



## ETONBURY ACADEMY PARENT BULLETIN

15 December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

We've really got into the Christmas spirit at Etonbury. Did you see our rainforest themed Christmas trees this weekend at the Arlesey and Stotfold Christmas Tree Festivals? Both trees are festively decorated by our ETA junior Christmas art club and colouring club pupils.



We welcomed back our MFL students who visited Dusseldorf's Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) over the weekend and had a wonderful time visiting an Aquazoo and squeezing in a river cruise along the Rhine. This trip was the perfect place to practise their German language skills sampling the delicious food from the markets and listening to the guide on the cruise.



Our Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students ventured to London on the train this week for a tour of Borough Market as part of their GCSE work on street food. The students were able to explore a diverse range of foods, lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, some they never knew existed!



Last week we were fortunate enough to hear from former ETA teacher Miss Stodart who left Etonbury last summer to volunteer as an English Teacher with an NGO called Intereuropean Human Aid (IHA) in Thessaloniki in Northern Greece. I am delighted to share news of her volunteer work with you all, please [click here](#) to enjoy her story so far.

Congratulations to Eloise and Harry, our year 10 students who have both made it through the Youth Parliament election process and are now representing Etonbury. They will give an assembly to our students in the new year when they will give an "acceptance speech" to the other students while ensuring that all pupils know what a Youth Parliament Representative is and what they can do for the students at Etonbury.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes.

**Mrs. J Young - Principal**

## PUPIL PREMIUM LEAD



I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new lead teacher for pupil premium progress here at Etonbury Academy.

Pupil premium is additional funding available to help improve the educational experience and attainment for students who meet certain criteria. The most common of these is students who qualify for free school meals. If you believe your child may qualify for this but you haven't yet applied, please do get in touch with me at [cclarke@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:cclarke@bestacademies.org.uk).

My background is in psychology and history; I have degrees in both subjects and am lucky enough to teach both, and serve as Head of Psychology. Outside of school I am a bit of a family history geek, photography, and spending time with family. I have taught at Etonbury for 6 years, and my own children are or have been students here. I therefore know the school and many of our students extremely well! I am very much looking forward to working with you and our pupil premium (and indeed, all!) students to ensure they get the very best out of their time here with us.



## WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES



**Important Reminder** - Please ensure your child/ren arrive at school each day with all their necessary belongings for the day ahead. This includes, a bag, lunch, water bottle, PE kit, homework, glasses, stationery, coat, locker keys and mobile phone where applicable. We are encouraging the children to be independent and organised and would appreciate full support from home to ensure all items arrive with the children at drop off times in the morning and not via the school office. *Learning to get organised, stay focused, and get things done are must-have skills when it comes to schoolwork.*

**Queries & Contacting School** - Should you wish to contact our staff regarding your child, we ask that you email the relevant member of staff in the first instance. This could be Form Tutor or Head of Year with a pastoral matter or subject teacher if the matter is related to academic issues. Our staff will respond to you in a timely manner and will endeavour to acknowledge your request at their earliest availability, as staff will have teaching commitments throughout the day and it may be towards the end of the day before they are available to respond to you, this will always be within 48 hours.

As a school we always endeavour to work with you and achieve the best for your child. We would ask that your communications and interactions with our staff are polite and respectful, as we always aim to act in the best interests of your child.

**Term Dates** - [2023 / 2024](#)

Please click [HERE](#) to view the lunch menu.



**Recruitment @ Etonbury** - We currently have the vacancy of [Head of MFL](#) and [Pastoral Support Officer](#) at Etonbury Academy. Please visit <https://www.etonbury.org.uk/vacancies> to register your interest or apply for a post via [My New Term](#).

**Charity Christmas cards** - We are running a Key Stage 3 art club where students will be making Christmas cards that they will then be selling to raise money for our local charity 'The Need Project'.

Please remind them to sign up on Epraise if they are interested in taking part. This club will run on a Wednesday lunchtime in D25.



If you would like to buy any of the cards, they will be on sale from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December and would welcome any donations. Please bring in cash if you would like to purchase cards.

**Christmas Jumper Day/Non-uniform Day** (Wed 20 Dec) - All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper/something festive on this day. It will be non-uniform and we are asking for a voluntary contribution via ParentMail which will be in aid of the charity, Save The Children. Please ensure you dress appropriately for the school day.



**Flu Catch Up Clinics** - are available in Flitwick on 16 Dec for pupils in years 5 to 11. Please [click here](#) for further details. 20th Dec in Luton - [click here](#). 22nd Dec in Luton - [Click here](#).

