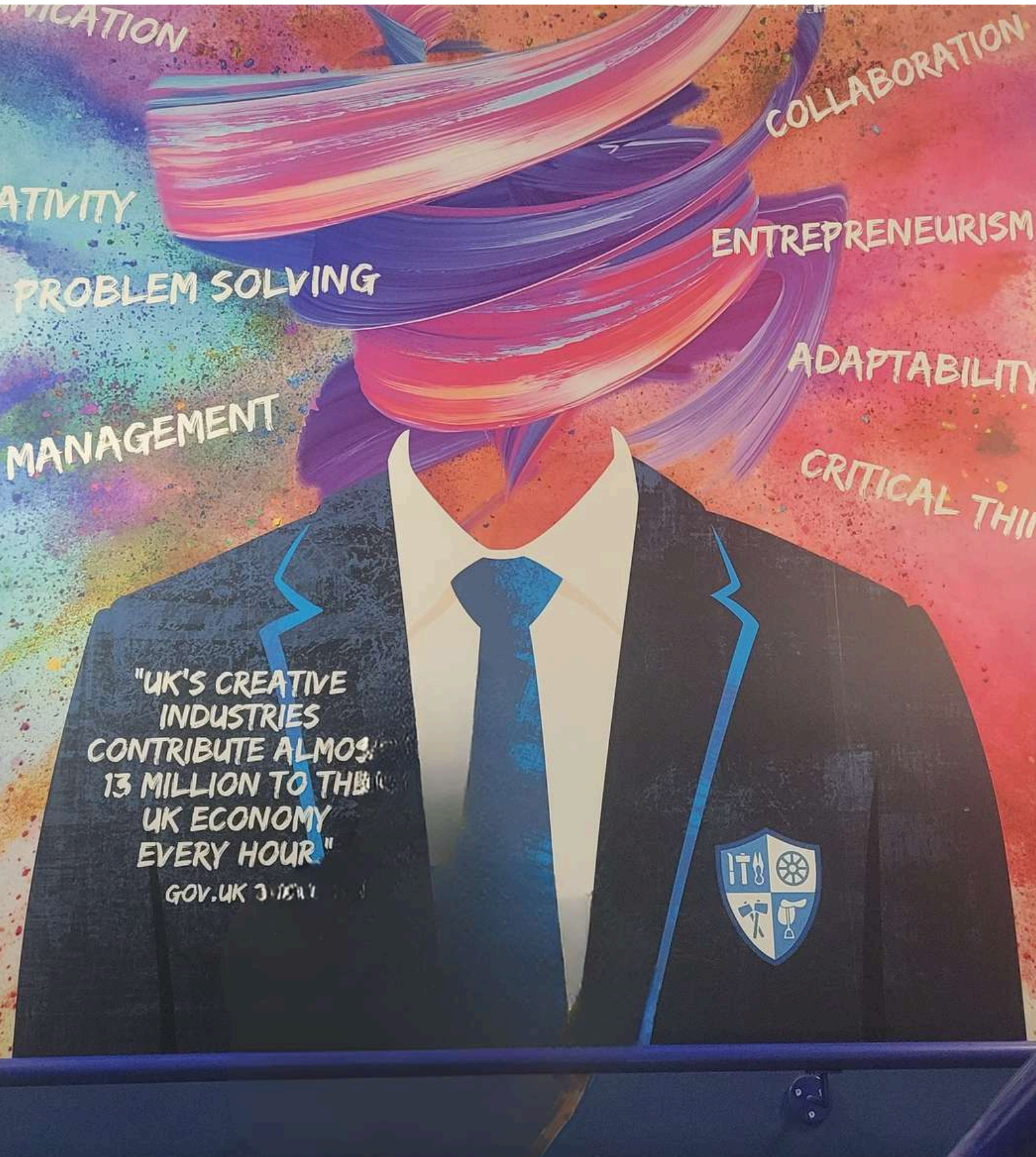




ETTONBURY
ACADEMY

ISSUE 9

PARENT BULLETIN



'A welcoming & nurturing place to learn'



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



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



This half term has started with a clear sense of direction and purpose. The Senior Leadership Team have been conducting learning walks across all years throughout the school, observing different lessons, speaking with pupils about their learning and looking at progress in pupils' books. The results from these observations have been overwhelmingly positive, showing that students truly enjoy their learning experiences.

We are delighted to share with you all that we have recently appointed Mrs Weekes as the new Parent Governor at Etonbury Academy and I would like to formally welcome Mrs Weekes to the post. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and for our parents who put themselves forward for the election. It is important that parents are represented on the Governing body and support the direction of travel for the school.

As Year 11 students count down the weeks until their GCSE exams, staff members are keenly aware that this period can be a particularly busy one for pupils as they finish their GCSE content and begin their revision. Year 11 teachers are offering a wide variety of intervention sessions during lunchtime and after school to provide support and reassurance. Students are encouraged to attend these sessions; any Year 11 student not yet participating in an intervention for a specific subject should consult their subject teacher for guidance on the appropriate times and days.

