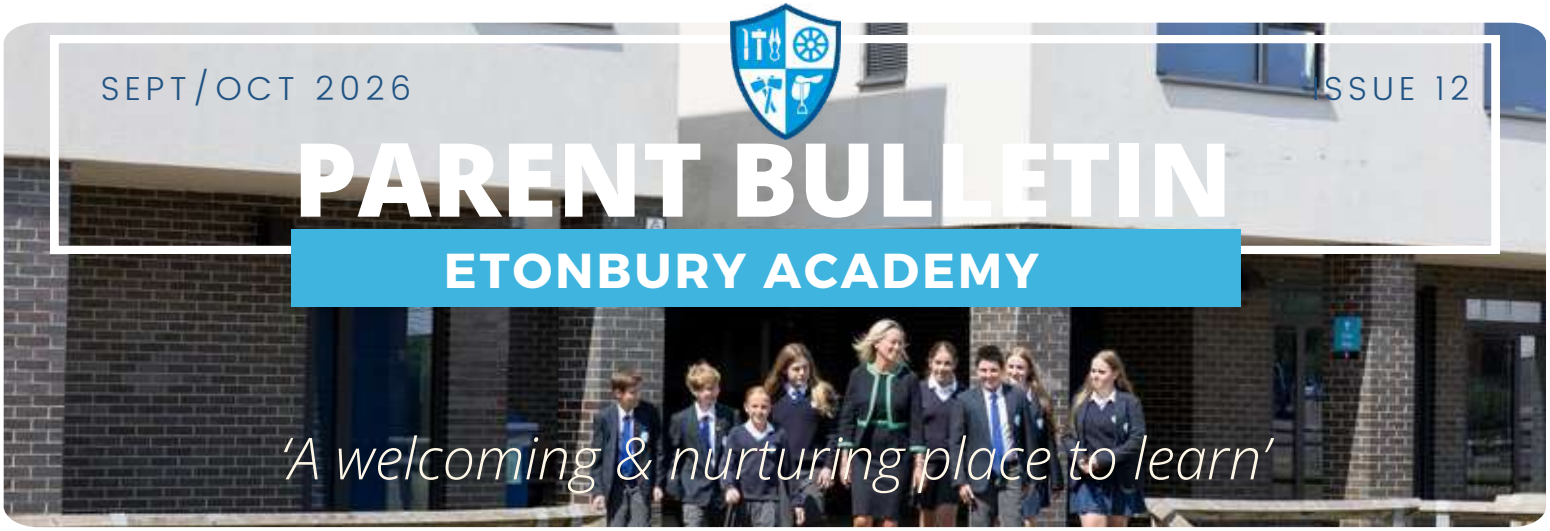
SEPT/OCT 2026 ISSUE 12

PARENT BULLETIN

ETONBURY ACADEMY



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

We are delighted to share with you The Best of BEST – 10th Anniversary Edition, which is now live on The Bedfordshire Schools Trust website. Please click The Best of BEST 10th Anniversary Edition image to the right, to view.



The first half term has flown by, everyone at Etonbury Academy has settled into the new school year. We have a culture of high expectations, and our students achieve in many different ways. From academic and sporting achievements, to standards of care and behaviour, we set the bar high for every child.

We know that every child is different and that one size doesn't fit all. That's why we provide an inclusive education that recognises the individual and equips every child to succeed. Our commitment to each child is underpinned by our values. We bring these to life through The ETA Way in everything we do.

It's fantastic to see whole school extra-curricular activities in full swing, to include dance, drama, debate club, various sports, yoga, Warhammer, choir, LAMDA, art, reading, English and more. The number of children exploring new interests is remarkable and we are proud to have so many staff who are prepared to give up their own time to lead these activities and inspire our students.

Did you know Etonbury Academy is the only school in the county to deliver three sets of national results? Keys Stages 2, 4 and 5 - SATS, GCSE's and A Levels/BTEC Level 3 qualifications. We are delighted to be celebrating another year of excellent Year 6 SATS, GCSE and A Level results. This year Etonbury ranked 2nd place out of the 15 other secondary schools in Central Bedfordshire for GCSE 9-5 & 9-4 English & Maths. Our year 6 SATS results were above national average and we hope to see all these pupils continuing to aim high in year 7 this academic year!

We are delighted with our second set of A Level and BTEC exam results. 97% of students got into their top choice of university, including our first student to go to the University of Oxford. Many of our year 13 pupils have been with us since year 5 and we are delighted with their achievements. It has been a privilege to have taught them.

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Open Evening. This is one of the most important dates in our school calendar, and we were thrilled to welcome over 1,000 visitors to the event. Our staff and pupils were absolutely amazing Their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work helped make the evening such a success.



Etonbury Sixth Form

OPEN EVENING

WEDS 4TH NOV *Presentations: 5.30 & 6.15pm*

SCAN HERE

A special thank you goes to all the students who generously gave up their time to act as Student Guide Ambassadors and Student Subject Ambassadors. Their confidence, enthusiasm and willingness to represent our school were fantastic to see, and they made a wonderful impression on our visitors.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 4th November, and I would like to warmly invite all of our Year 11 pupils and their families to join us, along with pupils from other secondary schools.

We offer over 21 option subjects, alongside fantastic facilities designed to support our students both academically and socially. These include a dedicated social area, our Sixth Form café, their own chromebook to support their studies and our dedicated Sixth Form garden space.

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students from Etonbury Academy and the wider community. This is a great opportunity to meet our subject staff, talk to current Sixth Form students and find out more about life in our Sixth Form. Presentations will take place at 5.30pm and 6.15pm. Please book your place via our website.

The summer holidays seem a long time ago, but it was a busy time for the development of the school site. We welcomed a new catering company to Etonbury; Accent. The initial feedback from our pupils has been wonderful and Accent are planning to meet with pupils to begin to design menus with them. We have a food service pod located in the playground offering additional snacks and drinks at break and lunchtimes.

