



Amazing things  
happen here.



# WELCOME



I joined the school in September 2014, and it is a very great privilege to lead Etonbury Academy as it enters a new era and becomes an extended secondary school. As part of this transformation, a huge investment in new build facilities and resources is underway that is due to be completed for Easter 2018. This programme is ensuring the students and community benefit from educational opportunities that are second to none both now, and for generations to come.

Etonbury has always been a school at the very heart of

the community. Our growth is enabling local students to be educated through Key Stage 2, 3 and now 4 in one school, with the many benefits of continuity and progression that such an experience can offer.

Our school is a place where every child is safe, secure, supported and nurtured to be the very best they can be, and to grow as unique individuals sharing collective responsibilities, standards and values. We are academically rigorous and inclusive, offering a wide range of courses that confirm our identity as a creative and high-

achieving rural school. Every child is included, and no child is ever left behind.

Etonbury is a school that offers a life-changing education and experiences to every student. The vast range of clubs, sporting teams, extra-curricular trips and experiences are an ongoing testament to our belief that a school should be a place where memories are made that will last a lifetime. Every single member of our learning community, students, staff and parents plays an essential part in our collective success, and together we are united to

## AIMS AND VALUES

We aim to provide a world-class education that enables every child to achieve beyond their expectations. We aspire to a unique creative and rural identity that transforms the lives of every member of our learning community through shared British values and equality of opportunity for all.

We are a Values School, where our curriculum and moral and spiritual life is underpinned by the following values that are a monthly rotating area of focus for all students in all year groups. Here are a few of the values that we hold dear, and are focused on throughout the year:







make Etonbury Academy a school that is the pride of our community.

Amazing things happen here.



Alex Prior  
PRINCIPAL

## Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST)

BEST is the local multi-academy trust that supports and develops seven local schools, including Samuel Whitbread Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy, Gothic Mede Lower, Langford and Gravenhurst Lower, St Christopher's Academy and Etonbury Academy. All students are BEST students, and gain the advantages in terms of resources, facilities and investment that the combined strength and stability is able to offer.

**The school has achieved outstanding results and significantly exceeds national and local averages in all areas.**

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

EMPATHY

HONESTY

COURAGE

FREEDOM

LOVE

CO-OPERATION

TOLERANCE

Amazing things happen here

03

## ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS

Etonbury Academy students achieve at all levels and in many ways. The school is continually driving forward standards in care, behaviour, academic achievement, sporting prowess and community engagement.

Clear expectations of excellent behaviour at all times are continually reinforced through an innovative and exceptionally supportive pastoral system, and through close and ongoing parental engagement and collaboration.

Etonbury Academy is a friendly and caring community, but behavioural standards and expectations are very high and consistently reinforced. Our Home School Agreement is a key part of our approach and is a set of expectations that we uphold and require students and parents to also commit fully to.

In July 2017 Etonbury Academy achieved the best results in the school's history, with exceptional results in English, Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Mathematics all greatly exceeding the national averages. The past three years have seen a rapid improvement in attainment and is part of our drive to improve teaching and learning across all subjects and key stages. Our impressive success is a reflection of the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our staff and the engagement and efforts of our students and parental support.

Our Key Stage Four curriculum, offering a unique and exciting range of courses that clearly reflect our creative rural identity as a high-achieving school, is attracting outstanding new colleagues from across the region, all enthusiastic and committed to the Team Etonbury ethos that permeates all that we do. As we expand, we are continually appointing exceptional qualified and experienced subject specialist teachers with proven successful track records from the secondary sector, to deliver the very highest standard of education available.