Last week, students from Years 5 to 8 in the ETA Young Voices club performed at the O2 Arena, showcasing a range of songs and choreography alongside over 7,000 other participants. The enthusiastic Etonbury students delivered a remarkable performance, highlighting the school's nurturing of talent and a love for music and the arts, thanks to the dedication of the staff involved.

Our Year 9 pupils are currently preparing to select their GCSE options, allowing them to personalise their curriculum options in line with their career aspirations. The school offers a wide variety of subjects, including Media Studies, Health and Social Care, Photography, Business Studies, Sociology, Psychology, and BTEC Sport. This presents a fantastic opportunity for students to explore different courses and make informed choices. Parents and carers are invited to the Year 9 Options Evening on February 26th.

Additionally, we recently hosted a 'Meet Your Mentor' evening for parents and carers of students in Years 5 to 9. This event allowed families to connect with academic mentors while students showcased their work. At Etonbury, students meet regularly with mentors to reflect on their progress, with mentors supporting them in achieving academic goals and learning outcomes.

Literacy and oracy continues to be a strong theme across Etonbury, as we recognise the importance these skills have in life. This half term, Year 7 and Year 9 students were treated to a visit from a local poet and speaker, Anthea Barclay. In a highly engaging presentation, Anthea explored ideas around positivity and the power of words. The sessions were very interactive, and many of our students spoke clearly and confidently to share their thoughts with our visitor, see photo below.

Please remember that our Form Tutors and Teachers are always available to answer any questions throughout the year; there's no need to wait for parents' evenings. Sending an email is often the most effective way to reach a member of the teaching staff, as they spend much of the day in the classroom with students. As a school we have taken time this half term to reflect and remember two former pupils of Etonbury, peers of our current Year 13 pupils, our thoughts and condolences are shared with the families and they are remembered fondly by staff and pupils.

I wish you all a restful break.

Mrs Young
Principal





 **Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust**

Headline sponsor
SCHWALBE 

We're taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel 2026 challenge.

***Join in by walking,
wheeling, scooting or
cycling to school
between 16 - 27 March.***

- ☒ Be active and feel more energised
- ☒ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ☒ Help us win some fantastic prizes

www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk

Headline sponsor:

SCHWALBE 

 **Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust**

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered Charity in England and Wales (326550), Scotland (SC039263) and Republic of Ireland (20206824)
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ETONBURY

ROCKS

26/03/26

A NIGHT OF ROCK AND ROLL STARRING THE BEST OF ETONBURY'S TALENT

Featuring

Shredded Lettuce

OverBite

Way Wired

MITOSIS

GERALD
AND THE PACEMAKERS

SADE
KIRKLAND-BANTON

Seren Burt

Etonbury Academy
Main Hall 6:30pm

£6.50

Ear protection is advised





FREE Mindfulness Course for Parents & Carers

INTRODUCING MINDFULNESS IN 5 ONLINE SESSIONS

Open to **ALL Parents & Carers of BEST students**, this course provides
a taste of mindfulness, exploring key themes and practices
to support you in your everyday life:

- ♥ Improve your sense of wellbeing • cultivate calm and self-compassion
- ☁ Reduce stress and anxiety • learn to manage thoughts and emotions skilfully
- ☀ Be more present and effective • live life more intentionally, less reactively



with Will George
BEST Mindfulness Coach

SPRING TERM 2026 DATES

Thursdays: Feb 26th • Mar 5th • 12th • 19th • 26th

Choose your preferred time:

12.15pm-1.30pm or **6.30pm-7.45pm**

TO REGISTER

and view the [course introduction video](#)

visit bestacademies.org.uk/mindfulness

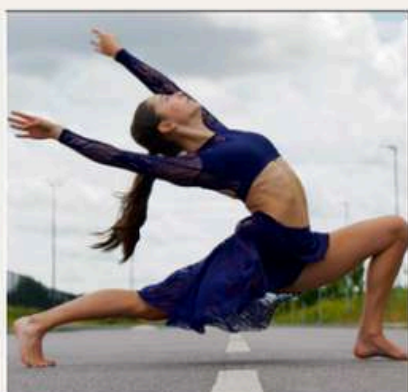
(places are limited and offered on a first come, first serve basis)



SAVE *the* DATE

JULY 9TH 2026

MORE INFO COMING SOON...



JULY

01	02	02
08	09	10
15	16	17

Dance Show



ETONBURY
ACADEMY



YEAR 5 - HIGHLIGHTS!

I am extremely impressed with how well the pupils have settled back into school life and their daily routines after Christmas break which seems such a long time ago.

A few reminders from us, please ensure your child continues to bring in their equipment every day. Please remember that your child's class teacher is your first point of contact,

Please check timetables on the MCAS app and remember to send your child in with their PE kits on the days this is on their timetable. If they forget a PE kit they can wear spare kit from the PE department. Please ensure your child has their water bottle and that it is named. We recommend you name all items of uniform to include PE kits and bags too.

