



**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
09/02/21	Parent Consultations
10/2/21	In school students at home – school operating online-Parent Consultations
11/2/21	In school students at home – school operating online Parent Consultations
12/2/21	In school students at home – school operating online Parent Consultations
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](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Any other absence please contact us via [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Please be aware that there is an amber weather warning for snow in the East and South East over the weekend. Please have a back-up plan in place in the event:

- We are unable to open next week
- We need to send students home early

In the event of heavy snow, we will follow our normal snow procedures but will only contact you if there is a problem [by 7:15am at the latest].

Last week I aired the concerns and problems in juggling the significant number of students in school and supporting those students working online at home. I outlined the strategies to rebalance the workload so that the 80% of students at home were getting more of at least our CORE teachers' time. What progress have we made so far?

**Have we increased the capacity for the English and Maths teachers to support the 80% of students at home?**

We rolled out our new Year 5 Timetable this week, which enabled two of our Year 5 teachers to work from home for four days. The Year 6 timetable has now been secured to support the English and Maths teachers to increase their provision and capacity for online learning. This will commence after half term. This allows teachers more time to provide swift feedback to students and increase opportunities for video, live chats and potentially lessons. We are now exploring how we support our Year 7 and Year 8 English and Maths teachers to gain more online learning time.

**How will we support you to meet the Core teachers of English and Maths before half term?**

You will have recently received an invitation via Parentmail to book appointments for a virtual parent consultation and the allocated days and times this will take

place. Please note: appointments can be booked up until 4pm on Sunday 7/2/21 and we do recommend watching the linked video which explains how to go about booking your appointments with your child's Maths and English teachers. During the consultation, the teachers will focus on the following areas:

- Your child's wellbeing
- Explaining the gaps in their learning since Covid-19
- How they had begun to close the gaps during the first term
- What they are now focusing on
- How you can continue to help support them at home

Please be aware that at the end of the consultation period, the system will remove you from the conversation whether you have finished or not, but our teachers will do everything to adhere to the timings to provide enough time for you to ask questions.

**What online learning will be set next week?**

On Monday and Tuesday students will be set "normal" online learning. On virtual Parent Consultation days, while the Core teachers are speaking to parents, the foundation subjects will take over the learning from Wednesday 10/2/21 until Friday 12/1/21. A timetable of the planned provision for the three days is attached

The timings of the day will be the same as in school (AM session 9.00am to 11.30am; PM session 12pm to 2:30pm) and we will check online learning at 11am daily to see who is registered into SMHW or has a hard copy. We have deliberately planned to offer your child a "dip" into the subjects they may not have had an opportunity to explore due to COVID restrictions. We will send further details early next week on Tuesday, which will include a summary of what is being offered along with Teams links where appropriate. Video tutorials will also be available via SMWH. This timetable and links will also be available on the website.

**What do we hope to deliver from the enrichment timetable operating on Wednesday to Friday?**

Opportunities for children to:

- Get excited about the new subjects
- Have fun, get curious and explore
- Support wellbeing and confidence

If we get Wednesday to Friday correct, you will know because your child will be interested and keen (without your prompting) to talk about something they learnt. They may even want to explore one of the enrichment activities suggested for the half term. We also hope to relieve your pressure as a parent, in keeping students focused by providing work they are keen to engage in!

**Year 5 & Year 6 Food and Nutrition challenge/competition**

On Thursday 11/2/21 the Technology department will be setting the students a gourmet 'beans on toast' challenge. Although we do not wish students to see the challenge before Thursday morning, it may be helpful for parents to

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see it in advance! The challenge has been designed with minimum cost and minimal cooking in mind (we suggest using cold beans as it will be easier for the students to work with). We strongly recommend that all health and safety/practical presentations are watched before commencing any practical activity in the kitchen and that adult supervision is adhered to. Both myself (Mrs Booth) and Mrs van Wyk will be available on Teams during the day for any questions (please see challenge instructions for times and links). The instructions are attached. Mrs Booth (Technology Lead)

#### **Will we be setting half term work?**

Many of the enrichment activities that students will take part in from Wednesday to Friday next week will provide further suggestions and project work your child might choose to engage in over the holidays. This is their choice, it is designed to spark their interest and alleviate their boredom as we remain in lockdown. Other than sparking their interest, you, your child and the staff require time out to recover. This has been an extraordinary second academic year and for all of us, respite is important for our wellbeing. We hope you are able to find some.

#### **Latest guidance on what makes good online learning**

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Remote\\_learning\\_evidence\\_review/Rapid\\_Evidence\\_Assessment\\_summary.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Remote_learning_evidence_review/Rapid_Evidence_Assessment_summary.pdf)

#### **Year 5 and KS3 enrichment tasks next week**

During LGBTQ History month this February, students will look at what the terminology of LGBTQ means, the historical fight for their rights and how we, both in school and in our community, can show support. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kelly-  
[hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

#### **Updated Term Dates can be found on our website:**

[www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

#### **FSM Food vouchers**

As part of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, funding will be allocated to providing food vouchers to entitled families this February 2021 half-term. A total of £15 per entitled child will be provided for the February half-term (5 days). Families will receive support before the end of this half-term.

The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (Asda, Morrison's, Tesco and Sainsbury's) and will be sent to families directly by email or if necessary, they can be printed and we will distribute them.

**EdenRed Vouchers** – Parents who ordered EdenRed vouchers online have received them, but we are still awaiting delivery of the postal vouchers, they will be posted home as soon as they arrive

#### **What information have Herts County Council asked us to disseminate?**

#### **Anxiety in Children During COVID-19 - Online Course - FutureLearn**

Learn more about anxiety and how you can support the young people in your life struggling with anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic with UEA's free online course. This basic free course may be of interest [Anxiety in Children During COVID-19 - Online Course - FutureLearn](#)

#### **Extra-curricular information that is available**

##### **Herts & Beds Film Club**

Before Covid-19, Herts & Beds Film Club was held at Edwinstree for many terms and moved to ONLINE in 2020 with great success. Please visit

[www.hertsbedsfilmclub.webstarts.com](http://www.hertsbedsfilmclub.webstarts.com) or contact Gillian on

07341305131 for more information. Club starts Wednesday 10/2/21, leaflet attached.

##### **Jo Gant**

##### **Headteacher**

Virtual Parent Consultation Letter

Film Club

Y5&Y6 Tech Challenge

Enrichment TT

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