We have created a new PE office based in the heart of the PE facilities in the school. We are delighted to have added a new minibus to our fleet, which will provide additional opportunities for our pupils, and support the many activities and experiences we offer beyond the classroom.

The DEN has had a refresh and now has a sensory room for pupils to visit and enjoy. The performing arts and music corridor has had new graphics added to the corridor walls to inspire pupils in this creative space.

Across the site the entire wifi network has been replaced to ensure it provides fast and effective internet connectivity across the school. We have continued to change our lighting to LED lighting, which improves our energy efficiency, along with lights that time out and automatically switch off. Our solar panels continue to feed electricity into the grid and work towards our sustainability goals.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our pupils, families and staff a very enjoyable and well-deserved half-term break. Thank you for everything you have contributed to our school community this term. I hope you have a wonderful break. Monday 2 November is the day both staff and pupils are back to school for the second half of this term.

Mrs J Young - Principal

PSQM
Primary Science Quality Mark
PSQM
Valid 2026 – 2029

Etonbury is proud to announce that we are one of 227 schools that has achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) this month, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a commitment to developing excellence in science leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning.

Led by the University of Hertfordshire for over a decade, the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) has been setting children on a path to a life filled with exciting possibilities and opportunities, by giving them access to a strong foundation in quality primary science education.



Helen Sizer, PSQM Director said: "The Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) recognises a school's commitment to developing and strengthening science education, celebrating the positive impact this has on children's learning and understanding of the world around them."

Our congratulations go to the whole school community on this achievement and particularly to the school's science subject leader, Miss Saunders, who has led this process through participation in the PSQM professional learning programme and by driving a cycle of reflection, development and improvement across the school. Their leadership helps to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality science teaching and learning.

HELLO THERE!

ACCENT CATERING

Founded in 2001 we are an established caterer, passionate about supporting local British farmers and growers with seasonal quality ingredients at our core.

FRESH FOOD

We never compromise on our commitment to our craft, creating amazing food from quality produce by skilled chefs.

We focus on every aspect of our food to ensure our customers get fresh food that is healthy, tasty and nutritious. We use sustainably sourced food, UK sourced fruit and vegetables and Red Tractor meat wherever possible. Qualified chefs with a passion for food head up our kitchens delivering food our customers love to eat. You will not find our chefs using packet mixes or ready made sauces.

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Through our work with the National Farming Union we have access to farming ambassadors who can help our schools learn the importance of food provenance and the process food goes through from field to fork.

NFU EDUCATION

UPDATES

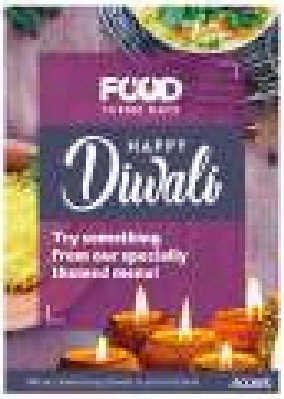
.No current updates at present.

SPECIAL DAYS

As specialist school caterers we believe that catering is so much more than a meal put on a plate. We work hard to create a service that is fun and adds value beyond the traditional lunch time offer. From tasting tables, school assembly talks, theme days, pop-up chef demos, cookery clubs for all ages, to supplier days where we promote seasonal ingredients.

We all work hard together, helping our pupils build strong and healthy relationships with food. Creating positive, lasting memories of food that will stay with them for the years to come.





ALLERGENS



Accent take the responsibility for managing food allergies and special diets very seriously. We seek to reassure parents and guardians that we have a detailed understanding of the subject and recognise the importance of having robust procedures in place.

All of our menus are fully allergen checked and labelled. Our teams fully trained each term and on-site Allergen gurus are trained and knowledgeable to ensure every customer is catered for.

COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE PACKED LUNCH, AN ACCENT SCHOOL MEAL CONTAINS:

30% LESS SALT

ALMOST 3X THE FIBRE

1/2 THE FREE SUGARS

ETONBURY ACADEMY







CAREERS FAIR

CONNECT. DISCOVER. INSPIRE. EDUCATE

Local Businesses WANTED!

We're inviting local businesses and organisations to host a stall and inspire our students by showcasing the exciting career opportunities available in our local area after education at our annual Etonbury Careers Fair.

FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2027

Start From
09:30 am - 01:30 pm

Etonbury Academy

For Etonbury Pupils-YEARS 9, 10 & 11

Showcase your business inspire their future.


An evening
with the
stars at ETA
Dance • Drama • Music
In support of
THE NEED PROJECT
16th & 17th December
Main school theatre
Show starts at 6.30pm
Running time: Approx. 1 hour • No interval
Licensed bar available before the show from 6:00pm
Tickets: Under 16 – £2 • Adults – £5
Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.
ETONBURY ACADEMY
Tickets available on MCAS
BEST BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST

WELCOME TO YEAR 5

ETONBURY JUNIORS

It has been wonderful to welcome all our year 5 children and their families to the school community here at Etonbury. The first half term certainly has gone quickly.

Curriculum highlights: This term we will be focusing on making sure children feel safe, happy and connected to our school community. If you do have any questions please email your child's class teacher in the first instance. As well as being Brunel's class teacher, I am also Head of Year 5. My email address is detailed below. There is so much to look forward to this year and next; an exciting new curriculum, opportunities to explore our local community and lots of practical learning opportunities.

This term our priority is to help your child to establish friendships and settle into the structure and routine of being at school. Lots of smiley faces, loads of hard work and exciting times ahead. The children have been learning about the ancient Greeks, investigating materials in science and learning how to use our chromebooks! We appreciate all of your support this half term.

Parents have been encouraging and supportive as we have all settled into our new year and new school. If you can, please do follow the main school Facebook or instagram pages for useful info, updates and the occasional photo from one of the year 5 classes.

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- Rowan C - Turing
- Elia E - Armstrong
- Elliott P - Turing

P.E. LEGENDS


Isaac


Theo

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Please pack a healthy snack and a water bottle for your child each day.
- Please name all items.
- Year 5 arrival time is from 8.10am. The gate closes at 8.20am.
- Attendance - If your child has an appointment, or is unwell, please inform Attendance via email, MCAS or call 01462 730391, etaabsence@bestacademies.org.uk.