Don't forget to follow [ETA Juniors on X](#). We always love to hear and share achievements from pupils outside of school, please share these with your child's class teacher via email. We also encourage you to follow the main Etonbury Academy page on [Facebook](#)

We offer a great variety of clubs for ETA Juniors. Please discuss club options with your child before signing up. Details are available on MCAS and our website. Ensure your child knows which clubs they will attend, Club dates can be found on the MCAS app. For questions, email the club teacher. Special thanks to Miss Oldham, Miss Saunders, Mr Thomson, Mrs. Chandler, Mr Hair and Miss Jones for running popular lunchtime clubs for our pupils.

Some of our KS2 pupils have begun to play in fixtures this half term, they have all put in an outstanding performance in each at every fixture – well done, keep it up! The boys football team are enjoying weekly matches. Thank you to Mr Hair and Mr Jarrett for the additional football clubs they both run for girls and boys.

Our Viking immersion day was fantastic, aligning perfectly with this term's topic. There were some amazing costumes, and the children engaged in a wide range of activities.

After half term we are looking forward to our new theme – Out of this world! We plan to make use of the VR headsets to explore the extra-terrestrial skies and planets. Our book will be “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” and we will be writing stories, letters and scripts and more. In maths we move onto decimals, percentages and area and in science we will be exploring earth and space. So much to look forward to.

Finally, we request pupils refrain from bringing gel pens or erasable pens into school. There are several reasons for this request, including their longer drying time and tendency to smudge easily. In addition, our policy requires pupils' work to be edited in red pen, erasable pens should not be used in the classroom as corrections and or feedback may be removed. We recommend that ETA Juniors use a black or blue handwriting pen instead. Thank you. Link to our equipment list – [here](#). Have a restful break and we look forward to welcoming you back after half term.



Year 5 football team

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

CLICK FOR
CURRICULUM PLANS



P.E. LEGENDS



ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Avina - Curie

Multi-Millionaires:

- Henry - Brunel
- Immy - Curie
- Beth - Curie



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:



Amelia N - Earhart &
Henry N - Curie



Orla B - Brunel



Beth H - Curie

year 5



NEWS FROM YEAR 6!

It has been a very busy half term – we would like to start off by saying a huge congratulations to everyone in year 6 for completing your practise KS2 SATs papers this half term. All of you have arrived at school with enthusiasm and maturity. Although this has been a challenging time, you have responded with resilience and character, well done. If you have ordered a SATS book when these arrive into school they will be sent home with the pupils.



Year 6 rugby team!

A few reminders for you all; Please ensure that your child/ children arrive at school between 8:15am and before 8:25am. The Junior gate opens at 8:15am sharp and will close at 8:25am prompt. Your cooperation in ensuring punctuality is greatly appreciated. Please have a look at the uniform policy, which states that girls' skirts should be knee length.

Children should come to school fully equipped. Please can you ensure that your child's pencil case is checked regularly and restocked over the half term holiday so they have all the correct equipment for learning when they return. Pupils are asked not to bring gel or erasable pens to school due to longer drying times and smudging. Erasable pens are not suitable for edits in red, as feedback may be lost. Instead, pupils should use a black or blue handwriting pen. Thank you. [equipment list](#)

Just this week, year 6 visited The Imperial War Museum in Duxford for their 'We Shall Never Forget' topic. They explored WWII planes and modern aircraft, including a Concorde prototype. Highlights included the Operations room, which they recognized from a 'Horrible Histories' video, and an audio-visual experience of the Battle of Britain on September 15, 1940. The 'Historic Duxford' building featured interactive displays. The site spans over a mile, requiring considerable walking, and everyone had an enjoyable day.

We have had pupils from years 5 to 8 rehearsing for Young Voices since September and performances take place at the O2 Arena (amongst other venues) each year. Those who were part of Young Voices thoroughly enjoyed the experience, we are immensely proud of them and grateful to all the staff involved in making the concert a resounding success. Events like these not only showcase the immense talent within our school, but also instil a love for music and the arts in our pupils.

The Junior Valentine's Disco was a great success, lots of fun was had by all, a huge thank you to the Sixth Form students who organised the event. It was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to socialise and express themselves through dance and have fun with their peers and teachers.

Next half term we have a Harry Potter theme to our topic – 'Wingardium Leviosa!' We will be reading "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", linking in a range of writing genres. In maths we will study area, perimeter and volume, and statistics. Our focus in science will be Evolution and Inheritance.

Enjoy your half term break. Mrs Crockford and the Year 6 Team.

ACCELERATED READER AWARDS

Accelerated Readers:

- Reuben – Titan
- Rose – Mars
- Willow – Neptune
- Kimberley – Saturn
-

Multi-millionaires

- Angleo – Jupiter



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Alfie W – Neptune
- ★ Bjorn N – Titan
- ★ Angelo W – Jupiter

P.E. LEGENDS

PE legend of the week awards for this half term!