*Dear Mr Prior,*

*I would just like to pass on some wonderful feedback.*

*I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to your staff for their fantastic assistance in helping settle in my son into Year 5.*

*He is not feeling anxious as he first was and the fact he was privileged enough to help create a lunch time club has comforted him greatly, especially due to his additional needs and his difficulty in making friends.*

*Please pass on my gratitude to all,*

*Kind regards,*

*Year 5 parent*




## YEAR 4 TO 5 TRANSITION - ETONBURY JUNIORS

At Etonbury the transition process from Year 4 into Year 5 starts earlier than you might think. Staff from Etonbury and our feeder schools meet on a regular basis throughout Year 4. This is so that we start to get to know your child long before they arrive. There are several transition events throughout the year giving students who will be attending Etonbury the chance to come here and experience life in the Academy. Brand new for September 2017 is our Etonbury Juniors Primary Unit, where all Yr5 and Yr6 students are based with their own dedicated Primary Teaching and Support Team. Students largely remain in their established teaching groups from the lower schools when they move to Etonbury. This innovative approach enormously aids a rapid and smooth transition.

We have our main Year 4 Open Evening, usually in November which is an opportunity for prospective students and parents to take a look at the school and speak with current students and staff. It also affords a chance to look at some of our fantastic new facilities and resources.

We always seek to ensure that our new students can integrate as smoothly as possible into the daily life of the school. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact your current school or the Etonbury KS2 team to discuss. We look forward to welcoming your children at the next stage of their educational journey at Etonbury Academy very soon.





**The launch of Key Stage 4 at Etonbury is a unique opportunity for students to benefit from a seven year journey at one school. Etonbury staff will know and understand them more than ever before.**

## THE CURRICULUM

### Overview

Etonbury Academy offers a broad and inclusive curriculum that is designed to enable every child to succeed to the very highest level they are capable of. However, we also know that students must and indeed deserve to enjoy their studies and school life, so we ensure that every Etonbury student experiences subjects, courses and activities that will not only fire their enthusiasm for learning, but enable them to develop as confident, well-rounded resilient individuals who will face the future with valuable learned skills and confidence.

The national education landscape is changing rapidly, and the national curriculum is also evolving. Initiatives such as the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 measures are providing additional focus, and a move away from levels while GCSE's are transformed into new qualifications graded 1-9, may make many parents and carers unclear as to what are the best choices for their children.

Information evenings, our Careers and Guidance Service, and every teacher, head of year, middle leader and senior leader will ensure that you have the facts and the support to make the right informed choices. We will work with you, and be there at every step of the journey your child makes with us.



### Key Stage 2

Our experienced and dedicated specialist Etonbury Juniors KS2 team comprises a healthy mix of male and female teaching and support staff, all of whom are primary trained.

KS2 students have their own specialist teaching block with support facilities and play area that helps them make the transition from lower to secondary education. The move from a lower school to Etonbury is carefully managed to ensure that there is much that is familiar for Yr5 students, as well as many exciting new opportunities that a secondary school can offer.

Students follow the Primary Curriculum, with considerable emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Our Accelerated Reader programme helps all students across KS2 and in to KS3 to develop a love of reading, and confidence in their literacy skills. We have invested heavily in the "Rising Stars" programme and resources to support every child throughout the key stage.

The curriculum at KS2 is topic based which is considered to be 'best practice' in primary schools. Most of the lessons are linked by a common theme. The topics in KS2 include: Marvel-lous Dahlings, Shipwrecked, Hits and Myths, Victorians, Greek Myths and Who am I?

The students have Numeracy and Literacy every day, 3 Science lessons a week, 3 PE lessons a week (1 of these focuses on fitness), RE, PSHCE, Design Technology (including Resistant Materials, Food Technology and Textile Technology), Drama, French, Humanities, Computing, Art and Music.

### Key Stage 3

KS3 builds upon learning and skills developed during KS2 and provides a period of preparation, development, and transition toward KS4.

Students continue with all the subjects they studied at KS2, and will undertake more substantial project based work and experiential and practical learning. In addition to this they also benefit from KS4 taster lessons which introduce them to a number of 'new' subjects and options that they will have the opportunity to study in years 9, 10 and 11.

