



PARENT BULLETIN



'A welcoming & nurturing place to learn'



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



“Season’s Greetings as we come to the end of our first term this academic year” As we reflect on the past few months, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the dedication and resilience shown by our students, staff, and the entire school community. This term has been a period of growth, learning, and adaptation as we embraced new challenges and opportunities.



Welcome to the Christmas edition of our parent newsletter, as we celebrate the end of a busy and rewarding first term of this academic year. It has been truly inspiring to witness the hard work, achievements, and kindness shown by our students and staff alike. At this time of year, we are reminded of the importance of giving. Whether it's through acts of kindness, time spent with loved ones, or supporting those in need. The true spirit of Christmas lies in generosity, compassion, and connection. We thank everyone for their very generous donations to The Need Project.

Recently, I had a wonderful afternoon with A Level students at Fairfield Manor Care and Nursing Home, where I had the pleasure of meeting the residents. The visit featured a tour of the facility, opportunities to engage in conversation with the residents, as well as play board games and solve puzzles together.

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the first ever, 'Speak Up, Speak Out' public speaking competition. All the students displayed courage and confidence as they stood in front of an audience and judging panel. Special congratulations go to our winners and runners up from each key stage who will now take part in the trust-wide final in March: Seren B, Oliver B, Tamron B, Ella G, Alice B and Phoebe W, pictured below.

In a poignant moment of unity, the students and staff of Etonbury paused to reflect and remember on Armstice day. Our 'ETA Remembers' assembly was a solemn occasion, remembering and reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who served. We had a beautiful memorial created by students from all years.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening has become a key annual event that signals the moment when year 11 students start contemplating their 'next steps' and exploring their options after the age of 16. We provide a selection of over 20 A Levels and Level 3 BTEC subjects, creating a smooth transition from GCSE studies to post 16 education. As part of our efforts this term, much of our work during form times focuses on helping students navigate these exciting decisions about their futures.

Congratulations to our year 11 students for successfully completing their Mock examinations; they have demonstrated outstanding dedication over the two weeks of mock exams.

In this edition

- Principal message
- years 5-11 updates
- Sixth Form update
- Sports news
- Other school news
- Pastoral Care
- Useful info and reminders
- Key dates



Speak up, Speak out - Seren, Tamaron, Oliver, Ella, Alice & Pheobe



Fairfield Park Manor - Madison (Sixth Form)

As they prepare for the upcoming real examinations, it's crucial to encourage your children to stay focused and seek assistance when necessary. Extra revision sessions have commenced, maths starts back in the new year.

On Wednesday, we had our Christmas dinner, and this was coupled with Christmas Jumper Day; it certainly made for a festive atmosphere around school. We took the opportunity to raise money for Save the Children and a local charity The Garden House Hospice, Letchworth. Thank you all who kindly donated towards these charities and to all the members of the catering team.

Our 'Rocking Around the World at Christmas' production took place over two evenings this year. It was a true celebration of the incredible talent at Etonbury, and it was a joy to witness so many gifted performers on stage, sharing their artistry with a live audience. A huge thank you to Mrs Bramachari-Limb and Mr Jarrett.

It would not be Christmas without our annual BEST Christmas card competition the students at Etonbury who were placed both received a certificate; category: Yrs 5-8, 2nd place – Erin H, highly commended went to Lara R (right).



Our Heads of years have all delivered their achievement assemblies this week, it has been a great pleasure to see so many students receiving awards for their achievements, going above and beyond, not just for learning. Congratulations to all our award winners and enjoy your celebrations.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous new year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Mrs J Young



Thank you
for your generosity!

CONSERVATION WORK AT ETA..



Etonbury Academy Students Plant Over 120 Tree and Hedgerow Saplings.

Year 6 and year 7 students rolled up their sleeves this half term to plant over 120 tree and hedgerow saplings along the perimeter fence behind Primary.

The project, was organised by our school's 'Sustainability Lead', Devon Stirton-Croft, with support from sixth form students. Equipped with spades, gloves, and plenty of enthusiasm, they worked together to prepare the soil, plant the saplings, and ensure they were protected for future growth.

Teachers praised the students for their teamwork, and active involvement with many students saying they enjoyed being outside and felt proud to be planting new trees, and to help improve the school environment.



The new saplings will boost biodiversity, support local wildlife, and enhance the school grounds. Well done to all involved for making a lasting, positive impact for our academy!





YEAR 5 - HIGHLIGHTS!