ENGLISH SATS
COURSE

MATHS SATS
WORKSHOP

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

Head of Juniors - Mr B Sale

year 6

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



Year 7

YEAR 7 - AIMING HIGH!

This half term has been a successful one for Year 7. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting forms and lessons: from seeing pupils lead sessions in Mr Beka's form time, to watching them eagerly tackle Maths questions with Miss Hanna and achieving perfect scores in intervention with Miss King.

Our Year 7 boys' basketball team had a fantastic season, finishing second in the District after reaching the final against Robert Bloomfield Academy - an excellent achievement considering there are approximately 30 secondary schools competing within the Central Bedfordshire district. The team then progressed to the Bedfordshire county finals, where they finished seventh overall out of around 80 secondary schools across the county, including schools from Central Bedfordshire, South Bedfordshire and Luton. The boys battled hard throughout and represented the school superbly. Special mentions go to Ishe T and Zachary C, who played their first basketball game for the school and were highly influential on the court. A superb effort from all involved and a season the boys should be very proud of.



Fantastic workshop with year 7's

Transitioning into Year 7 often brings friendship hurdles, particularly regarding online communication and rumours. We are currently helping our pupils navigate these moments by reflecting on the 'power of our words.' Through form time discussions, we've explored how what we say can either support or strain someone who is struggling. To encourage a culture of kindness, we've challenged every student to make a conscious effort to offer one sincere compliment or kind word to a peer every day.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the many pupils and families who have supported Ms Hilsden and her family. As many of you are aware, her one-year-old daughter is currently being treated for a brain tumour, and the family is raising money to support her care. It has been moving to see so many pupils donating and organising ways to help; thank you for your incredible generosity. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the whole family.

From the Year 7 team and myself, have a lovely restful half term break.

P.E. LEGENDS



Assistant Head of year 7 - Mr 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 - 7KB
- ★ Zoey G - 7TS
- ★ Bella E - 7TS



Accelerated Reader
Multi-word Millionaire

Taryn 7KH



Year 8

YEAR 8 CONTINUE TO IMPRESS!

Year 8 pupils have continued to make a positive start to the year, with many performing well across their subjects and showing a strong commitment to their learning. We are also proud of those who have represented the school at a range of sporting events, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and school spirit.



The Meet the Mentor evening is an important opportunity for pupils and parents to discuss progress and receive clear guidance on how pupils can further improve and succeed in their current studies.

We would also like to remind parents of the importance of pupils placing their mobile phones into their locked pouches during the school day. By not having access to phones, pupils are more focused in lessons and are engaging more meaningfully with their learning. Importantly, we are seeing a noticeable improvement in social skills, with pupils communicating more confidently, building stronger friendships, and interacting more positively during break and lunchtime. If you need to replace a lost or broken pouch there is a link on MCAS for you to be able to do this.

We are incredibly impressed with the creativity and enthusiasm shown by Year 8 in their Theatre in Education assessments. These projects have allowed pupils to explore important social topics, enhancing their understanding and empathy while honing their performance skills. The commitment and passion displayed by all participants truly reflect the ETA Way—being respectful, caring, and always aiming higher.

Looking ahead, we encourage pupils to continue their hard work and dedication as we enter the next phase of the academic year. There are numerous opportunities for engagement and development, from participating in extracurricular activities to seeking out leadership roles within the school community. We are committed to supporting each student in reaching their full potential and are excited to see what they will achieve next.

As always, if you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant staff members listed in the contacts section. Your partnership is invaluable as we strive to create a positive and enriching educational experience for all our pupils.

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Thomas P - 8KS
- ★ Lacey Mae K - 8KS
- ★ Ethan S - 8KS

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:

- Matilda 8ES
- Georgia 8LJ

Multi-millionaires:

- Ezra - 8LJ



P.E. LEGENDS



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.



ALL THE LATEST FROM YEAR 9!

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the new year, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school for our "Meet Your Mentor" evening. We hope this provided you with a valuable opportunity to see the excellent work your child has produced so far this academic year. Should you have any further queries regarding a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff, who will be happy to support you.

Over the past few weeks, pupils have also taken part in GCSE taster lessons. These sessions have given them the opportunity to experience subjects that are not currently part of their curriculum and to begin thinking carefully about the choices they may wish to make for their GCSE studies next year. It has been extremely encouraging to see such positive engagement and thoughtful discussion from the pupils throughout this process.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our **Options Evening on Thursday 26th February**, where you will be able to explore the full range of subjects on offer and ask any questions you may have. If you have any queries regarding the options process in the meantime, please feel free to contact either Mr Baga or Ms Wood.

We would also like to congratulate all pupils who have represented the school in sporting fixtures this half term. Their commitment, teamwork, and positive attitudes have been excellent. In addition, it has been wonderful to see so many pupils engaging enthusiastically in our extra-curricular clubs and activities. Participation in these opportunities continues to have a very positive impact on pupils' confidence, wellbeing, and wider school experience.

We would like to share the KS4 Prospectus, which outlines all of the courses available, including details on assessments and exam boards. We encourage you to take some time over the coming weeks to discuss the options with your child in preparation for Options Evening.