TT Rockstars

- Enhances multiplication skills.
- Achievements celebrated in weekly assemblies and competitions with schools.
- Homework & engagement
- Practice TTRS for 5 mins daily or 25 mins weekly.

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Elia – Armstrong
- Rowan – Turing
- Sahil – Turing
- Elliott – Turing
- Luke – Brunel



KEY YEAR 5 CONTACTS:

Head of Yr 5 - Mrs D Beckwith
dbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk

Head of Juniors - Mr Sale
bsale@bestacademies.org.uk

- Curie Class - eta-curie@bestacademies.org.uk
- Armstrong Class - jchandler@bestacademies.org.uk
- Brunel Class - dbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk
- Da Vinci - bbeddall@bestacademies.org.uk
- Earhart - hazzopardi@bestacademies.org.uk
- Turing - othomson@bestacademies.org.uk

Staff will always respond to you, please allow 48 hours for a reply, Monday to Friday during working hours. Thank you for your understanding.



Accelerated Reader

We are pleased to announce that all students in KS2 & KS3 have an Accelerated Reader account to help support and develop all students' love of reading. Students will be set homework to spend time reading at home and will be asked to do a quiz on every book they have read.
We will be running termly competitions to reward classes who are most successful.

For information on how to support your child with quizzing at home, please click here and see the guide to the left.

USEFUL LINKS

- Roald Dahl Letter
- FAQ's
- Staff List
- Click for our Bromcom guide
- Accelerated Reader Info
- Click for curriculum plans

FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 5

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

WELCOME YEAR 6

ETONBURY JUNIORS

The children have transitioned beautifully into their new classes and have had a fantastic start to Year 6. Although the leap from Year 5 to Year 6 is significant, the children have risen admirably to the challenge.We are truly impressed with their positive attitude towards learning.

Curriculum highlights: This half term, our English curriculum has centred around Stormbreaker. Stormbreaker is a young adult action-adventure book. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will turn our attention to the Victorians. In line with this theme, I am thrilled to say that we will be visiting the British Schools Museum in Hitchin, details of this will follow shortly.

Communication: If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's class teacher first at (initialsurname@bestacademies.org.uk). In addition to being Saturn's class teacher, I am Head of Year 6 and also lead Young Voices here at Etonbury. You can contact me directly at ncrockford@bestacademies.org.uk. Mr. Sale is the Head of Juniors, and his email address is bsale@bestacademies.org.uk.

Finally, we would love to hear about any achievements your child has outside of school, as we would like to celebrate their successes!

If you have access to social media please follow either of main school page on Facebook or Instagram. ETA PE have their own social pages which we would also recommend you follow too.



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

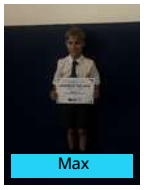
- Amelia N - Saturn
- Penny A - Titan
- Maggie S - Titan

P.E. LEGENDS

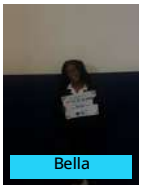

Max


Ollie


Reuben


Max


Maggie


Bella


Nathan


Charlotte


Ezra


Poppy


Jessica

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Reader:

- George – Saturn



KEY YEAR 6 CONTACTS:

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

Head of Juniors - Mr Sale bsale@bestacademies.org.uk

- Neptune - Mrs S Holland (sholland@)
- Mars - Ms H Oldham (holdham@)
- Saturn - Mrs N Crockford (ncrockford@)
- Titan - Miss J Jones (jjones@)
- Pluto - Mrs C Saunders (csaundersr@)

Staff will always respond to you, please allow 48 hours for a reply, Monday to Friday during working hours. Thank you for your understanding.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Please pack a healthy snack and a water bottle for your child each day.
- Year 6 arrival time is 8.10am. Gate closes at 8.20am.
- Please name all items and ensure PE kits arrive with the pupils at 8.20am
- Attendance - If your child has an appointment, or is unwell, please inform Attendance via email, MCAS or call 01462 730391, etaabsence@bestacademies.org.uk.

USEFUL LINKS

FAQ's

Staff List

Click for our Bromcom guide

Accelerated Reader Info

Click for curriculum plans

FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 6

ETONBURY ACADEMY

ARE SUPPORTING THE NEED PROJECT CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2026!

*We would love to help **The Need Project** spread some Christmas sparkle in the local community again this year.*

As a school we are collecting chocolate selection boxes for their Christmas hampers.

Donations will be gratefully received and are to be handed in during form time.

Thank you in advance for your generoisity.



ETONBURY ACADEMY



HUSH POUCH

"Schools are places for learning, and Hush Pouches ensure that education is the primary focus."

All pupils in Years 7 - 11 will have Hush Pouches.

- Arrival at school and mobile phone is pouched
- Registration - pouch check
- End of the day phone is relased from pouch at point of exit
- Failure to use your pouch will result in a suspension.
- Years 5 & 6 - Phone switched off and in a class box, locked away for the day, returned at dismissal, end of day.



YEAR 7 KEEP AIMING HIGH!

The year 7 team have been very impressed with the wonderful start to the new school year. The students have settled into their form groups seamlessly and are becoming familiar with navigating the secondary school environment. It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our Year 7 welcome evening. We hope you found the event useful. Information from the evening is available on the website, under "Practical Information" , under the Year 7 section there is a copy of the presentation. You can also click below on the presentation featured on this page to view the slides.

I'm really pleased with Year 7 attendance so far this term. Our goal is to approach 100% attendance so please do try and make those appointments out of school time where you can. We want to ensure that students are in school every day to help them achieve their full potential. Aim high! Achievement points have soared this half term, with Year 7 achieving an impressive total of 5,336 points so far. Keep it up!

My tutor team and I have been recognising students who have stood out each week, celebrating their achievements during form time every Monday. A special mention goes to the students who have been honoured as Year 7 Legends of the Week by our PE department. Additionally, students have started receiving certificates, which will be distributed during form time. Congratulations to all who have earned their bronze certificate already!

