

Parent Weekly Update - 25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have seen the children really settle in well to school life, and the new systems have become the norm. We are disappointed in the change of weather which always brings additional challenges in managing a school but I know we will all adjust.

It seems so early to be mentioning the next steps for our Year 8 children. The system in Bedfordshire is a little confusing, but easier for our children as you are expected to stay at Etonbury so **you don't need to complete any forms** to continue on the Etonbury journey. Our small year groups remain the same from year 9, and we know your child, we have established relationships and we will ensure they continue to aim high.

I have some exciting news too! I am delighted to inform you that all our students in Years 5 to 8 will also be able to stay with us through to **Sixth Form which will open in 2023**. Plans are underway, and we will keep you all informed. This is excellent news for our community, and builds on the continuing success of our GCSEs in the past two years, our Good OFSTED result and our place in the top 100 performing and improving schools.

Plans are also underway to start welcoming our Year 4 parents/carers and children of the lower feeder schools to see us, these specific dates for each of the feeders will be sent out very soon. We have been in contact with each lower school to discuss transition and dates to fit around them. The deadline for applications is not until Wednesday 15th January, and these will be held after half term and will be done in feeder school bubbles, socially distanced by households. Other events we are holding are mainly to cover the interest we have received from out of catchment Years 4 to 8 entry. All our events in the current climate are taking slightly longer to ensure we all stay safe, but please contact us if you have any questions.

with kindest regards,

Ian Evason, Principal

Week commencing Mon 28 September - Timetable B

ALL YEARS

Reporting a child's absence for appointments - All appointment details must be sent to eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk along with supporting documentation for our records.

NO hoodies in school - Hoodies are **not** allowed in school as per the Behaviour policy. From Monday students who wear a hoodie will have this removed at the gate and they can collect it from their Head of Year at the end of the day. If students are cold on a PE day we would recommend wearing their school jumper, school blazer and a jacket. Thank you for your support.

School photographs for years 5, 7, 9 and 11 - Vancols were in today taking students individual photos. Your child will bring home a proof card. [Vancols.jpg](#)
In a couple of days, please use this to access the information on how to purchase the photograph.

Bike tagging session Bedfordshire Police - Bedfordshire Police will be attending school on Tuesday 29 September 8.00am - 9.00am to tag bikes free of charge with an individual code for students who wish to take part. If they cannot get through all students wanting their bike tagged, they will provide school with the means to run further bike tagging sessions in the future. Bedfordshire Police have advised that all bikes should be registered on the The National Cycle Database you can do this by following this link. <https://www.bikeregister.com/>

Instrumental and Vocal lessons - Since the start of term many students have expressed an interest to start instrumental and/or vocal lessons. We are very pleased that Etonbury has been given the go ahead by county to recommence instrumental and vocal lessons after completing a thorough risk assessment to allow these to happen safely.

Learning an instrument not only has musical benefits but it has also been linked to boosting memory, processing and reading skills. Some studies have shown that participating in musical activities has increased blood flow in the brain and reduced stress and depression.

If you are interested in having music lessons then you can sign up using one of the options below.

Guitar Lessons - contact *Allan Simpson* - email alsimpsontr@gmail.com

Piano Lessons - contact *Boris Peck* - email boris_peck@hotmail.com phone 07884057278

All other instruments (including a second piano teacher, brass, woodwind, drums, string and singing teachers) click the link below to the Inspiring Music Website and sign up for a taster session. <https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/lessons-schools/suitable-instrument>. If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Hardy our Head of Music at ehardy@bestacademies.org.uk

Music Clubs - Due to the restrictions of COVID and year group bubbles we cannot run the usual choirs and bands this term. However, we know how important it is to provide students a performance outlet to gain musical skill and to socialise. To give students the opportunity to continue making music as an ensemble we are starting music clubs in year group bubbles. These are aimed at anyone in a year group who wants to get involved at any ability level including both singers and instrumentalists.

We will be putting together group performances which will be recorded and shared via the music department twitter page until we are able to perform live again.

Check out the session for your year group;

Year 7 - Thursday **Week A** - 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Year 8 - Thursday **Week B** - 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Year 9 - Tuesday **Week A** - 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Library Books - all books borrowed are overdue, please ensure your child returns them to school urgently.

Food Menus - Week 1. [Click here](#) to view break and lunch menus.

ETONBURY JUNIORS - Email ETA-Primary@bestacademies.org.uk

UPPER YEARS

Lunchtimes (when the field is too wet)

Years 7 and 8 will be allowed to use the 3g to have a kick about if they have their football boots with them.

Year 10 will be allowed into the Sports Hall if they have their indoor training shoes with them.

Years 9 and 11 will continue to be able to use the playgrounds where they will be able to play ball sports.

Year 11 English GCSE Examination Information - [Click here](#) to view important English GCSE examination information.

Year 11 Maths GCSE revision timetable - To help your son/daughter to prepare for their mock exams starting the week of Monday 9 November, please find attached a 6-week revision schedule for Mathematics, for either the [Foundation tier](#) paper or [Higher tier](#) papers.

Every student has their Mathswatch login and password for vle.mathswatch.co.uk

The video clips cover the entire GCSE course and have been proven to help students to improve their grades. We have issued paper copies of these to students in lessons this week.

Year 11 GCSE PE students - [Click here](#) to read the following document on filming students practical moderation. Where possible we will film in school, however due to current PE guidelines we are limited. It can be beneficial to film participants playing at a higher level. Pupils need two sports, these can be team or individual, this is 30% of their overall GCSE grade. Footage can be emailed to eprior@bestacademies.org.uk or cvernon-hamilton@bestacademies.org.uk this will then be assessed and graded.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/9781446933794-gcse016-l2-pe-ppac.pdf>

Careers Guidance - Check out careers guidance information on our [website](#)

Everyone is respectful - Together we care - Always aim higher