Key stage 3 is a vibrant period of development, with lots of exciting and engaging trips, extra-curricular activities, sporting opportunities and time to develop as responsible young citizens. Our KS3 PSHCE programme ensures that our students learn the life skills and social awareness that will serve them well in the years to come.

### Key Stage 4

Our KS4 curriculum has been developed to be broad, balanced, exciting and most importantly inclusive of all our students. The curriculum has an emphasis in developing core skills in literacy and numeracy as well as wider skills that can be accessed via the GCSE, BTEC and V. Cert courses on offer.

Major investment in the very latest teaching resources and facilities are in place to ensure every student benefits from the best opportunities in the area.

There are curriculum based learning trips, both within the UK and abroad, and our amazing range of extra-curricular clubs and sports teams continue to be available to ensure that the student experience at Etonbury is well rounded, enjoyable, and builds confidence and life-skills for all.

KS4 at Etonbury is an amazing personal and academic journey, where every student has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

### Key Stage 5

The Academy aims to commence delivery of Key Stage 5 provision (A Levels and Vocational Courses) from September 2019 in close collaboration with the well-established and successful Samuel Whitbread Academy Sixth Form. Our intent is to ensure local students are able to continue their journey at post-16 by accessing the established resources and expertise of BEST. Etonbury will ensure the excellent standards embedded throughout the preceding years are built upon to provide students with every opportunity to succeed and progress to Higher Education if they so choose, or into the workplace with confidence and skills.

Extensive careers guidance, including visits to industry and universities will take place throughout Year 11 (and earlier for some) and continue through Years 12 and 13.



## SPORTS AND HEALTHY EATING

Sport at Etonbury is not only an area of considerable success, with our teams winning many trophies, competitions and events locally and regionally, but it also plays a key role in the health and wellbeing of all our students. The school teams at all year groups include football, netball, rounders, rugby, hockey and cricket. We have recently been national champions at cheerleading.

Our highly successful PE faculty make full use of our extensive school grounds and very large site, and run a comprehensive range of sporting activities throughout the year. The new build facilities have further enhanced our provision, and include a four court indoor sports hall in addition to the existing school gymnasium, a full size floodlit 3G artificial pitch, a new state-of-the-art fitness centre and all-weather tennis courts. These facilities are available for community membership and use.

Our new canteen provides excellent nutritionally balanced food at a very reasonable price and is extremely popular among students and staff alike. Themed food days celebrate world cuisine and are designed to broaden students' culinary horizons.

The range of indoor and outdoor dining spaces make for a very smart and pleasant dining experience where students can mix and mingle with friends who are either enjoying school dinners or bringing their own packed lunches.



**A £15 million investment from BEST and Central Beds Council is providing teaching and sporting resources and facilities that are second to none, and it is just the start.**





## EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Etonbury Academy is famous for offering an extraordinary range of clubs, sports teams, trips, visits and residential.

Every teacher is involved in running a club, and uptake from the students is huge with virtually every student enjoying at least one club per week, and often considerably more.

This commitment to ensuring that life at the school is rich, varied and inclusive for all is a fundamental element of Etonbury's success.

Clubs range from Table Tennis to Rugby, Dr Who to Warhammer, Farm Club to Engineering. Drama and Music are particularly active areas of interest for the students, and the choir and Lamda clubs are always full.

Rotarians visit the Academy to work with students on the Youth Speaks debating competition and we are always involved in local community art projects. Our hugely popular cheerleading squads are regional and national champions.

Throughout their time at Etonbury Academy students are able to experience horizon broadening trips and residential

experiences. These include a visit to Normandy, a PGL Watersports Activity trip to the South of France, a ski trip, numerous theatre and musical trips, a Year 5 Activity Residential, and much more.

We are very aware of the financial impact of school trips so we always ensure that they are good value and provide help and support where needed.

