



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
**A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School**  
**Student News**

**July 2020**

**Dear Year 7 and our new Year 8 and Leaders of the School in September 2020**

This will be my last communication with you this term, I am so sorry that you have not been able to return to school as a whole year group, but I am so proud of all the efforts you have made keeping your learning going over this term. I am very excited for September and the Year 8 Leaders you will become, the school is in safe hands with you at the helm. I can't wait to see your smiley faces, hear your laughter and constant jokes. I can't wait to hear you ask lots of questions and to witness your honest approach to everything, particularly when you get things wrong. I look forward to seeing your confidence return as we help to restore your amazing capacity to learn.

This letter is designed to give you an idea about what school will be like in September. Your Parents will also receive a letter from me about our plans for September, but I thought it was important I wrote to you myself, it is your school and your education.

**What has the Government asked schools to do to try to keep us all safe and well?**

In September, the Government has asked us to follow the guidelines below:

- Students to stay in class bubbles (groups of 30) wherever possible.
- Students to stay in year group bubbles (year groups of 120) where you don't mix or intermingle together.
- To limit your movement around the school and reduce the likelihood of bumping into each other in corridors and stagger entry and exit times
- To look after all our staff and students by extra cleaning of all spaces that are used by both students and staff

**What will school look like and how will it work in September?**

On Friday, your parents will receive a copy of your timetable and the full details planned for September, but to get you thinking and preparing for the changes, I have listed the main ones below:

- All equipment will be provided for by school and will stay in school.
- You only need to bring a water bottle and a phone in if you have one.
- For the first two weeks of the term all students need to bring a packed lunch unless eligible for Free School Meals.
- All year groups will have a different start and end time.
- You will be met on the school field, the timetable will give you a letter to find your place on the field with your teacher for the morning.
- Lessons will be longer, there will be a morning session until 11:30am, a break for 20 minutes and then an afternoon session, with a 20 minute lunch time.
- Teachers will manage all breaks and lunch times to support you to socially distance.
- You will have almost all of your lessons (except some Science) in your designated classroom room, which will remain your room for the day.
- You will not have one tutor who looks after you, but a team of teachers to support you and your learning throughout the week.
- Year 8 team of teachers will be **Mr Baines, Mrs Kitchener, Mrs Booth, Mrs Knight, Mrs Gant, Mrs Galanides, Mrs Theroulde and Ms Sanders and Mr Kelly**
- Your Head of Year will be **Mr Galanides**

You will not have the whole curriculum available to you in one half term, you will only have one Expressive Arts and one Humanities subject. If we have to keep this timetable after the October half term, we will swap subjects around so that over a year, you will complete all the curriculum .

### **Will the timetable stay like this for the rest of the year?**

We very much hope not, as this timetable limits the great things about a middle school, the fact that you get to study lots of specialist subjects. However, at the moment this is the timetable that keeps the community safest, so it is the one we hope to use in September if nothing changes.

### **What about uniform and PE will we use the changing rooms?**

We advise that you always bring a water proof coat, as you will always register outside. The safest place for PE lessons is outside and not the changing rooms, so on the days you have PE you will be able to wear your PE kit to school, but please make sure you have a water proof coat, because we will be outside whatever the weather. Your parents have been sent the uniform list and it is displayed on our website. We have made some small changes to help parents easily source the clothing. We are not expecting ties in the first term and we are not worrying about our lovely PE kit for the first term. If your kit still fits great, but if not black shorts as normal, a white polo shirt for PE and black joggers and top.

### **Will the school be really different?**

Just to reassure you our vision for you has not changed. All staff are clear that you are:

- An individual and we need to support and plan for your own individual learning journey.
- A person with lots of 'wonderful' that we need to help you to find, and when you have found your 'wonderful', help you to be proud enough to show it to everyone.
- A student needs to be supported to flourish, and when we return will this will be based on helping you to feel confident and secure in school. We will also train you on how to use mobile phones safely, how SMHW will work for us this year and how you can build your confidence and wellbeing as we begin to reflect and hopefully recover from COVID-19
- A student that needs to '*live life in all its fullness*' and I think we have been doing that this term. COVID-19 is a historic moment for the world, and individuals who are born after you, will ask you what it was like and want to hear your experiences. During the first term, we want to plan some fun and enjoyment time into your schooling and we will talk to you about what this might look like.

### **What should I do over the holidays?**

Do your very best not to worry, Edwinstree is a warm and friendly school and your teachers have really missed you, we will be ready to help you learn again on your return. While on holiday, keep your reading going 5 times a week for 20 minutes, we don't mind what you read as long as it interests you and is within your age range. We are happy if you read alongside or together with a family member. Remember to play games that involve maths, this might be cards, dice, dominoes, monopoly etc. Get the family to play with you and to share their strategy (thinking) as they play along.

### **Will my education be damaged forever because I wasn't in school for a long time?**

**No**, it is stressful and more worrying for students sitting GCSEs and A level exams next year, but for you, we will take time to help you catch up your learning and make sure that you understand what you are learning. We don't need to race We will help you to do your best as we have another year to prepare you for Freman College and Year 9, before you begin your really important journey into GCSE learning. So we have time.

So for now, give yourself a pat on the back if you are one of the many who worked really hard during this time, if you are one of the few who didn't, then get ready to commit to working hard in September. We are already excited about seeing you again. I can't wait to see your smiling faces, so take great care of yourself and stay safe.

**Mrs Gant**  
**Headteacher**