To ensure that Year 7 continues to reach their learning potential, we would like to emphasise the importance of homework and equipment. Please ensure your child has the necessary materials and is regularly checking their Bromcom Student Portal (for you MCAS) and Google Classrooms for homework assignments. If there are any reasons preventing them from meeting deadlines, please reach out to the relevant teacher, who can provide extensions or support. We also offer a homework club, which we encourage students to attend, students can sign up to this club via Bromcom. This is run by Miss Nicole after school on Monday and Tuesday.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming 'Meet the Tutor' evening next half term 12th November. Please note this is a virtual event and more details will be shared closer to the time. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional support, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's form tutor.

SPORTS TOUR LETTER

FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 7

CONTACTS

Head of year 7 - Mrs K Hume
khume@bestacademies.org.uk

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

P.E. LEGENDS


Austin


Jesse


Zara

ETONBURY ACADEMY

BEST

Year 7 Parent Information Evening

Welcome

Head of Yr 5 - Mrs K Hume
khume@bestacademies.org.uk

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

Form Tutors:

- Mr F Shanely (fshanley@)
- Mr J Beka (jbeka@)
- Miss S Ogunseitan (sogunseitan@)
- Miss T Sigba (tsigba@)
- Miss K Hanna (khanna@)

Staff will always respond to you, please allow 48 hours for a reply, Monday to Friday during working hours. Thank you for your understanding.

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champtions this half term are:

- Bjorn N - 7AS
- Edward M - 7AS
- Elliot G - 7AS

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

Multi-millionaires

- Bjorn 7AS



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

YEAR 8- THE ETA WAY



This year, I am thrilled to guide Year 8 again, who have had an amazing beginning to their first half term back at school. We have been impressed by their enthusiasm for the new school year and the progress they have made in the initial weeks is outstanding. Throughout the school, Year 8 has consistently demonstrated the ETA way, in lessons and also around the school.

Many students in Year 8 have eagerly embraced new opportunities already, taking part in extracurricular activities during both lunchtime and after school. Our student receptionist duties have also begun. This is part of our work experience programme and is intended to encourage students to learn new skills and take on responsibilities. Students will collect their work at the beginning of each lesson, and complete it during the quieter times at the reception desk. Students will attend practical lessons such as PE, engineering, art, food technology, if that is their preference, and always be present in class for tests.

It was fantastic to see so many of the year group helping during our recent open evening, assisting parents and sharing their school experiences. Thank you. As a year group they are frequently praised by different staff and departments, and it's wonderful to hear such positive feedback from staff.

Year 8 sport is already underway. The girls' netball was unfortunately cancelled due to the other team being unable to play. This is being rescheduled and the team are very much looking forward to it. The boys' football team have begun the first round of the National cup games, by playing a team from Royston. They played extremely well, leading 4-1 at one stage but unfortunately lost on penalties. The boys then played a cup game winning 2-1 against Arnold Academy. Special mentions to Oliver W and Ishe T for wonderful leadership and to Ishe for being nominated as player of the match by his peers. Well done to them all.

This strong start is only the beginning of what they can achieve when they set their standards high. Real success comes from pushing past our comfort zones, taking pride in our hard work, and stepping up to every challenge that comes our way. Let's keep this incredible momentum going and make this our most remarkable year yet!





ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Cara (8KB)

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- Hanna S - 8KH
- Zoey G - 8TS
- Beth S - 8KH

P.E. LEGENDS


Ishe


Esmai


Rosie


Emilie

CONTACTS

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

FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 8

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

YEAR 9 - NEW OPPORTUNITIES

DUKE OF EDINBURGH LETTER

It has been an incredibly busy half term, thank you to all year 9 pupils and their tutors for their hard work and dedication. Students have taken the step into year 9 in their stride, and I am incredibly proud of the fantastic start to this academic year. I am pleased to see attendance remains high for the year group, and collectively year 9 have earned nearly 7000 praise points, through effort, hard work determination and also by showing the ETA way.

This academic year students in year 9 will have the opportunity to decide which subjects they wish to study in years 10 and 11. This is a big decision for the students and in order to support them to make a well-informed decision we will be running taster sessions for subjects they will not have had an opportunity to experience yet at school. In addition to this we will also be running an options evening on the 25th of February, 2027 where you will have the opportunity to speak to subject leaders from each subject area to find out more about each option.

This term, year 9 have also made an excellent start to the 'Sports Leader's' programme, supporting younger students in the school. I have been incredibly proud to see them take on this leadership opportunity with such maturity and enthusiasm. Well done to all involved!

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. Alternatively, should you have any questions either pastorally or regarding the process of selecting options please do contact me via email and I will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible.

Head of Year
Miss E Squire esquire@bestacademies.org.uk

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





FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 9

P.E. LEGENDS









ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Mollie 9DC

Multi-millionaires:

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champtions this half term are:

- Mollie E - 9DC
- Thomas C - 9JB
- Sonny S - 9SD

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

YEAR 10 LATEST NEWS!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH LETTER

A CHRISTMAS CAROL LETTER

I am delighted with the positive start to Year 10 as they begin their GCSE journey. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm, determination and maturity that students are demonstrating across their subjects. They are fortunate enough to be supported by a highly experienced and dedicated team of teachers and subject leaders, and this support is already helping students make encouraging progress.

It has been wonderful to see how well students have adapted to their new timetable, their chosen subjects and the increased expectations that come with Year 10. Staff across a range of departments have commented on how positively students have settled into their courses, and it is clear that they are enjoying the subjects they have chosen.

After the half term break, Year 10 students will take their English Speaking Mock Exams. For many students, this will be their first experience of a formal examination setting. They have been working hard to prepare, practising regularly to build their confidence. We have been incredibly impressed by their commitment and dedication to their performances. We wish all of our Year 10 students the very best of luck and look forward to seeing them showcase their hard work and growing confidence.