At Etonbury we work hard to ensure that every student has the opportunity to build memories that will last a lifetime.

Theatre Visits

Music Workshops

Outdoor Adventures

Residential Trips

Dance Clubs

Museum Visits

Magic Workshops

Animal Adventures

Cheerleading

Cooking Competitions

Fundraising Projects

Drama Workshops

Archaeological Digs

## PERSONALISED LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Etonbury Academy places the child at the centre of everything we do and every decision we make. We know that success and happiness stems from a wide range of opportunities and by developing resilience and talent.

Our teaching and pastoral staff continuously monitor and track every student, providing timely support and assistance when needed, and ensuring their learning is built around them and their needs.



## CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Etonbury Academy believes that a successful education begins at home, and recognises the challenges that face many parents, carers and families in the 21st Century.

We have made a major commitment to ensuring that all students are supported to an exceptional level in school by investing in an experienced and dedicated pastoral support team.

We have appointed a Family Support and Outreach Officer who is available to work with families who may need additional support, and help with attendance and other family issues. Please get in touch if you think we can help.



**"Students are proud of their school, behave well and have positive attitudes to learning."**

**Ofsted**





## BULLY FREE FORM STATUS

The Academy has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, and means it. Every single student works through our Bully Free Form Status programme that culminates in every member of that form group signing a pledge never to bully, or stand by and allow others to be bullied.

We have embedded a culture where the students consider bullying to be unacceptable, and not something that has a place at the school.

On the rare occasions where genuine bullying may occur, the school takes swift and decisive action, in co-operation with parents and students, to deal with the situation and ensure it does not recur. This action will include support for all students involved, and appropriate sanctions.

## PSHCE

Throughout their time at Etonbury, all students will benefit from an excellent and powerful PSHCE and Enrichment programme, underpinned by our commitment to British Values that will enable them to broaden their understanding of the wider world.

Our students will face new challenges and exciting opportunities in their lives, and we are determined to ensure that every Etonbury student develops the confidence and skills that will enable them to become successful, resilient and happy citizens of the future.

"PSHCE is really interesting. The teacher knows so much about what it is like to be young and you can really talk to her."