USEFUL LINKS

[CLICK TO READ OUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS!](#)

[CLICK TO FIND A MEMBER OF STAFF](#)

[CLICK FOR ACCELERATED READER INFO](#)

[CLICK FOR OUR BROMCOM GUIDE](#)



Year 5

As an exciting culmination to our cross curricular theme 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' based in and around the classic Roald Dahl book - we were delighted to take all of our year 5 students to visit the museum in Great Missenden, where Roald Dahl lived. The Roald Dahl Museum gave our students an opportunity to see the creative genius of the famous writer and walk in his footsteps on a tour of the village. enriching their study of creative writing and literature. They had the opportunity to visit the shed where the legendary author crafted his most beloved children's books, discovered the locations in the village that inspired his tales, and even brainstormed some of their own story ideas! As well as studying Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the children have been developing their persuasive writing skills along with character descriptions and poetry.

In maths the focus has been on multiplication and fractions which will continue into the new year with the addition of decimals and percentages too. We have worked incredibly hard in our science lessons investigating materials. Each class had exciting lessons learning about water, reversible and non-reversible changes and what happens when materials are mixed! It was a wonderful experience!

After Christmas we move onto a new theme - Island Invaders (Vikings), we will all be reading Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo and a great deal more. Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season.

Merry Christmas Mrs Beckwith & The year 5 Team



Roald Dahl Museum

Visiting the Roald Dahl Museum offers our students an immersive experience exploring the life, works and inspiration of a much beloved author.

At the museum, we stepped inside interactive galleries, peeked into a replica of Dahl's 'Writing Hut', and discovered the creative writing process behind beloved characters and stories.

As we walked through the village in which Dahl lived, we imagined little Matilda walking herself to the library, the BFG blowing dreams through the windows of the beautiful, thatched cottages and Danny and his Dad fixing cars in the garage.

Real life collided with the imaginary stories we had, until now, kept tucked away in our minds and a wonderful time was had by us all. More photos can be seen on our social media pages.



P.E. LEGENDS

PE legend of the week awards are given out by our wonderful PE team each week across the key stages to students who stand out for determination, effort, performance, amazing values and more!



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:



Amelia N



Dexter D



Thea W



ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Jason - Armstrong
- Immy - Curie
- Henry - Brunel
- Jasmine - Curie
- Beth - Curie
- Diana - Curie
- Dexter - Da Vinci

• Zechariah - Da Vinci

• Amelia - Earhart

• Isabelle - Earhart

• Edie - Brunel

• Millie - Armstrong

MULTI - Millionaires; Mattie (Brunel), George (Earhart)





EXCITING NEWS FROM YEAR 6!

This term, year 6 students have thoroughly enjoyed two exciting themed topics. We started with a thrilling exploration of "Stormbreaker" book 1 of the spy series by Anthony Horowitz, followed by a deep dive into the Victorian Era. As a 'scintillating start' to our Victorian Era topic, we had the pleasure of visiting the British Schools Museum, Hitchin.

USEFUL LINKS



This visit gave the children a hands-on opportunity to step back in time and experience what life was like for a Victorian child.

The experience included a session in a Victorian classroom where the children practiced the 'three Rs' using slates and ink pens. Some students even had the full experience of Victorian discipline—one ended up wearing the 'dunce's hat' while another was 'caned' for a small misdemeanour! The visit continued with a tour of the schoolmaster's house, followed by a session of 'drill' in the yard, where the children lined up and practised military-style drills. While everyone found the day fascinating, most students agreed that they preferred their modern classroom setting!

We have been reading "Street Child" in English. This has inspired a range of writing activities, including letter writing, diary entries, narratives, and a persuasive pieces. In maths, we have focused on mastering the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions, and converting units.

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- George - Jupiter
- Lily - Jupiter
- James - Saturn
- Laila - Mars
- Arthur - Neptune



- Eliora - Mars
- Angelo - Jupiter
- George - Neptune
- Faris - Neptune
- Alice - Neptune
- Isabella - Titan
- Elliot - Titan

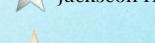
Year 6

PRaise POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:



Isabelle B



Jackson H



Ariella B

P.E. LEGENDS

PE legend of the week awards for this half term!



This year, we have continued setting for maths, which has proved very successful. The year 6 team is incredibly proud of how the students approached their mock SATs. They embraced the challenges with determination and a positive attitude, showing real perseverance and have been able to reflect on the progress they've made. It's important for the children to remember that the mock SATs are just a chance to demonstrate what they've learned, and there's no need for concern. In the new year, SATs books will be available for you to order via ParentMail to support continued learning.

In addition to their academic achievements, many students have represented the school in various sports and taken full advantage of the extracurricular clubs on offer. Our form prefects also took part in 'tree-planting' behind A block and managed to plant sixty tree saplings. Donated by the Woodland Trust as initiative and supports Etonbury's ongoing commitment to enhance biodiversity, sustainability and ecology on site and contributes to the 'Oxford to Cambridge National Forest Project'.