Outside the classroom, Year 10 hospitality and catering pupils will have a trip to London, where they will experience Borough Market and the many food stalls and outlets. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to experience the festivities too. We are really excited to be offering our Duke of Edinburgh Award programme once again this for both year 9 and 10. Please see the letter to the left for details of our parents information evening.

Our Year 10 sports teams have also made an excellent start to the year, with our footballers in particular showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment. We look forward to seeing how all of our teams progress throughout the season.

Overall, it has been a very encouraging start to Year 10. The students are beginning to demonstrate the resilience, maturity and independence that will be so important as they progress through their GCSEs, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive over the coming months. Should you have any pastoral questions please email me at bwood@bestacademies.org.uk or your young person's form tutor.

FOLLOW US

FOLLOW US

Year 10

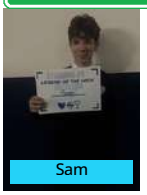


PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champtions this half term are:

- Oliver B - 10RR
- Harrison S - 10RR
- Ethan J - 10SS

P.E. LEGENDS


Sam


Amaya


Leo


Ava


Rose


Jayden


George


Riley


Paolo


Lucy

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

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

YEAR 11

Head of Year - Mr D Sutcliffe

Key Stage Manager - Mr M Pullinger

LEAVERS HOODIE LETTER

Welcome back to year 11! I have been pleased to see that the year group as a whole have made such a positive start to the academic year and engaged with the supportive interventions being put in place by their teachers. It has been fantastic to receive so many positive comments from both staff and students regarding these sessions. After the half term, mocks will be running from the 16/11 to the 27/11. Following this, the marked papers will be returned to students in class and our year 11 parents evening will run after school on the 14/01. You will be able to book a virtual appointment with teachers to discuss results and next steps.

We understand that this will be a tough year for students due to the pressure from both revision and the exams at the end of the year which makes looking after the students' mental health even more important this academic year. Please note that there is a wealth of information on our website regarding support if it is needed.

Throughout the course of the next half term I will be meeting with our Prom committee to organise this year's event. As soon as a date has been set, and a booking has been made, please expect to hear back from me regarding details. Please bear in mind that both a yearbook and leavers' hoodies will be available to purchase and will be distributed to students at the end of year 11. Please click the link to the left for more details of the leavers hoodie.

This year we will support you and your family on this journey so please make sure you book to attend the **Sixth Form Open Evening** on **Wednesday the 4th November**. Timings for the presentations are 5.30pm or 6.15pm.

Book to attend Sixth Form Open Evening

Personal tours are also available with Mrs Dowden - please email lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk to book a tour. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the upcoming mock examinations in November. This is an important time for students as the grades achieved will be used for applications for any post-16 placement. More information is included below.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year **11 mock exams** will run from **Monday 16th November** - **Friday 27th November**. You will now be able to view your child's mock timetable in the MCAS app under 'Examination Timetables'. This indicates room and seat allocations. Please note that exams are listed in alphabetical order rather than date order. You are able to change this by clicking the header 'Exam Date' and the exams will then be sorted into date order. All examinations are run in line with JCQ guidance and the awarding bodies' requirements.

Please familiarise yourself with the Information to Candidates documents which can be found on our website using the link below.

JCQ Examination Guidance

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

Syama S - 11GR

Isla L - 11KB

Gracie S - 11KS

P.E. LEGENDS


Sam


Ethan

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Year 11



Etonbury Sixth Form

OPEN EVENING

WEDS 4TH NOV Presentations: 5.30 & 6.15pm

SCAN HERE

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

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

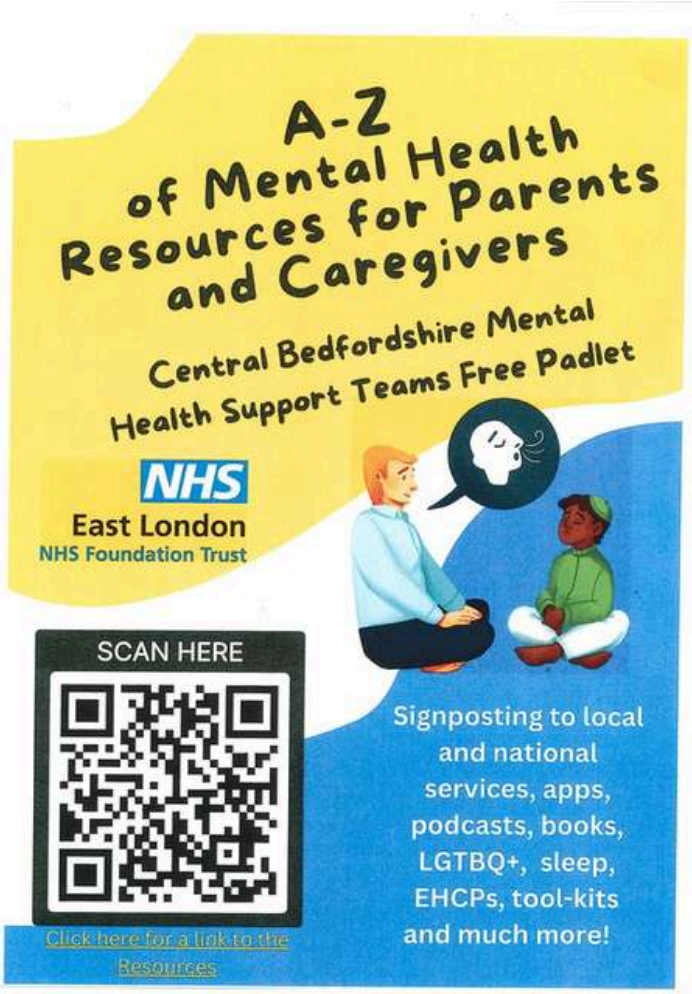
Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'



University of Cambridge study on Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance

I am writing to let you know about a research study called Attend Well.