If you have any questions regarding GCSE options, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

- Mr R Baga – RBaga@bestacademies.org.uk
- Head of Year – bwood@bestacademies.org.uk
- Key Stage Manager – Mr J Beckwith – jbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk

GCSE OPTIONS
LETTER



P.E. LEGENDS



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Vanessa K – 9JS
- ★ Albert P – 9LD
- ★ Ben M – 9RG



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

Year 9

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



UPDATE FROM YEAR 10!

Year 10 has had another successful half term and it has been great to see pupils starting to think ahead and plan for some of the key events occurring later this year. I have been pleased to see how so many pupils are already thinking ahead to their mocks which will start on the 20/04 and end on the 01/05.

It has been great to see that so many pupils have already planned out their revision and are already holding themselves to a revision plan. Good habits such as these will most certainly pay off both within the mocks as well as in year 11 when we get closer to the pupils' GCSE exams.

Please note that there will be a virtual parents' evening on the 11 June where you will have an opportunity to speak to each of your pupils' teachers to receive feedback from these first sets of mocks. We will be in touch closer to the time when booking opens for this parents evening!

It has also been exciting to speak to so many pupils who have a clear idea regarding what they want to do for work experience and have already connected with employers and have organised placements.

As a reminder details regarding work experience can be found in the placement letter [attached here](#). Should you require any further support with the work experience programme please do get in touch!

Additionally, we would like to remind pupils and parents about the upcoming battlefields trip. This trip promises to be an enriching experience that will deepen pupils' understanding of history and provide a unique opportunity to engage with the past in a meaningful way. Further details about the itinerary and what pupils need to prepare was sent home in January and the letter is linked to the left.

We also have the much anticipated theatre trip to see "Wicked," which ties into the pupils' Performing Arts curriculum. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience live theatre and gain insights into the world of stage production. Please ensure that permission slips are returned by the deadline to secure a spot if you are studying performing arts.

Finally, we encourage all pupils to continue embodying "The ETA Way"—being respectful, caring, and always aiming higher. These values are at the core of everything we do and are key to achieving not just academic success but also personal growth.

Thank you for your continued support!



YEAR 10S GETTING STARTED ON THEIR PSA IN WICKED

WORK EXPERIENCE
LETTER

BATTLEFIELDS
TRIP UPDATE

WICKED THEATRE
TRIP LETTER

P.E. LEGENDS



CONTACTS

Head of year - Mr D Sutcliffe
dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk

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

PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

★ Steph P - 10CC

★ Saskia F - 10SH

★ Teddy O - 10GR

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 10

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



THE LATEST FROM YEAR 11!

Well done Year 11 for all your hard work this half term. It has been really pleasing to see so many pupils attending lunch time and after school revision sessions. Please do check with subject teachers which days and times their sessions are running. A special well done to Jacob for achieving the highest merits in the year group for the third half term in a row.



The prom is all booked for Friday 26th June at Letchworth Hall Hotel at 7pm. To purchase a ticket for this milestone event will be via Bromcom, I will be in touch when this has been set up. The hoodies and year books are now available to buy from our provider Fizz; the letter has already been sent out with the details for this. I have also put the letter on the year 11 google classroom if you can't locate the letter on Bromcom. Last dates for orders will be April 20th to allow for printing time.

Year 11 took on all the tips and hints from Maximise on the 2nd February. These sessions encourage pupils to set clear aims of what they are trying to achieve and also the steps to put in place to reach their goals. It emphasises to them the importance of effective time management to help them feel in control of their learning. As well as this, a specialist from the NHS came in to speak to them about managing exam stress a week later. I am sure the pupils will make good use of both of these sessions.

Second round of core mocks, English, maths and science will be on the 2nd March to 6th March, the results will be sent out on the 27th March. It is important that all pupils have the correct equipment needed for their exams, including a scientific calculator.

Keep up the hard work year 11, it will pay off in the summer on results day!

EXAM INFORMATION - MOCKS

Year 11 Core Mocks

The Year 11 Core mocks are running between the 2nd and 6th March. You are able to view your child's mock timetable in the MCAS app under 'Examination Timetables' which indicates room and seat allocations.

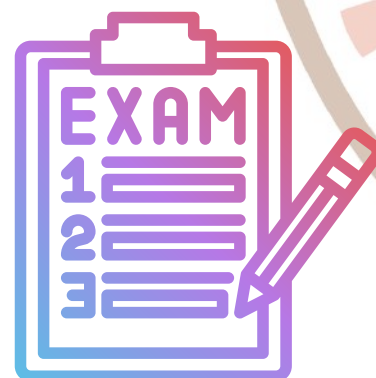
Summer Exams

Paper copies of summer entry lists and unseated timetables were sent home on the 9th February. Seated timetables will be available to view on Bromcom in due course.

Examination Regulations and Guidance

Please familiarise yourself all with the JCQ guidance and awarding bodies requirements. These documents can be found on our website using the link below.

