



Sixth Form Message

Welcome

We hope you and your families were able to take some time to rest and reset, ready for the challenges and opportunities that 2026 will bring. As we enter the new term, we are particularly excited about what's ahead. We have a range of events planned, including the UCAS convention, a Valentine's disco, and careers meetings.

The UCAS convention will give Yr12 students valuable insight into their next steps, including university options. The Valentine's Disco offers a fun opportunity to develop transferable skills that can be reflected in personal statements, while the Careers meetings provide another chance to explore the wide range of opportunities available after sixth form. Understanding potential next steps is hugely helpful for students, as it gives focus and direction. Of course, not all students will know their final destinations at this stage, and in these cases, we encourage playing to individual strengths and taking opportunities that help develop soft skills - skills that are essential for future employability and success.

Exams

It is that time of year when the atmosphere is palpable with the realisation that exams are upon us. Whether they are mock exams or the real thing, the focus remains the same, and students have been notably studious.

Year 13 students have returned with a bang, heading straight into their mock examinations, while some of our Year 12 students have also been completing their BTEC exams. We wish everyone the very best of luck and encourage students to ask for help, take regular breaks, and make the best use of the support available to them.

UCAS

UCAS will close applications on Wednesday 14 January so it is imperative that we receive all applications as soon as possible. This week, we have been finalising applications to ensure everyone has the best possible chance of securing a place at their university of choice. We are checking applications daily as offers come in, and for some students, their final destinations are starting to feel more real than a dream.

Students who are not planning to follow the university route have not been forgotten. We will now be turning our attention to the remaining cohort, ensuring they have professional CVs and well-prepared personal statements for any apprenticeships they may choose to pursue in the future.

Year 12 Attendance

As we move into a more flexible arrangement with students being allowed home study from 1.30pm if they have no lessons P5, it is important that students continue to remain focused and studious. This means not only completing their independent work, but also attending form time and ensuring they are present at all face-to-face lessons. At this time next year, students will be preparing for their next steps beyond sixth form.

We are already covering a wide range of important topics and information to help them navigate this transition successfully. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring students adhere to the current arrangements and maintain high levels of attendance. We know that when attendance slips, grades and future opportunities can be affected. As always, working in partnership with parents and carers is extremely important to us, so please do not hesitate to contact the sixth form team if you would ever like support or guidance.

Chloe Dowden

KEY INFO

- [Degree Apprenticeship presentation](#)
- [Sixth Form Dress Code](#)
- [School photo code: C40-3DB-26B1](#)
- [Martin Lewis: Five things EVERYONE needs to know about student finance 2025/26](#)
- [UCAS - Search / Open Days and Events](#)
- [Explore Forage](#)
- [This is what makes us special...](#)
- [Student finance](#)
- [Preparing for Your Future: UCAS, CVs, and Degree Apprenticeships.](#)
- [Year 13 UCAS applications parents' guide](#)

KEY DATES

Yr 13 Study leave:

6th to 16th January (BTEC lessons continue to take place)

Yr 12 UCAS discovery trip / ExCel London:

24th March

SUPPORT

Emotional and Physical Support:

Bedfordshire Counselling Service: [Open Door](#)

Hitchin Counselling Service: [HCS](#)

Mental Health Charity: [Young Minds](#)

Mental Health Support: [Kooth](#)

HelpLines: [Samaritans](#)

Sexual Health: [iCaSH](#)

Vaping: [Childline](#)

Delete social media: [BBC](#)

Remove nude images: [NSPCC](#)

ETA Safeguarding: [Etonbury Safeguarding](#)

[Drugs and alcohol: FRANK](#)

[Drug and alcohol: BLMK NHS](#)

[Addiction: Aquarius:](#)

NHS Mental Health Crisis Line: 111 and select option 2

Academic Support:

Funding: [Harper Trust](#)

Funding: [Sutton Trust](#)

Funding: [Connolly Foundation](#)

Bursary: [16 - 19 Bursary](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Head of Sixth Form: cdowden@bestacademies.org.uk

Sixth Form Pastoral and Administration:

Ischumann@bestacademies.org.uk

ETA Sixth Form Attendance Email:

eta-sixthformattendance@bestacademies.org.uk

Form Tutors:

Mrs Clarke: cclarke@bestacademies.org.uk

Mrs Wright: swright@bestacademies.org.uk

Ms Young: wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk

Mr Scott: cscott@bestacademies.org.uk

Mrs Harbour - Cooper: hharbour-cooper@bestacademies.org.uk

Driving Lesson / Test - Permission Form: [Driving Permission Form](#)

Gym Permission Form: [Gym Permission Form](#)

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

- [Presentation 2024/25](#)
- [Occupation Maps](#)
- [STAR](#)
- [Unifrog](#)
- [Bedfordshire Raising Aspirations - LinkedIn](#)

EXAM INFORMATION

[Please use this link to find information on when your exams are taking place](#)

[YEAR 12 & 13 BTEC EXAM DATES 2026](#)

FOLLOW US

- [@etonburysixthform](#)
- [@ETAsixthform](#)
- [@Etonburysixthform](#)

Phone: 01462 730391