In the new year, we look forward to our next topic of 'We Will Never Surrender', based around World War 2. As a compliment to this topic, we will be visiting The Imperial War Museum, Duxford to enhance our learning. In English, we will be using the text, "Goodnight Mr Tom" by Michelle Magorian.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support of the year 6 team, who are fully committed to helping each child navigate not only the academic challenges of their final year of primary school, but also the emotional ones. We know that the nurturing environment created by teachers, staff, and parents plays a vital role in supporting the children's growth. We are very proud of how hard the students have worked this term, and we look forward to seeing them progress further in the new year.

Wishing everyone a joyful and restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming the students back in the new year.

Head of year 6 - Mrs N Crockford
ncrockford@bestacademies.org.uk



YEAR 7 - AIMING HIGH!

Currently I am assisting Mrs Bailey with head of year duties and I have seen some incredible achievements from so many year 7 students already. As a cohort they have amassed 11670 achievement points and continue to excel across a variety of lessons and extracurricular activities.

Year 7 are excelling in many areas across the school including 10 students who had the honour of attending The Diana Award, we were proud to be among a select few schools in the country participating in this initiative. The award was founded on the late Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change their community, country & world. The students had a fantastic day and will be using the skills they learnt to support others in school.

The year 7 boys have been outstanding this year, they have played every game with respect and carried themselves exceptionally well. They reached the league semi-final yesterday and were unfortunately knocked out on penalties. The students learned the importance of accepting and respecting the referee's decisions; however the boys represented the school superbly and were a credit to us throughout.

This season of pride also included an exciting opportunity where the boys travelled all the way to Norwich City Football Club for a talent identification program. They participated against multiple schools and were again a credit to the school, carrying themselves with maturity and professionalism throughout the event.

They also have a County Cup second round game today against Lincroft, and we wish them all the best for this important fixture.

P.E. LEGENDS



Assistant Head of year 7 - Mrs R Gould
rgould@bestacademies.org.uk

Head of year 7 - Mrs S Bailey

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Cara G
- ★ Saanvi P
- ★ Junior A

A combined year 6 and year 7 team took part in a friendly fixture against RBA, managed by Miss Bridges. The year 7 students expressed how much they enjoyed having Miss Bridges as their manager, and she also spoke about how much she enjoyed managing the team. It was a wonderful occasion, giving students the valuable opportunity to represent the school and wear the school football kit with pride.



The year 7 basketball team have enjoyed an impressive run of fixtures and have now secured their place in the finals against RBA. The team has been expertly managed by Mr Gray, who has been an absolute credit to the school. His tactical insight, calm demeanour, and the respect he commands from the group have helped the boys grow in confidence and understanding of the game." so that it is more about the students. suggest "A big thank you to their manager, Mr Gray, for his tactical insight and calm demeanour which has helped further the boys' understanding of the game. This has improved their confidence and they have become a credit to the school during the course of the competition.

There has been some outstanding work within the English Aim Higher creative holiday project for year 7. Students were tasked to get creative based on the stimulus Medusa, studied in English this term for our pop up display. Lily, Emila, Brooke and Hanna all produced some outstanding creative work. Well done, amazing work. Hannah received a voucher for her beautiful poem and art work.

Finally, we have had some beautiful entries into the Christmas bauble and Christmas card competitions, with fantastic creations by Raj R and Lara R.

From all of the year 7 team, we thank you for your support at home ensuring the students are well-equipped, have excellent uniforms and are reminding them of our expectations of their conduct. We wish you all a happy and safe festive period and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



Year 7



*Merry
Christmas*

Year 8

YEAR 8 CONTINUE TO IMPRESS!

Year 8 have continued to impress their form teachers and subject teachers as they settle into their curriculums in each subject. They have managed to achieve over 9200 positive points which is a massive achievement. Students are celebrated weekly in their form times for their positive contributions to school in our 'Feel Good Friday' sessions. We thank everyone for their hard work and positive attitude to their studies.

Year 8 have been equally amazing outside of the classroom with their continued engagement in extracurricular activities, including sports, art and debate club. The skills they develop through attending these go a long way in developing them as people as well as academic learners.



P.E. LEGENDS



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:



Harrison C



Jasper G



Noah H

CONTACTS

Head of year - Miss E Taylor and Miss E Squire
etaylor@bestacademies.org.uk
esquire@bestacademies.org.uk

Key Stage Manager - Mr J Beckwith
jbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Thomas - 8KS
- Ethan - 8KS
- James - 8KS



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Gaby is our National Street Dancing Champion, recently awarded first place!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- If you have a query, please email the form tutor or class teacher, they will always respond during working hours and within 48 hours. *Thank you for your understanding.*
- Phone pouches - Upon arrival at school, phones are secured in student pouches for the day. If you have any questions please email HOY.

STEMx BY ORACLE RED BULL RACING



Year 8 and 9 HPA students participated in STEMx by Oracle Red Bull Racing

An Exciting Day of Innovation and Learning!