The study is being conducted at the University of Cambridge and we are working with schools, young people and parent/carers to develop whole-school approaches to attendance difficulties.
We are currently inviting parents to complete a survey if their child has ever experienced attendance difficulties (we are hoping to gain 70 more parent/carer responses!)
If you would like to find out more about our project, our website is attendwell.org.uk

If you would like to share information with parents/carers at your school, here is some text that can be pasted into a newsletter:

Attend Well Study launches to develop support for school attendance difficulties

The University of Cambridge are inviting parents/carers to take part in a study about Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA).
Participants can contribute valuable information about why school attendance difficulties are increasing, what support is available/missing, and what could help young people to re-engage with education.
The five-year project will develop a whole school approach to improving school attendance.
To learn more: visit the Attend Well website: https://attendwell.org.uk/ or email attendwell@medschl.cam.ac.uk

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,
Hayley

Hayley Gains
Research Assistant
Child & Adolescent Resilience and Mental health
Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge

Artist of the Month!





Masterpiece Of The Month
KS2 Maka & Seth Earhart

Awarded for
' Bold and confident choice of colour and skillful cut outs of dancing figures, inspired by Henri Matisse's paper cut-out series'.





Masterpiece Of The Month
KS3 Rosie 9CB & Harrison 9SD

Awarded for
'Excellent use of lettering and control when using colour pencil to create a graffiti style tag of their names'.





Masterpiece Of The Month
KS4 Joshua 11WL

Awarded for
'Digital experimentation technical skill development in Photography'.



Masterpiece Of The Month
KS5 Amelia 12 HHC

Awarded for
'Expressive and confidence use of line and mark making when working in response to artist, Fred Hatt'.

etonburyart

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Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM ! - YEAR 12 & 13



Etonbury Sixth Form
OPEN EVENING
WEDS 4TH NOV Presentations: 5.30 & 6.15pm
SCAN HERE

It has been an action-packed half term in the Sixth Form, filled with student achievements, exciting opportunities, and crucial steps toward future success.

We were immensely proud to celebrate an outstanding set of A-Level results with our class of 2026 in August. The hard work and dedication of our students and teachers really paid off and Etonbury was one of the top performing Sixth Forms in the county. Our students have set off to university courses across the country and some have secured very impressive degree apprenticeships with the police and in business. We were thrilled to celebrate our first Etonbury Sixth Form student being accepted to the University of Oxford to read biochemistry and are all proud to have played a small part in his success.
We kicked off the term by welcoming our new Year 12s and greeting our returning Year 13s, with Year 12s quickly settling into their independent study routines and Year 13s diving straight into their UCAS applications. It was lovely to celebrate our students' progress at the year 13 Parents' Evening and to meet our new families at the year 12 Information Evening, designed to help guide families through the Sixth Form journey.

A new cohort of Senior Students stepped into their leadership roles to represent the student body and it was lovely to see so many Sixth Formers represent their subject areas at the Open Evening. Year 12s have started to think about the enrichment opportunities they will undertake to boost their job and university applications next year. Art and photography students were inspired by a visiting local artist, James, who shared industry insights with the class. We welcomed iCash back to offer confidential advice to our students and the common room is abuzz with excitement for the proposed trip to New York and Washington D.C. planned for 2027!

We have also been delighted to celebrate so many sporting success stories amongst our cohort. Nicole H won the Junior Women's Barebow category in the Junior Archery Series Finals and took 2nd place overall. Meanwhile, Charlie P led Etonbury to a historic first-time victory at the Schools' Golf Scratch Championships, finishing 2nd in the U18 Boys category. Izzy W has enjoyed a summer of swimming success and Abigail C continues to shine as part of the Arsenal Under 21s Women's squad.

Well done to the year 12s for settling into Sixth Form life so quickly and to the year 13, who continue to impress us with their commitment and enthusiasm.

CONTACTS

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

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



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Sixth Form

ETONBURY ACADEMY

Performing Arts



We were very proud of our LAMDA exam cohort last year who have now all received their reports. They achieved 100% pass rate with lots of distinctions.

This academic year we 29 students - our largest cohort - signed up to train with us at our acting school. Due to the popularity of our LAMDA acting school, we now run 1:1 lessons as well as group acting with students from KS2/3/4. We look forward to seeing how they develop on their journey.

We have two places left for our LAMDA acting school and if any parents wish to still sign their child up, please contact Jbrahmacharilimb@bestscademies.org.uk

We have now created a wonderful performing arts environment to inspire students. We have recently invested in a wonderful inspiring Performing Arts immersive wall- where students step into the spotlight... Lights, camera and action!

We are currently working on producing our large annual production which will showcase drama, dance and music on 16th and 17th December. Students will entertain you all for two evenings to get you in the Christmas spirit! Please save the dates.

Please look out for tickets which will be available on MCAS soon - these events are wonderful opportunities in celebrating talent and bringing the community together. Don't miss out as tickets sell quickly. This year we will have students from year 5 to sixth form involved - a truly inclusive experience!

We have introduced Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts and students have started their unit 1 and 2 briefs. We will be showcasing work in summer term with an agent showcase where students will perform their final year 12 production. Next half term we will visit Fourth Monkey for a theatre industry day and a visit to a drama school - Central School of Speech and Drama - for an immersion day. Students will get insight into the professional performing arts industry as well as exploring future careers.













Year 10s have just embarked on their introduction to performing arts. We have organised two events - an industry day to MK theatre to watch Back to the future with a backstage tour and an in-school, all-day event in January with the internationally renowned Boxed Theatre Company who will introduce our year 10 and 11 students to devising practice. Year 11s are busy working on their unit 2 coursework performances in November. We wish them all the best .. break a leg! Here are some snapshots of the work we do in Performing Arts to give you a glimpse of what students have been doing this term.

We are very proud of our BTEC Level 2 students on their excellent results in the summer. A standout year again for Etonbury Performing Arts: 100% pass rate 4-9 and exceptional top grades. Above the national average.

Mrs Brahmachari-Limb has been busy building strong partnerships to support students at National Bridge Builder in Bedford. As part of her work with Drama Matters, students get exposure to many incredible national initiatives. We do things a bit differently here at ETA, where students can choose pathways in both acting and design, the partnerships we build give our students some incredible opportunities in the Performing Arts field.

