

Parent Weekly Update - 8 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move into our full school closure remote learning, I would like to thank you for your messages of support in particular our Junior parents who had less than 24hrs to prepare their child for home learning. Every child's parent in our school will receive, or may have already received, a phone call by a member of ETA staff to make sure your child is set up for remote learning. It has been a real boost to our staff to receive such good feedback, thank you.

This week, we have continued with the BTEC examinations and have welcomed some of our Year 11s back into school, it was good to see them. Their resilience is remarkable, and they really deserve to have the best outcomes. Following the government's announcement this week that GCSE examinations would again be cancelled, we share the huge disappointment this news brings, and will continue to support our students as we work through the implications of this.

Critical Worker school opened on Tuesday, it is great to have some children in the building. They have been working hard, and dealing with the change to remote learning in the classroom. It is quite different to last Summer, with much more structure so it feels like a normal school day. May I remind you to keep them at home if you can, so we can keep these numbers to a minimum.

With thanks to our current staff team, our Lateral Flow Testing site is now up and running. Staff testing started yesterday, and Critical Worker children testing has started today. It has been no mean feat to get this set up to ensure the maximum safety of our staff and students.

Praise texts will have gone out today, each week three children who have received one will be selected at random to receive an e-voucher, so please encourage your child to remain focused on learning, they may well be a winner! I don't underestimate your task with juggling children at home, working and having to 'stay at home'. We will do everything we can to provide the best education possible to keep our children on track. We have incredibly creative and innovative staff, who are encouraged and supported to further develop this new challenge of inclusive remote learning. We are all in this together.

Kindest regards,

Ian Evason, *Principal*

Week commencing Monday 11 January - Timetable B

ALL YEARS

Home Learning

Home Learning explained [Click Here](#) - This presentation (previously sent in an email) explains ETA's approach to Home Learning. If you have not seen this already then please follow the link to get a full update. From Monday 11th January students should start to follow their usual timetable, this can be found on Epraise. They should check which lessons they would usually have on that day in the morning and then go directly to the relevant subject's 'Google Classroom' to find their tasks. Your child's link adult will contact you every two weeks and during this call will identify any subjects where they have not engaged.

Expectations for Home learning and live sessions from Monday 11th January - This presentation was sent to all students today [Click Here](#)

Live Learning Timetable starting from Monday 11th January [Click Here](#) When your child has a live lesson the link will appear in their 'Google Classroom'. We may have a few teething problems in the first week so please get in touch with your child's usual classroom teacher for that subject if they encounter any issues and we will work to resolve them for the following session.

ICT Support - Please email the Student IT Support mailbox if you have any technical issues with remote learning, including resetting your Google password to access Epraise - studentitsupport@bestacademies.org.uk

Recommendation for Chromebooks - If you are looking at purchasing a Chromebook for your child. Our IT partner is recommending this model. HP Chromebook 11a-nb0000na Laptop. These cannot be purchased through the school.

Epraise - Students can log in by clicking 'Sign in with Google' and entering their @mybest email address. If you have any difficulties accessing Epraise, other than password issues, please contact our Data Manager, Miss Jackie Pyper, jpyper@bestacademies.org.uk All students and parents will have previously received access to epraise via the following link [click here](#), or you can download as an App. Students will still receive information including their live form time link, assemblies and praise points via Epraise so they should keep a regular check on it.

Free School Meals - Central Bedfordshire Council took over the FSM voucher scheme over the Christmas period and will have sent out e-vouchers to those that qualify. We have been notified that they have continued this for a further two weeks for Years 7-11, but we are awaiting further information about them sending vouchers to Years 5 and 6 following the government's decision on Monday evening.

The government have also informed us that they are re-introducing the voucher scheme moving forward and we are awaiting further details to be able to administer this.

In the meantime, if parents/carers of years 5 and 6 would like to collect a packed lunch from the school please email etaoffice@bestacademies and we will arrange this for you.

Meet the Mentor - Update to the virtual Meet the Mentor sessions. Please [click here](#).

Flu vaccinations - [Click here](#) to view letter from NHS to parents/carers

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

PE Challenge - Please see the link below for our PE challenge 'Walk, Run, Cycle' open to all students, parents and staff to get involved in. This will run between now and February half-term. Please follow us on twitter @EtonburyPE for regular updates. For more information including how to log your results [Click Here](#)

Reporting a child's absence - Please [click here](#) for guidance on how to report a child's absence.

Calendar 20/21 amendment - There will be no training day on Thursday 22 July as previously published. Children will be in school as normal. [Click here](#) for term dates.

Performing Arts, National Theatre - we are very excited to announce that all key stages will now have access to have a subscription to the NT at school, so students can get access to professional theatre as the theatres are closed.

We will be starting this initiative in January 2021 and we will keep you informed of the performances they will be watching to enrich student's appreciation and experience of Performing Arts.

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

UPPER YEARS

Year 11 BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Animal Care Exam - Monday 11 January 2021 - 9.00am
[Click here](#) for exam information. This exam is still going ahead all students should register with Mr Craddock at 8:15am in the canteen.

CAREERS ADVICE

Important Year 11 post 16 options

The Knights Templar School - [Click here](#) to view the Knights Templar Sixth Form Launch 2021 and [click here](#) for the information poster.

Discover Sixth Forms and Colleges - [Click here](#) to view an abundance of videos, links and information to get students thinking and questioning their post 16 choices.

Don't forget to go to our careers page on our [website](#) for help.

Please [click here](#) for a list of all schools and colleges within this area together with links to their websites.

Are you aged 16-19 and able to spare a few minutes to complete a survey?

Central Bedfordshire Council are planning for the future and looking at what education and training will be needed. As far as possible we want to make sure that the offer meets the needs of young people, and that it equips young people with skills needed for their future. To help us with this, we would like to hear your views on your experience of the current offer and any gaps.

Please help us to help young people by completing the short survey

<https://centralbedfordshire.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=159828376185>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CORONAVIRUS

Information and support - Click below for details available on our website

<https://www.etonbury.org.uk/parents-area/parental/-/student-support>

Local restriction tiers: what you need to know

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Guidance for households - [Click here](#) for information on how to form a childcare bubble for children aged 13 or under with friends and family they do not live with.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) – updated 27 November 2020 to reflect the local restrictions, including changes to the sections on [shielding](#), [face coverings](#), [school and college trips and extra-curricular activities](#). Information has been added about [performances in schools](#)

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAS ONE OF THESE SYMPTOMS:

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- **wash your hands** frequently with soap **for at least 20 seconds**, or use hand sanitiser
- **Wear a face covering** correctly when you are required to do so - especially on public transport
- **Keep 2 metres apart** from anyone you do not live with.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Virtual Wellbeing Drop-Ins - Please [click here](#) for more information on sessions running throughout January and February.

Early Help Team Virtual Drop-Ins for Parents - Please [click here](#) for more information.

Low mood, self-harm and suicide advice and support sessions - [Click here](#) for more information and to book a session for advice and support.

Bereavement Support Sessions- [Click here](#) for information and to book a session

'Being a Parent of a Child affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorder' - Home Start are offering a free 10 week course. Please [click here](#) for more details.

Term Dates 20/21

Monday 15 February - Half Term

Monday 22 February - Return to school

Friday 26 March - Last day of term (Easter break)

Tuesday 13 April - Students return to school

Friday 28 May - Half Term

Monday 7 June - Return to school

Friday 22 July - Last day of term (Summer break)

Everyone is respectful - Together we care - Always aim higher