Millie, Year 7





## SUPPORT FOR THE MOST ABLE

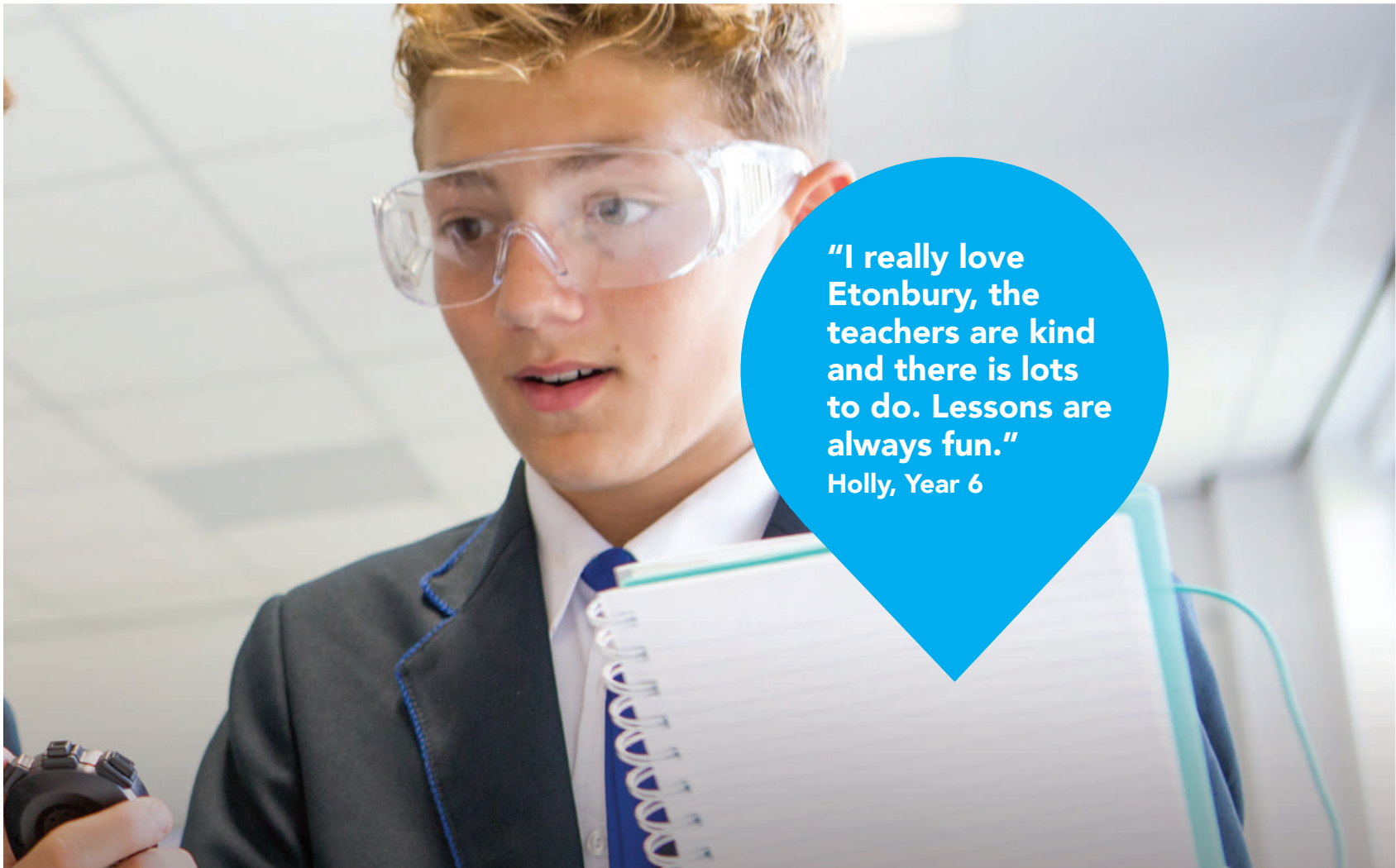
All students have individual needs and therefore we try to personalise learning as much as possible. Our extensive use of data also helps us with early identification of those who may benefit from additional stretch and challenge.

Our most able students are provided with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge through special projects within and beyond the classroom.

We have two Gifted and Talented (MASt – More Able Students) co-ordinators and innovative programme of extra-curricular events, trips and experiences to help stretch our most able students.

There are no limits to the learning opportunities at Etonbury. We will always do our very best to ensure that each and every student, no matter what their starting point, leaves our care having fully realised their potential.





**"I really love Etonbury, the teachers are kind and there is lots to do. Lessons are always fun."**  
Holly, Year 6

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)**

We are very proud of the support we give to children who have additional learning needs. Our SEND provision is led by our highly proactive SENDCO, who is also a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

A team of experienced and trained Teaching Assistants work closely with subject teachers and the pastoral staff to ensure that all students in their direct care are supported to achieve the very best they can.

The SEND team also work closely with the Pastoral Support team, parents and carers, and external agencies when required and appropriate.

The whole teaching and support staff receive weekly updates on SEND student progress, and benefit from regular professional training and development.

## **STUDENT VOICE**

The Academy is proud of all our students and we listen to their suggestions and ideas continually. We are a learning and caring community, and through our system of Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, Senior Prefect Team and Student Council, we ensure that every student's voice is heard.

Our Student Leaders work closely with staff and the school Senior Leadership Team, undertake duties, and provide guidance, support, challenge and model the excellent standards and values that underpin all that we do.



## FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The original core of the school was built to a very modern design in the 1950's, and is still spacious, light and airy today. Wide corridors and classrooms with large windows create an open atmosphere where students feel part of our beautiful rural environment. Started in March 2015 an ongoing major investment programme is providing Etonbury students with facilities and resources that are second to none.

Investment in technology ensures every classroom is online, with full digital display facilities, WiFi, tablets, laptops and more than three hundred chromebooks along with a wide range of education and industry software is available to students. In addition, there are new Apple Macintosh suites and CAD suites.

We ensure that every student has unlimited access to technology for learning. The school is entering a new phase of personal digital devices for all students, and this programme will develop over the course of the next couple of years.

In September 2016 the Academy opened new state-of-the-art sports facilities of regional importance.

These include a brand new sports and fitness centre for student and community use with 40 fitness stations, four indoor courts, basketball, badminton, indoor football, cricket, an outdoor full-size 3G artificial floodlit football pitch, rugby pitches, a 400m athletics track, a mountain biking track, a second indoor gymnasium, and soon to come will be a dance and aerobics studio and outdoor all-weather tennis courts.


Indoors there is a brand new student services hub, fully staffed to provide any and all support that students need, new medical bay, amazing new science labs and design technology workshops, a large and stylish new canteen where very tasty healthy eating is the menu du jour, rooftop art rooms with natural light and outdoor art and sculpture terrace, and a fantastic new study centre where students can access a world of knowledge, borrow books, borrow e-readers and tablets, and even borrow cameras, audio recorders and more.

**"The new teaching block and Pendleton Centre is awesome!"**

**Jack, Year 9 student**







"I want all concerned to know how very grateful we are and what a wonderful job you are doing. Educating a child I believe starts with self-belief and life-skills but often these are forgotten."

Mrs R.

## ETONBURY IN THE COMMUNITY

Our Academy is at the very heart of the communities we serve, both geographically and through its sixty year history of serving generations of local students.

The school has an active outreach programme that supports many local initiatives, charities and organisations. Etonbury students regularly undertake community work that is challenging and rewarding, and the school is always pleased to welcome parents, grandparents, family members and local residents to a wide range of school events throughout the year.

The Academy is a key community resource and makes its facilities and resources available to local sporting teams, clubs and groups on an ongoing basis, and is delighted that our new community sports centre and all weather pitch are further enhancing the services we are able to offer the local community of which we are immensely proud to play an integral part.





## ETONBURY FARM

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As part of our expansion programme, the Academy has invested in this valuable resource, already an immensely popular extra-curricular activity, and transformed it into a teaching facility for our new KS4 rural course offer.

The farm is home to a range of livestock including ducks, chickens, sheep and pigs along with vegetable gardens, poly-tunnels for experimental crop growing, and a wild habitat and pond.

Our farm plays a key role in our identity, and will grow as the school grows to provide our students with new courses, clubs and activities that will enrich the educational lives of our learning community.

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

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Etonbury Academy has an active and competitive House system. Currently there are four houses, Thatchers, Saddlers, Foresters and Wheelwrights. These are historic to the school, and are the local trades represented in our shield.

There are regular inter-house competitions throughout the year, and many students are in the same houses that their parents and even grandparents were in when they were students here. This generational continuity is a rare feature in a school and something the Academy values greatly.

The houses are led by House Captains, selected by students and staff for their leadership skills and commitment to whole school events.

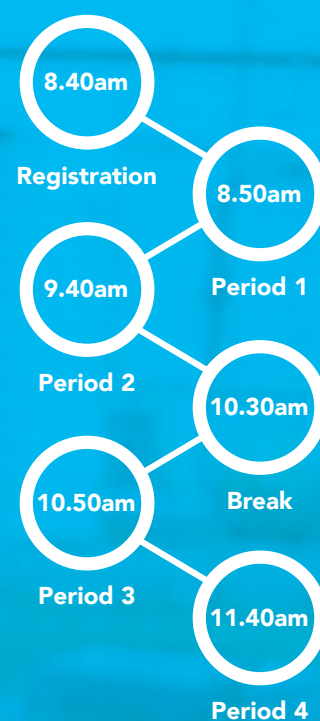
All staff are members of houses, and Heads of House are staff members who enjoy the friendly(!) rivalry with their colleagues.





