home learning (Distance Learning) after Easter.

How will “*Show My Homework*” make my learning more accessible after Easter?

- 1) “*Show my Homework*” will provide the ICT system for us to set work for each subject, and provide links to videos and the internet to help you with your learning. It will also give you opportunities to ask the teacher in charge of each subject for individual help. This will happen at a set time.
- 2) Early next week, you will receive personal information on how to log on and set up for your parent and yourself. You can download an App so the programme works off your phone.
- 3) Each week you will receive set guides to learning in lessons of one hour. For example, a Year 8 English student will receive 4 hours of English a week. When and how they choose to do this is up to you, some of you might immerse and complete in a day, others will break it up in to one hour per day.
- 4) Your learning will be supported by video links and Miss Devonshire has been dragging people like me into the 21st century by training us on how to create video links set up on a Private ‘YouTube’ account. We can then give you demos and introductions to help you work from home. The YouTube account won’t allow for comments, these will come through “*Show My Homework*” More information to follow next week.
- 5) Learning that is interactive – you will be able to comment on the work set and ask for help through “*Show My Homework*. We will also publish a timetable next week, so you will know when a teacher is available to respond to any requests for help, posted during the week. For example the timetable might say Mrs Gant will reply to all comments for Geography Year 7 and Year 8 on Wednesday between 9am and 11am. You might post a comment on Monday because you are stuck but you know by Wednesday I will have provided you with help through a responding comment.
- 6) Multiple choice mini tests will take place every week in each subject, these will be posted on line via “*Show My Homework*. These will be completed online and sent back to teachers. The tests will be used as a diagnostic to let us know if you or your class have not understood something. They are private to the teacher, parent and you and replaces the question and answer session that would normally take place in class. They are nothing to worry about, they just help us to see if you have understood or whether we need to give you more support.
- 7) Just like in school, Assessments will be set each half term as a minimum that can be returned via the “*Show My Homework* portal” link these are graded.
- 8) “*Show My Homework* allows you take photos of your work and post it and we think this will be really helpful for subjects like Art and DT. You can also post video and recordings to us!

What if I don’t have a computer? “*Show my Homework*” is accessible on a computer, laptop, and tablet or by downloading the mobile phone app.

How do I set up an account?

Parents will receive a notification of their parent and student log-in details by ParentMail within the next two weeks. They will help you to set up and to issue you your password into the site.

What about if my internet access is poor, my data load is limited? I don’t think I can operate from a device?

Please read the advice above because despite hard copy, we will be following the same procedures outlined. Don’t panic, packs will be available for collection from the School Office from 21/4/20 and each pack will have the mini tests. These will need to be returned to the School Office when you collect the next pack, so that we can check your learning.

Any assessments will need to be returned as well. We have provided books for you to move into supporting your own work, but we will also provide lined paper for assessments with the weekly packs. Please note: all hard copy information will have instructions on how you can access the video learning via your own device, so you won’t miss out on links.

*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.*

Collective Worship and Reflection

As a Church of England school, we are clear that opportunities for reflection remain key to your wellbeing. We are currently exploring how we deliver a Collective Worship programme based around our key values during the time you are out of school. Our first Collective Worship from afar will be based around the Easter story and how we might use this story to reflect today. I will be delivering it and Mrs Kitchener is going to video me, wish me luck!

I am Year 6 what do I do about my SATs?

Don't worry about it. No one was ever going to ask you what you got in the exam, when you become an adult, so it is not worth worrying about.

But I am fed up, as I have done all this work?

We know and we are so proud of you, but none of this learning will go to waste and you will continue to learn. Plenty of time for the big and important exams at GCSE. For now just keep on learning, you have made great progress and we want this to continue.

I am Year 8, will I come back to Edwinstree before I go to Freman College?

We really don't know at the moment, this will depend on the Coronavirus and the measures that the Government have in place and whether they have impact. Please be reassured, whatever happens, we will help you to transition, even if it is remotely and we will offer you a 'Goodbye' opportunity at some point. Try to think only one week at a time and no further, as we really don't know it is always better to stick to the "knowns".

Take great care, stay safe and keep learning!

Best wishes

Jo Gant
Headteacher