On 21st November, year 8 and 9 HPA students at Etonbury Academy had the incredible opportunity to experience a day of hands-on learning and high-speed excitement, courtesy of STEMx by Oracle Red Bull Racing. The visit was an unforgettable experience that combined the thrills of motorsport with the fascinating world of technology and engineering.

In their sessions the students participated in a series of engaging challenges that put their creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork to the test. From the Pit Stop Challenge, where students raced against the clock to change a car's tyres, to the Coding Challenge, which introduced them to the basics of computer programming, the sessions were packed with activities that sparked curiosity and excitement. The Racing Challenge put the students 'behind the wheel' allowing them to create their own mini cars and race them against each other, learning about aerodynamics, speed, and the importance of precision engineering. The day was topped off with a careers session, opening their minds to the hundreds of different people and their jobs behind motorsport and F1.

Throughout the day, our students demonstrated exemplary behaviour, working collaboratively and enthusiastically. Their dedication and teamwork were outstanding, and it was clear that they were fully engaged in the STEMx experience. The event not only showcased the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in real-world applications, but also inspired many students to consider future careers in these exciting fields.

The visit was a huge success, and we are extremely proud of how our students demonstrated the ETA way. A big thank you to STEMx, staff and parents involved in making this memorable event possible. We look forward to providing more opportunities for our students to explore the world of STEM and beyond!

Sarah Day (HPA Lead), Etonbury Academy





Merry Christmas

Year 9

ALL THE LATEST FROM YEAR 9!

As we reach the end of a vibrant and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, experiences, and moments of pride our year 9 students have given us. This term has been one filled with curiosity, leadership, and a truly admirable commitment to personal growth. It has been a joy to see our students embrace every opportunity with such enthusiasm and maturity.

One of the standout successes of the term has undoubtedly been the exceptional work of our Sports Leaders. Their conduct and dedication while delivering sessions to younger students—and even in neighbouring schools—have demonstrated the kind of leadership, organisation, and empathy that we strive to nurture in all our learners. They have represented year 9 with integrity and confidence, and their contribution to the wider school community has not gone unnoticed.

We have also been delighted to celebrate over 8,500 awarded across the year group this term—a testament to the sustained hard work, positive attitude, and excellent behaviour demonstrated daily. These achievements speak volumes about the students' determination to excel, both in and beyond the classroom.

Our curriculum and enrichment opportunities have been equally memorable. Students were captivated by an immersive visit from a World War I historian, who brought the past to life through extraordinary artefacts, uniforms, and stories that deepened their understanding of this pivotal period in history.



Preparing our children for the future
Everyone is respectful. Together we care. Always aim higher.



As well as, a group of students who enjoyed an exciting and highly engaging STEM-focused visit from Red Bull Racing, offering a fascinating glimpse into the world of engineering, innovation, and elite performance.

Beyond the classroom, participation in extra-curricular activities has remained strong—from sports teams showing superb teamwork and resilience, to students embracing the challenge and adventure of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It has been inspiring to watch so many year 9s push themselves, support their peers, and represent the school with pride.



As we look ahead to the next half term, we are excited for the array of opportunities awaiting our students. Among the most significant will be the year 9 Options process, where students will begin exploring, selecting, and experiencing subjects they may wish to pursue as they move forward in their educational journey. This is an exciting milestone, and we look forward to guiding them through it with care and encouragement, as well as offering practical advice on the process at our options evening on 27 February 2026.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our year 9 families. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust. I wish you and your children a joyful, peaceful, and well-deserved festive break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another term filled with discovery and success.

P.E. LEGENDS



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Lucy G
- ★ DeeDee T
- ★ Joshua T

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- If you have a query, please email the form tutor or class teacher, they will always respond during working hours and within 48 hours. *Thank you for your understanding.*

Head of year - Ms B Wood
bwood@bestacademies.org.uk

Key Stage Manager - Mr J Beckwith
jbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk

The ETA Way

Everyone's Respectful Together we care Always aim higher



YEAR 10

UPDATE FROM YEAR 10!

I am extremely proud of how hard year 10 have worked over their first term of their GCSEs.

They have settled into the core and option subjects really well and I have received a significant amount of positive feedback from their teachers regarding their hard work and positive mindsets. Their dedication and determination have not gone unnoticed, and it's clear that they are laying a strong foundation for their future studies. Teachers have been impressed by the quality of work the year 10s have been producing and how seriously they are taking their studies. As they continue to navigate through the challenges and opportunities of their GCSE journey, we encourage them to maintain this positive momentum.

All the students successfully completed their English-speaking exam, and despite feeling nervous, they performed exceptionally well and made themselves and us very proud. This has given them a taster of the actual exam process and the effects which revision and hard work can have on their attainment. Within both English and maths students have been completing their first GCSE style assessments and have received feedback regarding where they are at and what they need to do in the future to improve.



In tutor time students have been learning how to write letters and emails to prospective work experience placements. We now have a finalised date for work experience in the calendar being 18th May - 22nd May 2026.