JCQ Information to Candidates



P.E. LEGEND



PRAISE POINT CHAMPIONS

Our praise point champions this half term are:

- ★ Rory F - 11KS
- ★ Naadirah A - 11RR
- ★ Jacob T - 11KS



CONTACTS

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

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

APPLY TO SIXTH
FORM

Year 11



Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM UPDATES!

This half term began with mock exams for year 13s, as well as some real exams for the BTEC students. Our students approached these assessments with commitment and this hard work has been reflected in some great results. I spoke to year 13s last week about how to reflect on these results and use the next few months effectively with a growth mindset approach. Students should be taking on feedback from the mocks and re-drafting work in light of this, completing past papers, reading examiner reports and attending the extra intervention sessions teachers are kindly holding to support the students.

January saw the UCAS deadline and this year students have applied for a wide range of university courses such as finance, economics, law, psychology, physiotherapy, criminology, geophysics, film production, aerospace and civil engineering to name but a few. We are also extremely proud that, for the first time, one of our Etonbury Sixth Formers has received an offer from Oxford University to read biochemistry next academic year. Our focus now turns to the students applying for apprenticeships; supporting them with writing CVs, as well as interview and assessment centre advice.

We are currently organising a trip to the UCAS discovery event in London for year 12s in March. This event is the perfect way for students to choose which university or apprenticeship is right for them and will provide attendees with the opportunity to discover all their options under one roof. UCAS can help students find out about traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers, and we hope students will come back with a clearer understanding of their post 18 options. Year 12s have also started to find work experience placements for July. If you are able to offer a work experience placement to one of our brilliant students, we would love to hear from you.

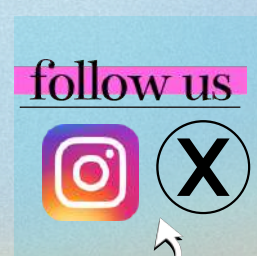
The year 12s are busy in the final stages of planning a Valentine's disco for the Juniors. This annual celebration gives the students first-hand experiences of organising an event, such as producing risk assessments, purchasing the food and drinks, designing advertisements and calculating potential incomings and outgoings to ensure we make a profit. This experience and development of transferable skills is great for students to reflect on in future applications, as well as bringing the school community together.



CONTACTS

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

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



Sixth Form





SCAN ME

**APPLICATIONS 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 are busy with our BTEC tech award performances and coursework. Year 10s are working hard on their Wicked Musical Theatre Coursework and Year 11s are in the process of creating devised drama for their final component.

Year 7 are working on their puppetry unit and finding out how to plan a Japanese Bunraku puppet through masterclasses on skills and techniques such as breathing, emotion and focus. We also had a wonderful drama teacher who is supporting the department this term, who is bringing so much enthusiasm and knowledge to support all our pupils – thank you to Mr Noble Layng, the pupils have loved working with you this term and it is fantastic to work with such expertise in the department.

Year 8 have performed their 'Theatre in Education' assessments for year 5 target audiences this term and it was wonderful to get peer feedback from primary groups to help our year 8 pupils understand what they need to do to improve and focus on moving forward in their professional practice.

Year 9 pupils have been introduced to BTEC option in Performing Arts through two masterclasses about the requirements of the course and the content. Pupils enjoyed exploring the design and acting pathways available to study and we look forward to seeing you at options evening to discuss your child's suitability for a performing arts course with us to develop their interest and talent.

We have a strong cohort of twenty LAMDA actors from key stage 2-3 preparing for their exams in the summer with our West End Professionals running our acting school after school on a Monday.

There is a trip coming up for year 10 to watch Wicked the musical on 25th March. This supports their coursework; the pupils will travel to London where they will get a chance to meet the production team for a post-show Q and A session. We are all very excited for this trip next month.

Our arts leaders have worked in collaboration with the teaching and learning assistant principal on a new assembly this term. Pupils will use their drama skills in an interactive assembly to get pupils thinking about attitudes to learning.

After the two night sell out success of our large scale, whole school production 'Rocking Around The World' at Christmas, we are starting to plan for next year's performance. We are busy planning a culture day for next year for the whole school with an exciting performance to showcase talent.

This will culminate in an evening showcase performance for the community. We have joined a cultural network across central Bedfordshire that will allow us to develop our outreach in the community through our involvement in this wider cultural connect network.

Mrs Brahmachari-Limb is continually looking for, supporting and encouraging pupils to explore their talent at regional and national level. *Shivrel* is one of our talented year 11 Performing Arts pupils who has secured a National Theatre audition in February. We wish her good luck and are supporting her in preparing for this. We are very proud! Break a leg!



Teagan is another exceptional performing arts and sports student who is also gaining national recognition. Her BTEC performing arts exam was incredible and we look forward to seeing her tread the boards and supporting her on her journey.



We have invested in lots of exciting new technical design equipment and have started using LCD boards in drama. The pupils are enjoying using them in their lessons already.

