

Parent Weekly Update - 11 September 2020

It is wonderful to see so many smiling faces back at Etonbury. The children have returned to see further improvements to the school including new sports equipment, a refurbished SEND room and classrooms, new fire alarms and expanded play areas. We have also just received the keys for our new reception area which we hope to open after half term. Exciting times.

For the second year running, we attained a further set of exceptional GCSE results, and nationally, our children have achieved significantly over and above what they were expecting. We are awaiting the local authority ratings, but we expect to be at the top again this year. Huge congratulations to all our students, who we welcomed back to school on results day to hand them their results, present them with their leaving gift and give the teachers an opportunity to say their fond farewells.

We have returned to doing what we love. Educating our children in the classroom to be the best that they can be. We welcomed our new year 5s from St Mary's Church of England, Fairfield Park, Roecroft, Pixmore Junior, Gothic Mede, Langford Village, Wilbury Juniors, Derwent Lower and Stondon Lower. Further up the school, we were joined by a number of new students and we are certain they will enjoy their time at Etonbury meeting new friends, experiencing the wide curriculum and enjoying our new facilities. With small year groups, we are fortunate that our teams can really get to know every child.

All our staff and students were excited to receive their welcome back pack, with a pad, pen and a special message. It is also wonderful to hear, see and teach, classrooms full of happy children. I hope your child has enjoyed the return to school and if they are feeling a little anxious they are feeling supported. I greeted the school in a virtual assembly and then achieved 47K steps during the day as I walked around the building (one way) meeting all our children! It has been quite uplifting to see how responsible and mature our children have been on their return. The children have been enjoying separate break times, introduced to the one way system and embracing the sanitising procedures to keep Etonbury safe. We will no doubt need to adapt our procedures as things change, but we know that our community has the strength and ability to support this.

We must congratulate Miss Vernon-Hamilton for achieving 5th place in the triple jump at the British Athletics Championships held at the beginning of term. We have exceptionally talented staff and students which we hope to tell you more about over the coming months. Their skills and talents contribute significantly to the success of Etonbury.

We have just a few new staff who have joined Etonbury this September. Mrs Harbour is Head of Geography, Miss Bacon is Teacher of English/RS, Mrs Plant and Mrs French as MFL Teachers, Mrs Sutton as Primary Teacher, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Kirk and Miss Saunders as Teaching Assistants.

As we look ahead for this academic year 2020/2021 with some uncertainty, we are fortunate to have the people, pastoral care, technology and a supportive community to continue providing the education our children deserve with their wellbeing at the centre of everything we do.

For now, friendships have been rekindled and classroom teaching has resumed...it's a sight to behold.

Ian Evason

Principal

ALL YEARS

PE - Hoodies are NOT allowed in school, therefore these will also not be allowed for PE lessons. Students will be asked to remove their hoodies as they move around school. We are encouraging students to either wear the Etonbury PE fleece or alternatively bring a coat in for days where the weather is cooler.

KS4 girls ARE allowed to wear sports leggings. These must be plain black or blue in colour.

No football boots are required until after half term.

Library Books - all books borrowed are overdue, please ensure your child returns them to school by Friday 19th September.

Etonbury Extra Afterschool Club - Still has places available, open to all years until 6pm for after school care provision, £5 per session. [Click here](#) to see our school website for further details and to apply.

Free School Meals - If your child is entitled to free school meals, they can collect their packed lunch or hot dinner from the canteen at lunch time. *Students will need to place an order with their form tutor in morning registration.*

Bike or scooter locks - The bike sheds are locked daily. All students are required **to lock** their bike when they arrive at school.

Academic Interventions - Students will be receiving well being support during form times, in order to help them readjust to school life. To allow students to focus on their well-being, academic interventions are expected to commence week beginning 21st September 2020.

Extra curricular activities - We recognise and value extra-curricular as a hugely important part of your child's education. However, we are restricted by the current government guidance to work within strict class or year group bubbles. In addition, there are many activities where we also have to adhere to extra guidance from external governing bodies. This, as you can imagine, makes it challenging for us to run our normal extensive programme.