Students have started to think about what placements they would like to do within this week and I have already heard a number of exciting plans from some students who know exactly what they want to do and who have already reached out to employers to secure their placements. They have also been shown how to enter in their work experience placements into the Unifrog tool. Once students have entered in their placement details Unifrog sends the business an email which prompts them to complete the paperwork for the student. Then an email is sent to you, the parents, to give your permission and then to me to sign it off.

CONTACTS

Head of year - Mr D Sutcliffe
dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk
Key Stage Manager - Mr M Pullinger
mpullinger@bestacademies.org.uk

As we move into the next term, I am sure that year 10 will continue to work hard and continue to make great progress in all of their subjects.

Our hospitality and catering students recently took part in a gingerbread house competition! Their festive creations were amazing - our winners are pictured to the right! Congratulations Esmee and Isabel!

I thank you for all your ongoing support and I wish you a happy Christmas and a good start to the new year!



P.E. LEGENDS



PRaise POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

★ Cody M

★ Finlay L-G

★ Ethan W

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- If you have a query, please email the form tutor or class teacher, they will always respond during working hours and within 48 hours. *Thank you for your understanding.*



Year 11

ALL THE LATEST FROM YEAR 11!

Year 11 has had a very busy term, with trips, mocks, interventions, revision sessions, and sports fixtures, to mention just a few. I am very proud of how hard they have worked and have shown impressive organisation skills, resilience and maturity. They are excellent role models for the younger students at school. It is also lovely to see the students support each other and work together in and outside their lessons. Congratulations to 11SD who have the highest attendance and merits. Another special mention is for Jacob, who has the highest number of merits for the year group.

I am looking forward to working with the prom committee on organising the theme of the prom, (26th June), the hoodies and year book. Please look out for further information on how to purchase these items in the new year. I have also organised additional PSHE assemblies to support the year 11s on positive relationships, how to manage exam stress and resilience, and revision strategies. All of this information will be beneficial as they march on towards their core mocks in the first week of March and the GCSEs in May.

All students will have the opportunity to have a 4YP careers meeting, and many students will have already had theirs. These give students independent careers advice on the different educational paths they can take.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Celebrating Teagan, our remarkable year 11 student, for her outstanding achievements in dance! Her talent & drive continues to amaze us. Keep pushing boundaries & chasing your dreams! Head Judge's Choice @vickywyattchoreography Scholarship Place @miskindancemt Solo

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Jacob T
- ★ Evie S
- ★ Sophie M

The ETA Way

Everyone's Respectful

If students wish to see the careers meeting notes they will be on the student's unifrog account, click on interactions and it will load a pdf with a 4YP action plan. Also, on Unifrog there is a huge amount of information on careers and educational paths.

Many students have applied for the sixth form at Etonbury which is lovely to see and it isn't too late to apply if you haven't. [Click here](#) for the application form or see Mrs Schumann or Mrs Dowden if you have questions.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given your child/children and the school during this term. I know it can be challenging supporting 15 and 16 year olds through exams, attending open evenings, and filling in applications for college or sixth form.

So, I do hope you all have a proper break over the Christmas holidays and I look forward to seeing all the students in the new year.

Merry Christmas.

Mrs Hume and the year 11 team 🎄

MERRY CHRISTMAS

P.E. LEGEND



CONTACTS

Head of year - Mrs K Hume
khume@bestacademies.org.uk

Key Stage Manager - Mr M Pullinger
mpullinger@bestacademies.org.uk

Together we care Always aim higher



SIXTH FORM UPDATES!

We started this year celebrating our fantastic first ever set of A Level results and it was so lovely to be able to celebrate with our first Sixth Form cohort and their parents. Following the success of A Level results day, we then welcomed our third cohort into year 12 and we have been so impressed with how quickly the Year 12s have settled into Sixth Form life.

They have quickly found their voice and have been getting into various opportunities such as being tour guides at the open evening, welcoming students over from Pix Brook and helping with our first fundraising event of the year to raise money for Garden House Hospice. They managed to serve 200 hot chocolates in just 20 minutes, which I am sure must be a world record! Thank you to all who purchased hot chocolate in years 5 & 6, we appreciate your support.

The year 13s have been busy applying to various universities for a variety of courses such as biochemistry, law and mechanical engineering. We have also appointed our senior student leadership team who have been canvassing student voice about what students would like to happen in the Sixth Form and planning future fundraising opportunities. A photo can be seen on our Performing Arts page of the bulletin.



Sports Star

We are thrilled to share that sixth form pupil, Nicole, participated in the Junior Indoor National Archery Competition in Coventry this month, becoming the under 18s Indoor Barebow National Champion!

Congratulations on this incredible achievement, Nicole!