**Keeping Safe Online** - Please [click here](#) to view the Skip Safety - How to Keep Safe Online Guide.

## PE DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to our Sports Legends this week. Please see this weekend's X (twitter) and Facebook posts for more details.

We have updated our PE clubs list for this half term - please [click here](#) to view. Please note students may only attend these clubs if they have signed up via Epraise.

Thank you so much to the Parker Family for the donation of the Football Goals. We are always incredibly grateful for any donations made.

### PE Kit Expectations Reminder

#### Compulsory includes:

PE T-shirt  
Either Etonbury Shorts **OR** black/navy Skort  
Football Socks  
Trainers, Football Boots, Shin Pads, Gumshield



Please note: Football Boots and Shin pads are **compulsory for health and safety reasons**.

#### Optional includes:

Etonbury Fleece, Etonbury Long Sleeve, Etonbury Leggings, Plain Black/Navy Jogging Bottoms.

**NO Non-Etonbury Leggings , branded Shorts/ Joggers/ Sweatshirts , underlayer can be any Colour**

Please [click here](#) to view visuals of our PE kit.

Please remember to follow us on X - [EtonburyPE](#). & Facebook [Etonbury PE](#)



**Junior Valentines Disco** - The Sixth form are organising a Valentines disco for years 5 and 6 on Tuesday 13th February 2024. To help with their planning, can you please complete the Google form stating if your child may wish to attend. This is not a confirmation of ticket purchase and you can change your mind in the future. Further details will be shared in the New Year. Thank you



[Valentines Google Form](#)

**Hot chocolate Sale Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** - Year 12 are fundraising for their USA trip and we have been selling hot chocolate, cookies and brownies at break time. We are opening this up next week to year 5 and 6 as well and we will be running the pop up at both break times on Friday. Unfortunately this will be cash only. Prices range from £1.50 for a basic hot chocolate to 50p for a brownie. If anyone has any allergy content questions about the products, please email [wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk). Thank you for your support

### Year 5

**End of Term Film Treat** - On Fri 22 Dec, as part of our work this term based around Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, year 5 will be sharing the 2005 film 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' with our pupils. The film is rated PG. If you DO NOT wish your child to participate, please message Mrs Whittle via email [lwhittle@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:lwhittle@bestacademies.org.uk).



### Year 6

**Duxford Trip** - Year 6 will be visiting the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Thurs 1 Feb 24. Please [click here](#) for the letter outlining the schedule for the upcoming trip to the museum. Also, please ensure you fill in the Google form - [consent form](#). Payment deadline is 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**End of Term Film** - On Friday 22nd December, as part of our work this term based around Victorian Times, we will be sharing the film 'The Man Who Invented Christmas' with our pupils. The film is based on the life and times of Charles Dickens and is rated PG. If you DO NOT wish your child to participate, please email Mr Sale [bsale@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:bsale@bestacademies.org.uk)

**Year 6 Measurements** - results are available via the Parent Portal link below:

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/391732/p/Cah231/137632>

Please contact the Hub and advise the NCMP Team if you cant access this information digitally. The Bedford and Luton Children's Health Hub: 0300 555 0606 Email: [ccs.bedsncmpteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.bedsncmpteam@nhs.net)

## SECONDARY SCHOOL (YEARS 7 TO 11)



**Student Equipment** - Please can you ensure students have the correct equipment with them in school. Pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener, protractor, compass and scientific calculator.

**Lockers** - ILS provides lockers for ETA Secondary Students, if you are interested in renting a locker please [click here](#) to view further information.



**Wednesday Winter Warmers** – Year 12 are fundraising for their USA trip and we have been selling hot chocolate, cookies and brownies at break time. We are opening this up next week to year 5 and 6 as well and we will be running the pop up at both breaktimes on Friday. Unfortunately, this will be cash only. Prices range from £1.50 for a basic hot chocolate to 50p for a brownie. If anyone has any allergy content questions about the products, please email [wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk). Thank you for your support

**Iceland Trip Years 9 & 10** - We are delighted to announce that the Geography department will be running a trip to Iceland in 2025. Please [click here](#) to read the letter from Mrs Harbour. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Harbour by emailing [lharbour@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:lharbour@bestacademies.org.uk)



### Year 9

**Vaccination Date for your Diary** - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Year 9 HPV vaccination. Further information and consent form to follow.

### Year 11

**Maths Revision Sessions** - There will not be a Tuesday afternoon session next Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The next Tuesday afternoon revision session will be held after the Christmas break, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**ETA Sixth Form Applications 2024** - The application process for Sept 2024 is now open and can be accessed on our website - [ETA Sixth Form Applications - 2024](#)

## SIXTH FORM



**Junior School Valentines Disco** - Save the date Tuesday 13th February

Our Sixth Formers are already thinking ahead into 2014 and have been busy planning a Valentines Disco for the Junior School children. Please save this date, more information will be available soon.