We have a wonderful backstage area in the drama studio and we are looking for props, masks and costumes, if you have any resources that you think the pupils may be able to use and willing to donate to the drama department for use in their lessons please contact Mrs Brahmachari-Limb.

We are also looking at developing the creative areas further and are planning an immersive corridor for next year to inspire pupils on their creative journey in the performing arts.

Here are some pictures to celebrate the wonderful work that pupils are engaging with. There are so many opportunities for pupils to get involved in extra curricular and curricular drama, please contact jbrahmacharilimb@bestacademies.org.uk for more information.



Sports News

P.E. Department

Head of P.E. – Miss S Hilton

Year 8 Basketball

The Year 8 boys' basketball team enjoyed an outstanding season, finishing second in the District before going on to place fourth in the whole of Bedfordshire. This is an incredible achievement given there are around 75 to 80 secondary schools in the county with Year 8 pupils competing in school sport. Special mentions go to William C, Oliver C and Ben A, who led the team superbly with skill, determination and leadership throughout the competition.



Year 5 Football

The Year 5 football team have now qualified for the District semi-final following some excellent performances this season and will be playing Bromham in the coming weeks. Their last match against Pixbrook set them up perfectly for this next stage, and a huge congratulations goes to the Year 5 football team for their commitment, teamwork and success so far. Reaching the semi-final and qualifying for the county stage is a fantastic achievement and reflects a brilliant first season of competitive football.



Athletics Success

The Year 5 and Year 6 athletics teams have also enjoyed great success, qualifying for the county athletics championships which will take place at an international athletics stadium next term. This is an exciting opportunity for our athletes to compete at a high level and represent the school on a prestigious stage, highlighting the depth of talent and hard work across both year groups.



Dance Crew

Excitement is also building for the Etonbury dance crew, who are currently preparing for an upcoming dance show and competition. Led by Miss King and Miss Hilton, the group has been working incredibly hard, showing creativity, energy and commitment at every rehearsal. We look forward to seeing their performances next term and wish them the very best as they take to the stage.



Year 9 Sports Leaders

Our incredible Year 9 Sports Leaders displayed exceptional leadership skills while overseeing PE lessons for the Year 6 pupils. They not only set up and ran a variety of engaging sports activities, but also served as shining examples of teamwork. We are very proud of these remarkable individuals for their outstanding dedication and for being outstanding role models. All shining examples of our ETA Way! Respect, care and aiming high!



OUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS
eta-pe@bestacademies.org.uk

Art – Masterpiece Of The Month



Masterpiece Of The Month KS2 Eliora & Isla Mars



Awarded for
'Controlled use of watercolour and mixed media when creating a watercolour bee illustration'.

Masterpiece Of The Month KS3 Hannah, Beth & Freyja 7KH



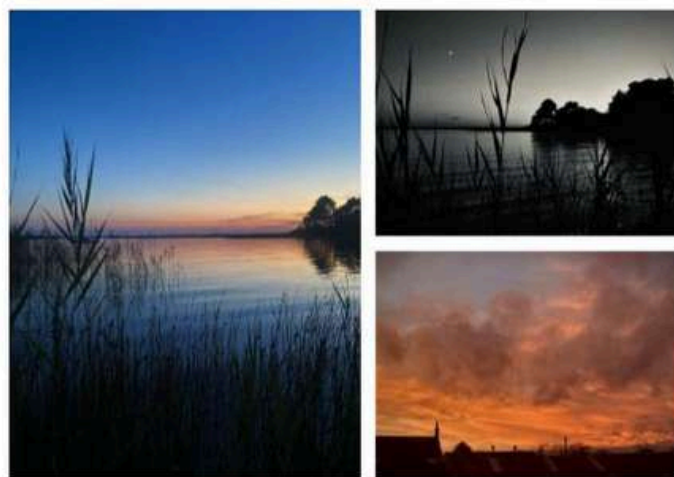
Awarded for
'Excellent use of clay knowledge to produce a mask for our 'Masks of the World' project. Using skills such as reliefs to add patterns and features. Shown fantastic control when using paint to add colour to their masks'.

Masterpiece Of The Month KS5 Roxy 12SWR



Awarded for
'Controlled application of watercolour and dry media when building up portrait realism in the style of Jenny Saville'.

Masterpiece Of The Month KS4 Edlin 10CC



Awarded for
'Capturing the atmospheric sunsets in nature outside of lesson time'.

Reminders & Information



PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



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

NEW WINTER MENU



Homework TIMETABLES



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.



We now have a help section on our website for Bromcom / MyChildatSchool.

If you need help with Brocmcom please email eta-data@bestacademies.org.uk



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](#).

☎ 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. pupils 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.

LOCKER LETTER

FOR YEAR 7 &

ABOVE!

CLICK HERE

Have a restful half term.

Rest Relax Recharge

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



Important Dates

Fri 13 Feb – break for half term
Half term 14 – 22 February 2026
Return to school staff & pupils Monday 23rd February.