CONTACTS

Mrs C Dowden - Head of Sixth Form
cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk

Mrs L Schumann - Sixth Form Pastoral Assistant
lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk

Students have also enjoyed many opportunities to further their learning outside of the classroom. Students enjoyed a very successful trip to New York and Washington DC in October and our criminologists have recently competed in the Young Citizens mock bar trial, preparing for and trying two criminal cases against other schools in the region.

Sixth Formers have also recently attended PolEconUK in London, a political convention run for A level students. Through the course of the day students listened to talks from a wide range of political parties and those in other areas of politics including those working in data collection for polls and those in the House of Lords. Students were able to engage with political debates and ask questions of politicians on their stances, opinions and the wider topics of politics. This was an exciting and unique opportunity for our students to have a voice in politics and experience some extra curricular input in helping shape the learner and the person.

When we return in January, the Year 13s will be completing their mock exams, as well as real exams for some of the BTEC courses. Students need to revise well so they can get the maximum benefit from the feedback their teachers will be giving them. Completing past papers, reading examiners reports and asking their teachers about areas they do not understand are the best ways to prepare and we wish them all the best of luck. The year 12s will be working together to plan the Juniors Valentines disco, which promises to be an exciting evening for the younger students- more details to follow in the new year.

Thank you to all the year 11s who have already applied for a place in the Sixth Form in September 2026. We will be arranging meetings with you in the new year to discuss your options and to find out more about your future plans. If you haven't yet applied, please submit these as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to a successful 2026.





SCAN ME

A photograph of a young woman with long blonde hair, wearing a dark purple lab coat over a white shirt, safety goggles, and a necklace. She is smiling and appears to be working in a laboratory setting. In the background, there are other people and laboratory equipment. A blue call-to-action button is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR
ETA SIXTH FORM 2026.

Apply NOW!

If you would like to visit, please contact Mrs Chloe Dowden, Head of Sixth Form, to arrange a tour.
cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk

Performing Arts

We have been investing in state-of-the-art resources for our curriculum. We have new staging and design zones, we have also invested in makeup, set design resources, technical sound equipment and special effects lighting. This gives students opportunities to produce performing arts presentations of the highest standards. We are all set up ready for the year 11 exams and students at all key stages have enjoyed using our new professional equipment in the studio. We will be utilising our spaces more through house competitions in 2026 and through a series of 'Spirit' talent showcases and events. This is a very exciting new venture and will allow students to increase participation in the Performing Arts as part of the wider school community.



Student Voice

Student voice team have been busy preparing for open evening this term. The team have also met to organise an assembly to supercharge our house system and build on connection and competition in our whole school community.

The student voice leadership team is also busy planning for an assembly to introduce how they can build on opportunities in our house system. The student voice team is busy creating a diverse range of competitions that cater to various student interests and abilities ready for 2026! They will be hoping to involve teachers, staff, and even parents as participants or referees to add an extra level of fun.

The team also curated this year's remembrance display, inviting each student to complete a poppy to commemorate this important occasion. It served as a powerful symbol in the heart of the school community.



In order to build house spirit and encourage healthy competition, student house captains will organise events specifically for each house. They will include themed spirit weeks, house rallies, or inter-house talent shows. The aim is to create a sense of unity and pride within each house while fostering friendly competition. With thoughtful planning and execution, our 'House Cup' competition is poised to become a beloved tradition at ETA. This term, the student council is diligently organising the students, developing methods to tally and showcase points, and gearing up for some lively competition in the new year. Interested? Please email jbrahmcharilimb@bestacademies.org.uk



Student Leadership Team - pictured above.

School Production

We have been busy preparing for our school production where we showcase the talent at ETA. This year as part of our production, we are working on developing our exciting new enrichment offer in music with drumming workshops, mass choirs and a pit band to celebrate the musical talent. There will be lots of pictures available in our next edition. Well done it has been fantastic seeing all years come together in our community in this spectacular whole school event.

Student Voice - Movember

Staff and students involved in Movember bake sale and selling Moustaches for The Movember Foundation, men's mental health charity. Great to bring the community together in this event. Congratulations to Linda from SEND department who won, no soggy bottoms with her legendary lemon drizzle cake!



Sports News

P.E. Department

Head of P.E. - Miss S Hilton

Year 9 Sports Leaders Inspire at St Mary's

Our year 9 sports leaders have continued to shine as outstanding ambassadors for the school. This week they travelled to St Mary's School where they delivered PE lessons designed around key components of fitness, including agility, coordination, muscular endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. The students planned and led activities confidently, adapting tasks to suit different abilities and keeping all students engaged throughout the sessions.



Mr Rowlands of St Mary's was incredibly complimentary of our leaders, praising their professionalism, organisation, and enthusiasm. He expressed how impressed he was with their maturity and is already looking forward to welcoming them back next term with a new cohort. This partnership continues to provide invaluable leadership experience for our students and a positive impact on the students they teach.