Finally Mrs Brahmachari-Limb continues to train drama teachers in the county as the next generation of drama teachers. We have two new trainees, Zack and Hollie, who will be working with us in our classroom, we look forward to welcoming them next term.

Congratulations to Josh and Ben who trained with us at ETA, have graduated and are now working in local schools.



ETONBURY ACADEMY

School House System

At Etonbury Academy, every student and member of staff belongs to one of our four Houses: Carters, Thatchers, Foresters and Saddlers.

Our Houses have strong links to the history and heritage of our local area, representing ancient crafts and trades. They are proudly represented in the four quadrants of the Etonbury Academy shield and form an important part of school life.

Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of interhouse competitions, challenges, sporting events and activities. These events encourage teamwork, participation and a strong sense of community, while giving students the chance to represent their house and celebrate their achievements.

House points and Competition
House points are awarded throughout the academic year, with merits and achievements contributing to each house's overall total. Progress is celebrated regularly during house assemblies, where students can see how their collective efforts are helping their house.

Our House colours are:

🔴 Carters – Red

🟡 Thatchers – Yellow

🟢 Foresters – Green

🔵 Saddlers – Blue

The excitement builds throughout the year, culminating in our annual Sports Day, when students compete in a range of events and we reveal the overall winning house.

For many of our students, being part of a house is a real source of pride. Some families even have several generations who have been part of the same house during their time at Etonbury.

Introducing our house Captains 2026–2027
Each year, students are invited to apply to become a house captain for the following academic year. Four students from each year group are elected to represent their house.
Our house captains play an important role in encouraging participation, building team spirit and helping to ensure that every student feels included, supported and ready to get involved.
We are delighted to welcome our 2026–2027 house captains and look forward to seeing them lead their houses with enthusiasm, positivity and pride throughout the year.






ETONBURY ACADEMY

Reminders & Information



ETONBURY ACADEMY

PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



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

2026-27 ETONBURY EXTRA AFTER-SCHOOL PROVISION

Bookings are to be made via MCAS once your child's registration form has been processed.
If you wish your child/ren to attend the facility this year, please complete the application form on our website prior to your child's first session.
Sessions must be booked 24 hours in advance.
Please note, we do try and accomodate last minute childcare but we do ask that bookings are made the day before the session is required.

CLICK to complete registration form.

Question - eta-asc@bestacademies.org.uk

To contact school staff regarding your child, email the relevant staff member. 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.

Thank you

Attendance

Our Attendance Officer is Mrs Leanne Bolton, who is here to support you with any attendance queries or concerns.

Reporting an Absence
If your child is unwell, please let us know before 9:00am each day by either :
📞 01462 730391 (Option 1). Please leave a voicemail - if you would like a call back, please include this in your message.
📧 eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk / eta-sixthformattendance@bestacademies.org.uk
📲 Report the absence or appointment or collections via the MCAS app.

Please remember that ALL absences must be reported daily, unless otherwise agreed with the school.

Appointments
If your child has a medical/dental appointment during the school day, please email eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk or let us know via the MCAS app in advance with evidence of the appointment. We also ask that you copy in your child's form tutor so they are aware of the planned absence and to help with reminders.

Students are expected to leave class at the appropriate time to make their way to reception, and be collected by a parent or carer. Please support your child's learning by ensuring that they only miss the amount of school time necessary. Most general appointments do not require a whole day's absence.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain excellent attendance so that all children can receive the best possible education.

NEW MENU

Accent

We are delighted to share that, from September, Etonbury Academy will be welcoming a new catering provider, Accent, who will be providing our canteen services across the whole school.

MAIN MENU CLICK HERE

Thrive is our Sixth Form menu - please click to view further information and a the new menu

THRIVE
REAL FOOD. GREAT FLAVOUR.

Follow us

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

Support for Everyone

As parents and carers, there may be times when you need a little extra advice, information or support — whether that's around your child's wellbeing, mental health, online safety, friendships, bullying, SEND or challenges at home.
Our Parental Support page brings together a wide range of trusted organisations, services and resources to help families find the right support.

There are also details of local services, national charities, helplines and online resources, making it a useful place to start if you're looking for advice or simply want to understand what support is available.Please take a look at the page and save it somewhere handy — you never know when you or your child might benefit from one of these services.

👉 Explore our Parent Support page

You'll find information and links covering areas including:

🧠 Mental health and emotional wellbeing
📱 Online safety and cyberbullying
💬 Bullying and relationships
❤️ Support for young people and families
🧩 SEND and autism support
👨‍👩‍👧 Family and parenting advice
🧎 Young carers and more..

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs on an ad-hoc basis, allowing you to use it as and when needed. Each session costs £2 and runs from 7:30am to 8:15am. During this time, students can enjoy a calm and welcoming environment to help them prepare for the school day.

They will also be offered a snack and drink.

If you're interested, please complete the Google Form below with any relevant details ahead of your child's attendance:

👉 **Breakfast Club Registration Form**

Drop off Information - On the day, please drop your child off in the staff car park. They will enter through the staff gate (same as after school club) and head directly to the Study Centre / Library.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to get in touch, jbamford@bestacademies.org.uk

MEDICAL REMINDERS

Please remind all students to bring a water bottle to school, especially when warmer weather approaches. This promotes hydration and reduces plastic cup usage. Medical are unable to provide cups. Encourage sunscreen application before school and remind students with hayfever to take allergy medication in the morning. Starting from Year 7, students can carry and self-administer a single dose of paracetamol if needed.
For medical concerns, contact Miss A Cox at acox@bestacademies.org.uk.



We offer a wide variety of courses at A level, BTEC Level 3 and will be welcoming applications from internal and external applicants. Talks from the Head of Sixth Form Mrs Dowden at 5.30 & 6.15pm, then tour the facilities, meet subject leads and pupils. Visit www.etonbury.org.uk/sixth-form to book.