With the aforementioned in mind and along with the pupils having new routines to adopt, as well as getting back into the habit of early morning starts and long days, we will not initially be offering extra-curricular activities.

We will continue to monitor the situation and follow the guidance with the hope that we can shortly resume the wonderful extra-curricular activities that would usually be on offer.

Epraise Login - Epraise is now updated, students can log on using the sign in with google button and your school account. This will give you information about your form group, timetable and rooming. If you have issues logging on, your tutor will help.

Hygiene - Please remind your child of the importance of washing their hands, using hand sanitiser and tissues.

Meetings with staff - We will be limiting the number of visitors to the Academy and request that if parents/carers wish to speak to their child's teacher this should be via appointment only. Please email staff directly to make these appointments, so appropriate spaces can be made available with a cleaning schedule in place.

Food Service - We have been working with our catering contractor, Taylor Shaw, to make sure all the Health and safety measures including risk assessments are in place. Till screens have been set up in the dining room and there will be some changes to the service. There will be a grab and go service of hot food, sandwiches and cold drinks which we hope to be able to update you on next week. Due to the children going through the canteen in their bubbles they will be able to use the biometric system to pay for food. **The cash machines in school will NOT be available to use.**

All parents/carers will be required to upload money using the Parentmail system online or using the app to purchase food. Please don't worry if your child is new to the school, they will be able to purchase food during their first week and you will be given a week to receive your registration details and upload your payment. Children are limited to £5 per day unless we are notified to increase or decrease this amount. Please email tina.daddario@taylorshaw.com to change these amounts. Staff will be around to help our children in the dining room, particularly our new starters.

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

Breakfast Club - Available for all years at a cost of £2.00 per day from 7.30am - 8.15am. Please email Mr Jack Downes on jdownes@bestacademies.org.uk if you require a place for your child. Breakfast Club will be held in the Student Study Centre.

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

It has been lovely to see all our children return to school this week. Staff and pupils had an amazing

week and have settled in well. Please note Junior pupils are **not to arrive before 8.15** when they can go straight to class. The gates and classes are not supervised prior to this and early arrivals are creating congestion near the school entrance. Thank you.

Any further questions please email Mrs Whittle on ETA-Primary@bestacademies.org.uk

UPPER YEARS

Maths - Reminder that students need to bring all basic equipment to each lesson, including a pen, pencil, ruler and a scientific calculator.

Science / DT - Each pupil in Years 7-11 will be provided with their own pair of safety spectacles, for their personal use in Science and DT lessons. These will be handed out by form tutors during the first week of term. Please can each pupil bring these safety spectacles with them each day - they must not be shared with other pupils. If you wish to clean them, we recommend warm, soapy water (do not use abrasive pads or cleaning agents), followed by a soak in the sort of disinfectant used for baby bottles (e.g. Miltons), following the manufacturers recommendations. **If your child loses or breaks their safety spectacles, there will be a replacement charge of £5.**

Year 10 / 11 GCSE and BTEC Dance students - New polos and jumpers are now available to order through parentmail. These are optional. The deadline for order is Friday 25 September. Prices include Etonbury badge, chosen course and surname on the back.

Year 10 - English Literature GCSE Texts - [Click here](#) for information on purchasing copies of GCSE English Literature Texts.

Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE - [Click here](#) to view letter regarding contact sports required for this subject.

Year 9 - HPV catchup sessions - You should have received the [electronic HPV consent letter](#) for your child this week, please could you read and action as soon as possible. The phone number for the Nursing team is on the letter should you have any questions.

Students equipment - Please remind your child that any equipment that they bring into school should not be shared with their peers. Upper school students should have a pen, red pen, pencil, ruler and calculator. All students will be supplied with their own pair of goggles.

Careers Guidance -

Year 11 Important Post 16 options - [This powerpoint presentation](#) will explain all the options students have after leaving Etonbury. It's full of useful information and links to start exploring which pathway they would like to take. It's important to note that Sixth Form applications close between the end of December 2020 - January 2021 depending on where you are applying to.

[Go to the careers page on our website](#)

Everyone is respectful - Together we care - Always aim higher