New Sports Leader Cohort Visit Langford Village Academy
Our newest group of sports leaders also visited Langford Village Academy, where they taught year 4 and year 5 students a series of lessons focused on foundational movement skills and components of fitness such as balance, speed, power, reaction time, and coordination.

Mrs Devereaux of Langford Village Academy was incredibly complimentary of our leaders, noting the calm and respectful demeanour they showed when working with the younger students. She highlighted how they managed to keep the students enthused, motivated, and eager to improve throughout the lessons. Their ability to inspire confidence while maintaining a positive and controlled environment is a testament to their growing leadership skills.



Year 7 Basketball, Into the Finals

The year 7 basketball team have continued their excellent run of form and have now reached the finals where they will face Robert Bloomfield Academy. Under the guidance of Mr Gray, the team have developed impressive tactical awareness and teamwork, and the upcoming final promises to be a well-deserved showcase of their progress. We wish them every success.



Year 8 Basketball Final Approaching

The year 8 basketball team are preparing for their final against Parkfields Middle School on Tuesday 16th December. The team have trained exceptionally hard this term and have demonstrated strong commitment and determination. We are confident they will give a performance to be proud of.

Year 7 Football, Progress in the County Cup

The year 7 football team continues their season of pride with another outstanding display. After travelling away to Lincroft, the boys battled hard and secured a superb victory, progressing into the third round of the County Cup. Their teamwork, respect for officials, and positive attitude continue to set a brilliant example for our school community. We wish them all the best in the next round.



Utilita Girls Cup Success

A huge congratulations goes to our girls' who competed in the Utilita Girls' Cup. They finished an impressive 4th place out of 24 local and regional schools, showcasing excellent skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the growing strength of girls' football within the school.

Sports News continued..

Utilita Girls Cup Success – Miss Kay and the ETA girls team



Netball Club Thriving

Our netball club has been going sensational this term, with participation numbers extremely high across all year groups. It has been fantastic to see so many students training enthusiastically and developing their skills week after week. This level of engagement is exactly what we love to see, and it highlights the positive and inclusive sporting environment within the school.



Santa Fun Run, A Festive First for Etonbury

This term marks the very first Santa Fun Run at Etonbury, and excitement is building rapidly. Our year 5 and year 6 students will take part in this joyful new event, dressed in their favourite Christmas costumes while staying active in a fun, festive manner. This new tradition promises to bring together physical activity, celebration, and plenty of seasonal spirit, and the students are very much looking forward to taking part.



Swimming Gala Success for year 5 and 6

We are delighted to share that a group of our year 5 and year 6 students represented Etonbury at a swim gala for the very first time. Our swimmers performed exceptionally well, achieving 2nd place and 4th place in their individual categories. This was a wonderful milestone for the school, and it highlights the importance of swimming as a life skill, a confidence builder, and a fantastic way to stay active. We are incredibly proud of the students who took part.



Interform Netball Across the School

Interform netball competitions have been running across year 7, year 8, and now year 9 for both boys and girls. Participation has been fantastic, and students have shown excellent teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship. It has also been wonderful to see so many year 7 and year 8 form tutors out supporting their forms. Moments like these truly show the strength of our school community, and it is always lovely when the whole school comes together to support sporting events such as this. The year 9 competition begins next week, and we anticipate the same enthusiasm from our older students as the term draws to a close.



It is wonderful to see so much activity taking place across the PE department, and even better to see so many students involved, engaged, and giving their best. I am sure the rest of the PE department will also be in touch soon with updates on what they have been up to this term.

PE clubs will commence the second week back to school in January.

Art - Masterpiece Of The Month

KS3 Oliver 9RG



'Demonstrating a firm understanding of Banksy and his stencilling technique'.



KS5 Clara 12CCL

'Development of painting skills when working in the style of Artist, Jenny Saville'.



KS2 Spencer & Elsie C
Da Vinci



'Confident and varied use of line when creating Zentangle inspired leaves when exploring pattern as part of their formal elements project'.



KS4 Henry 11KS



'Excellent use of composition rules and different viewpoints to capture images of architecture around London and Cambridge'.

Reminders & Information



PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



Click to download or view our frequently asked questions and answers booklet.

MEDICAL REMINDERS

As we enter cold and flu season, we kindly ask families to help us keep our school community healthy.

Encourage good hygiene - frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding sharing drinks.

Review healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating nourishing foods and staying hydrated - ALL students should bring their own water bottle into school to refill, and ensure they keep hydrated throughout the day.

Medical do not carry anything for coughs and colds - students in year 7 and above can carry a single dose of pain relief to self-administer if needed. Carrying cough sweets/soothers can also help with persistent coughs if they are otherwise well enough to be in school.

Keep students at home if they experience vomiting/diarrhoea - wait 48 hours to return after their last episode.