**University of Hertfordshire** - The University of Hertfordshire visited our Sixth Form on Tuesday. Students were given the opportunity to participate interactively and ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of Universities and Apprenticeships. For more information, please visit their website <https://www.herts.ac.uk>

**Our Sixth Formers welcomed two guest speakers this week, who came to discuss life at university:**

On Wednesday, Oliver, an ex-student of ETA, talked about life as a first-year student at the University Campus of Football Business (UCFB) in London, where he is studying for a BA(Hons) in Football Coaching and Talent Development. Oliver is hoping to develop a career in football coaching, and currently coaches the younger teams at Brentford Football Club. (UCFB) is dedicated to the delivery of ground-breaking undergraduate degree programmes in the football and sports industry and the UCFB's Global Institute of Sport (GIS) is the leading destination for Master's degrees and executive education in the world's most exciting sector. For more information visit their website. <https://www.ucfb.ac.uk/>



On Thursday, Bronte shared her experience when studying Law LLB at Warwick University. Bronte graduated in 2023 and now works as a paralegal in a law firm while she qualifies as a solicitor. Both talks were very informative, and gave students a varied insight into the opportunities available after A Level. All our thanks to Ollie and Bronte.

**Wednesday Winter Warmers** - Each Wednesday members of the Sixth Form are selling hot chocolate during secondary breaktime to raise funds for their trip to New York. This week was our second 'Wednesday Winter Warmer'. The fundraising team have raised a total of £125 for their USA trip. Thank you to everyone who made a purchase - see you again next Wednesday!

**Age UK Bedfordshire** - Sponsored Run - Combating Loneliness at Christmas. It is week four of the Sixth Form running challenge and we have run as far as Birmingham, a total of 98 miles! - If you are able to contribute to this cause, even small donations will be greatly appreciated, you can find our just giving page through this link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/etonbury-academy-1700055691559>

**ETA Sixth Form Applications 2024** - The application process for Sept 2024 is now open and can be accessed on our website. If you would like to book a Tour of our Sixth Form facilities please complete the online booking form found on the ETA Sixth Form website or contact Mrs C Dowden: Head of Sixth Form.

**Attendance** - Our expectation is that students are here for 95% of the time. It is proven that the higher the attendance the higher the grades. We would urge that holidays were not booked during term time. If your child is unwell, please encourage them to attend and we will endeavour to support them here. If a student will not be attending school, please can you contact the Sixth Form team by phone or email: [lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk)

## CLUB INFORMATION



- **LAMDA Dates** - January: 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>. February: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>. March: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>
- **P.E.** Click [here](#) to view the PE Clubs timetable for Autumn Term 2.
- **Extra-curricular Complete Clubs List** - [click here](#)
- **Homework timetable** - [click here to view](#).

**School of Rock** - The next rehearsal read through for School of Rock will be in the new year, Thursday 11th January 2024, 3.30 - 5.30pm

Please note that any students who do not attend (and that we are not given prior notice of their absence) we may have to reallocate their part. Failure to attend three rehearsals and a student will be removed from the production list. This is a complex show and we need to ensure we have 100% commitment. Please remember to check the bulletin on a weekly basis for School of Rock notices and reminders. We look forward to seeing everyone next week! Please email [jbrahmacharilimb@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:jbrahmacharilimb@bestacademies.org.uk) with any questions or absences, please do not send messages via any other students. Thank you.

Students should now have their scripts. If a student was absent and doesn't have a script they will need to collect one from the creative office before we break for Christmas. If your child would like to be CREW we will have limited places for these roles, to apply for this please look out for the interviews in next week.

Please remember to bring a pencil, water bottle and snack to rehearsals. Thank you.

### NO REHEARSALS ON:

- **Thursday 21st December**

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION



- Take a look at other community events, promotions and things happening in the area [click here](#)
- Children's services also have some child focused learning opportunities coming up. Details can be found in the community events section of our website too.
- Supporting a Young Person - new webinars added, find the information on the community events page with details on how to book.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Weds 20 Dec	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day
Thurs 21 Dec	Employability Skills Day Year 11
Fri 22 Dec	End of Term
Fri 5 Jan	Staff Training Day (INSET)



Mon 8 Jan

Pupils return to school

**Everyone is respectful - Together we care - Always aim higher**

You are receiving this because you are a Student, Parent, Carer, Governor or Member of Staff at ETA.

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