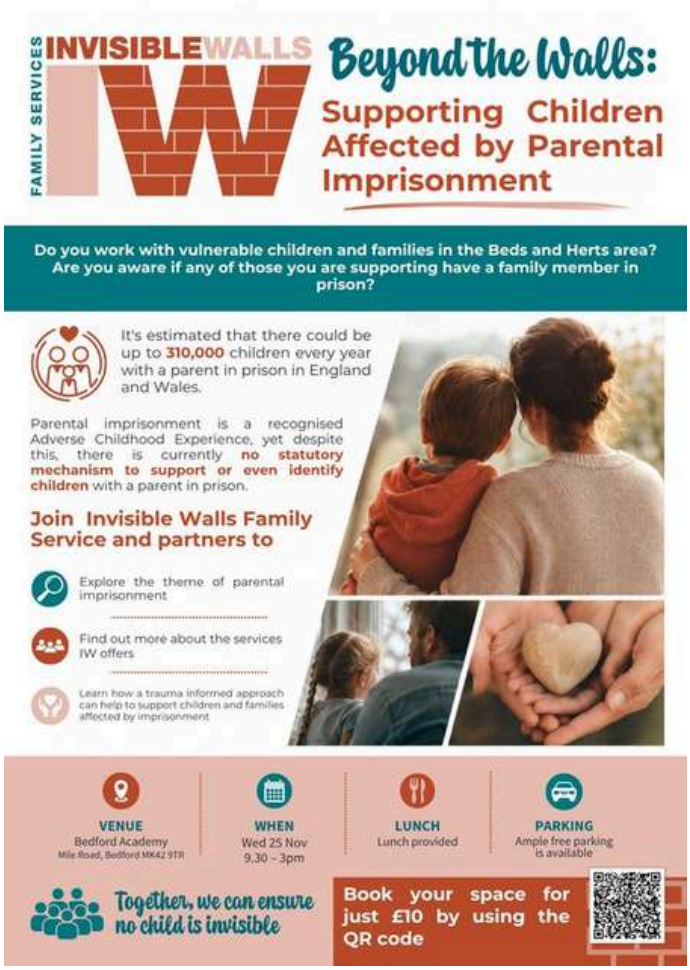
THE ETA WAY
E veryone is respectful
T ogether we care
A lways aim higher

01462 730391 | etaoffice@bestacademies.org.uk | www.etonbury.org.uk

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 that we do. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

Ensuring the wellbeing and safety of students is a priority. Families should be aware of available support for any concerns:

Central Bedfordshire Children's Services:
For urgent safeguarding, call 📞 0300 300 8585.

Mental Health Crisis Support:

- Call NHS 111 and select Option 2 for mental health crisis help (available for all ages).
- Go to your local A&E in an emergency.

Additional support includes;

- CAMHS Mental Health Summer Drop-In Centre
- Emotional Dysregulation Parent Workshops.

For a full list of resources, visit the Safeguarding section on the school website or click on our Family Information leaflet to the right.

Ms T McErlean (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
tmcerlean@bestacademies.org.uk
Mr M Craddock (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
mcraddock@bestacademies.org.uk



For immediate safeguarding concerns in Central Bedfordshire, call 0300 300 8585 for children or 0300 300 8122 for adults. These lines operate during standard office hours. For out-of-hours emergencies, bank holidays, and weekends, contact the Emergency Duty Team at 0300 300 8123.

Always call 999 for immediate risk of harm.

CBC Community Safety Events

A Community Safety Officer will be at Arlesey Library on Tuesday 17 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 13.00 - 14.00 about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

A Community Safety Officer will be at Biggleswade Library on Tuesday 3 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our fficer between15.30 -16.30 about OUR safety concerns in YOUR area

A Community Safety Officer will be at Shefford Council Chambers on Wednesday 4 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer from 9.30am to 12pm about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

Central Bedfordshire

A Community Safety Officer will be at Sandy Library on Tuesday 10 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 15.30 -16.30 about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

Central Bedfordshire

A Community Safety Officer will be at Saxon Pool and Leisure Centre in Biggleswade on Tuesday 3 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 1.30-2.30pm about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

Central Bedfordshire

A Community Safety Officer will be at Shefford Library on Tuesday 10 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 13.30 - 14.30 about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

A Community Safety Officer will be at Stotfold Library on Tuesday 17 November 2026



Pop along and speak with our Officer between 11.00 - 12.00 about YOUR safety concerns in YOUR area

Central Bedfordshire

Club Information

Sign up to clubs via Bromcom

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. Pupils 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.

Please remember the last week of the term after school clubs do not run.

Important Dates

- **Half term 24th Oct to 1st November 2026**

- Monday 2 Nov - Pupils & Staff back to school!

- Tues 3rd Nov - D of E Information Evening
- **Weds 4th Nov- Sixth Form Open Evening**
- Saturday 7th Nov - Sixth Form Southwark Crown Court
- Thurs 12th Nov- Virtual meet the tutor yr 5/6/7
- Mon 16th Nov - Year 11 mocks for two weeks
- Thurs 19th Nov - Year 13 Shepreth Wildlife Trip
- Fri 20 Nov - Year 12 Drama Trip
- Mon 23 Nov - PoleConUK, biannual politics and economics conference.
- Weds 25 / Thurs 26 Nov - Year 13 Business Trip
- Tues 1 / Weds 2 / Thurs 3 Dec - Roald Dahl Trip Year 5
- Tues 8 / Weds 9 / Thurs 10 Dec - Year 6 Victorian Museum Visit
- Tues 15 Dec - Year 10 Hospitality & Catering Trip
- **Weds 16 / Thurs 17 Dec** - ETA **Christmas Show** 🎄🤶
- Friday 18 Dec - Break up for Christmas Holidays - normal times apply.

- **Mon 4 Jan 2027 - Staff INSET day**
- **Tues 5 Jan - Pupils back to school.**

Click here to view the 2026 / 2027 term dates

Thank you for reading!

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

Etonbury Academy
Stotfold Road, Arlesey, SG15 6XS
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www.etonbury.org.uk

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