To contact school staff regarding your child, email the relevant member, the Form Tutor for pastoral issues or the subject teacher for academic concerns. Staff will respond within 48 hours, acknowledging requests based on teaching commitments. Polite communication is encouraged for the best outcomes.

Enterprise points house leaderboard



Saddlers 17877



Thatchers 18200



Forestors 16929



Carters 16661

CAUTION - DRIVE SLOWLY ON SITE

To ensure safety for our school community, please drive slowly and cautiously on the school site, adhering to the **5 MPH** speed limit. Traffic increases during school drop-off and pick-up times, so **please use the designated drop-off area at the top of the drive to minimise disruption and vehicle congestion**. Students can walk down the footpath into school.

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines.

Please do not block the staff car park.



Thank you for your cooperation.

POLITE NOTICE



DISABLED PARKING BAYS ARE FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS ONLY.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

What to do if your child is ill, has an appointment or needs to leave school?

Contact our **Attendance Officer**, Mrs Greer.

You can leave her a [voicemail](#), or send her an [email](#).

Call 01462 730391 option 1 -- if you would like a call back please make this request in your message

eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk

We kindly ask that you please follow our **attendance procedures** at all times.

Currently it is the season for coughs, colds, flu & winter vomiting - if your child is unwell please report this to **Attendance**.

All absences must be phoned in or emailed daily, before 9:00. This includes any vomiting or diarrhoea, unless supported by a medical letter.

Any medical appointments, please email eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk with supporting evidence of the appointment. Copy in the class teacher to remind your child when they need to leave. Students are expected to ask to leave at the correct time & make their way to reception to sign out & be collected.

Thank you for your continued support.

Follow Etonbury Academy on social media to keep up to date with news and info.



Important Dates

Students back to school Tues 6 th January 2026

Tues 6th Jan - Students return to school
Thurs 15th Jan - Year 11 Parents Evening - Virtual
12th - 16th Jan - Year 6 Mock SATS
Weds 21 Jan - Young Voices Trip
Mon 26th Jan - Year 9 & 10 catch up vaccinations
Tues 27th Jan - Yr 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam
Tues 27th Jan - Model UN @ SWA
Thurs 29th Jan - KS2 (Yrs 5/6) Parents Evening
Thurs 29th Jan - Yr 11 Wadham Project
Fri 30th Jan - Year 13 reports home.
Tues 3 Feb - Yr 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam
Thurs 5 Feb - KS2 (Yrs 5/6) Parents Evening
Thurs 5 Feb - Year 7, 8 & 9 Meet the Mentor Evening
Thurs 5 / Fri 6 Feb - Yr 5 Viking Day
Tues 10 Feb - D of E Afterschool Session 2
Weds 11 Feb - Yr 6 Duxford Trip
Thurs 12 Feb - Yr 11 Poetry Live/ Japanese canteen pop-up menu
Fri 13 Feb - break for half term
Half term 14 - 22 February 2026
Return to school staff & students Monday 23rd February.

Tues 24 Feb - Yr 8 HPV vaccine

Thurs 26 Feb - Yr 9 Options Evening

Thurs 5 March - Yr 12 Parents Evening

[Click here](#) to view the 2025 / 2026 term dates

Club Information

Sign up to clubs via Bromcom please - these will be published first week back after the Christmas holidays.

To view our current full list of clubs please visit the Bromcom app (MCAS).

PE Clubs - please be advised that PE clubs change each half term. They will be published the first week back on Facebook and X. Students must sign up via Bromcom.

Sports clubs/extracurricular clubs normally commence second week back after a break.

ETA Extra in the study centre will run as normal first week back after the break.

Together we care

Pastoral

Head of Pastoral & DSL - Mrs T McErlean

At Etonbury the safety and welfare of our students is at the centre of all of what we do. On our Parental Support/Safeguarding page you will find a list of websites and agencies in the local area who provide support services in the local community.

Please remember if you need any further help please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance with any pastoral matters. We know that being a parent/carer isn't always easy. If you're worried about your child or young person's emotional wellbeing, please find a list of both local and national resources in the Family Information leaflet.

Take a look at our website for information and details of helplines and agencies when you are most in need.
www.etonbury.org.uk/parents-area/parental-/student-support



The ETA Way Everyone's Respectful Together we care Always aim higher

PLEASE HELP US TO REDUCE TRAFFIC ON THE SCHOOL SITE

Let's work together to reduce congestion on our school site. If possible, leave the car at home and walk safely to school.

Please don't drive onto the school site unless you really have to!

If you need to drop off, please do so at the top of the drive so students can safely walk down to school via the footpath.

Let's work together to reduce traffic congestion on site!

T H A N K Y O U F O R Y O U R
S U P P O R T

Remember, our speed limit is 5MPH – please help to keep our school zone safe.



Thank you for reading...



You are receiving this because you are a Student, Parent, Carer, Governor or Member of Staff at ETA.

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