Tues 24 Feb – Yr 8 HPV vaccine
Thurs 26 Feb – Yr 9 Options Evening
2–6 March – Year 11 Core Mocks
Thurs 5 March – Yr 12 Parents Evening
9–13 March – Year 6 Mock SATS
Thurs 19 March – ‘Speak up, Speak out’ English competition
Fr 20 March – Red Nose Day
Tues 24 March – Yr 12 UCAS Trip
Weds 25 March – Yr 10 Wicked Trip
Thurs 26 March – Etonbury Rocks / Yr 13 London Trip
Fri 27 March – Break for EASTER

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

Please note events are also listed on our website and occasionally are subject to change.

Together we care

Pastoral

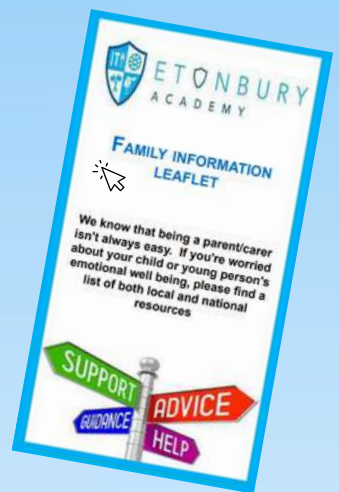
Head of Pastoral & DSL – Mrs T McErlean

At Etonbury the safety and welfare of our pupils 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



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.

ThriveAgain Project UK
Supporting families to thrive, not just survive

WHO IT'S FOR
Families and individuals in Stotfold and surrounding areas, especially women and young people affected by rising living costs.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Free distribution of groceries & household essentials.
- Free monthly online employability & enterprise skills sessions
- A safe and welcoming space for connection and wellbeing

QR CALL TO ACTION
SCAN TO REGISTER OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR NEXT EVENT

Starting February 2026 Stotfold & surrounding areas

Mobile Van with unlimited varieties of Hot Drinks and Cakes

CONTACT US
+44 7592 411922
tolu@kgmissions.co.uk

This project is supported by funding from The National Lottery Community Fund

JUNIOR GYM AT PENDLETON SPORTS CENTRE!

Staying active is one of the best things that young people can do, regular exercise can boost confidence, improve mood, reduce anxiety and support better sleep.

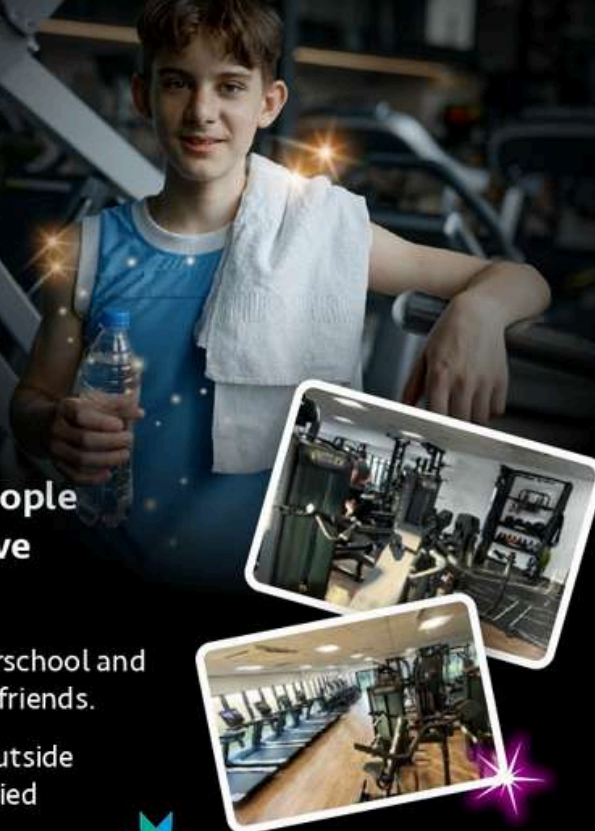
At Pendleton Sports Centre we have dedicated junior gym sessions afterschool and at weekends where juniors **aged 11 – 15** can come and use the gym with friends.

We have also recently introduced the opportunity for juniors to come outside of dedicated junior gym hours, but to do this they need to be accompanied by a responsible adult (over the age of 18).

Juniors can access the gym with a **membership** or **pay as you go**.

To find out more, contact the team on 01462 341114 or email enquiries.pendelton@inspireall.com

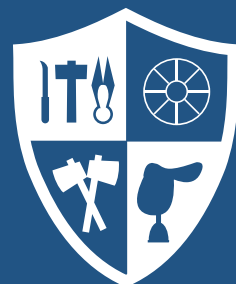
Etonbury Academy, Stotfold Road, Arlesey SG15 6XS



Pendleton
Sports Centre

InspireAll BEST
Local MFL, Leisure & Events Services managed by InspireAll, a subsidiary of Best Academies and Best - Stotfold & Arlesey Trust. InspireAll is a registered charity. Charity no. 1093823

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

If you wish to unsubscribe please email eta-data@bestacademies.org.uk

Everyone is respectful

Together we care

Always aim higher

The ETA way