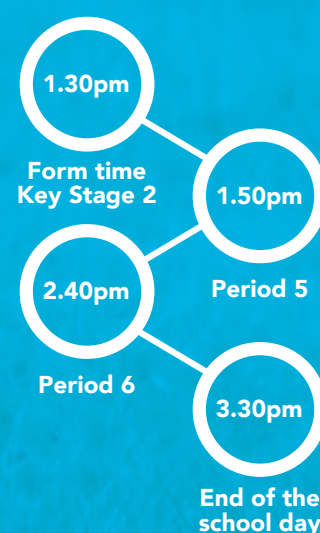
# THE SCHOOL DAY

We operate a six teaching period day, with each period being 50 minutes long.



12.30pm Lunch for Key Stage 2  
and form time for Key Stages 3 and 4

12.50pm Lunch for Key Stages 3 and 4





## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

### Helping you to support your child

We know that busy parents face many challenges and we will always work with you to ensure the best for your child.

We understand that effective communication with home is essential for the success of the student and supporting a harmonious home environment. Etonbury Academy makes extensive use of electronic communications systems. We send the majority of our email communications to parents on a Friday. These are tracked and monitored to ensure receipt.

We send our periodical newsletter, The Etonbury Echo, every term. This is a full colour electronic newsletter that celebrates student success and experiences at the academy. In addition, the Principal sends a detailed and substantial letter summarising progress and key and upcoming developments at the school, to all parents and carers at the end of each term.

We also use a texting system to send quick notifications to parents where necessary, and parents will receive a text if their child receives a detention or is absent.

The Academy sets all homework via Show My Homework, an online system that notifies parents of all homework set, when due, and resources needed to their smartphones via an App. We do this to minimise confusion and alleviate well understood pressures on students and parents over homework. It is extremely easy to use and has proven immensely popular with parents since we introduced it over a year ago.

We have produced an advance payment system for food technology, whereby the large majority of ingredients are provided by the school, thus reducing demands on parents.

We have also recently introduced a full online payment system for food and all school trips and activities with biometric identity. This is proving very successful and popular.

Copies of all letters home are held on our website currently, and continually updated. And we use Facebook and Twitter to keep you informed of school news on a day-to-day basis, and provide parents with photos and updates during school residential and other trips.

We have been proud to develop an enormously popular After School Club last year, and a Homework Club. We run these as a not-for-profit service that provides excellent care and support for students and families.

You will also be invited to regular Meet the Tutor evenings to discuss the progress of your son or daughter, and ensure you are fully informed of their educational development.

And finally, there are information evenings throughout the year covering topics such as Key Stage Transition, Options and Careers, E-Safety for Parents, Residential Trips and Pastoral Care. From time to time we will ask you for feedback on key issues and developments via electronic surveys. These have proven very useful and we really encourage you to participate.

**At Etonbury we listen, we care and we are on the same side - Always.**





## GETTING INVOLVED IN ACADEMY LIFE: TEAM ETONBURY

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The success of Etonbury Academy and every child who takes their educational journey with us really is a result of a team effort that includes the students, staff, governors, BEST, local businesses and organisations, Central Bedfordshire Council, the community, and crucially, every single parent.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you, as parents and carers, to visit the school and be a part of our future. We will consult with you, by email, social media, and through surveys. We will also meet with you at parent consultation evenings, social and sporting events, and through pastoral care.

We urge you to support EACA, our community parents association and the fantastic work they do for the school.

And above all, we invite you to join Team Etonbury and work with us, because we are all on the same side with the same high aspirations for your child, always.





ETONBURY  
ACADEMY

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