



12 January 2024

Etonbury Academy's New Year Message

As we begin a new year, I would like to extend our warmest wishes to everyone, both new and returning families. The new school term has begun in a very calm and purposeful way and I have been visiting lots of lessons this week welcoming pupils back to school. We have welcomed several new members of staff to Etonbury this term as our school continues to grow and expand.

The assemblies I have taken this week have had a theme of taking time to focus on ourselves and how we can continue to grow and develop both academically and emotionally. The message I shared with pupils was to *'create their own masterpiece and to aim to be better today than yesterday.'* As always I invited everyone in the assembly to align with our values – Everyone is respectful, Together we care, and Always aim higher.

Mrs Brahmachari-Limb, Head of Performing Arts, is finalising the team for our performance of 'School of Rock.' Meanwhile, our students eagerly anticipate upcoming trips and events scheduled throughout the year.

This half term, Junior students will be participating in the Young Voices Choir and visiting Duxford Air Museum. Some of our Secondary students are also working with the University of Oxford to participate in a mock court trial and watch a theatrical performance of A Christmas Carol.

This term is particularly important for our GCSE students, as they enter their last full term before their main examinations. To support the Year 11 students as they prepare for their GCSEs we ran a series of study skills sessions for the year group delivered by 'Maximize study skills.' The aim being to support good study habits and revision techniques. The feedback from the students was extremely positive and they found it very beneficial.

We have much to look forward to over the coming term, including progress evenings for parents, Year 9 GCSE option choices, the school production, and other exciting events. We look forward to sharing news of all these and more with you in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to celebrate our successes with you at Etonbury Academy!

Best wishes.

Mrs. J Young - Principal

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.*

Uniform Donations

We are extremely grateful for school uniform donations, blazers and ties in particular. If you have any uniform to donate please feel free to drop this off to the school reception. For our convenience, we kindly ask that donations are clean and neatly bagged. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Etonbury Extra

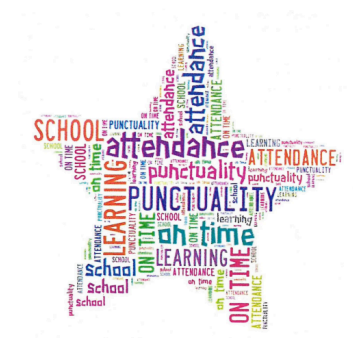
Our afterschool provision Etonbury Extra runs Monday to Friday until 6pm. Registration for our after-school care provision is via our website. Further details and the application form can be found [here](#). Please note that the service is term time and does not operate during school holidays. ETA Extra email address - eta-asc@bestacademies.org.uk

Attendance Procedures

If your child is going to be absent, please contact the Academy before 8.40am on (01462) 730391 option 1 or email eta-absence@bestacademies.org.uk to advise us of the reason for absence and when you expect them to return to school.

If children have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time please communicate this to our Attendance Officer in the same way. When reporting an absence:

- We require a specific reason or symptom
- Please notify the school daily of any absence
- Medical Appointment cards and records should also be sent by email in advance so we can inform the staff prior to collection.



Water Bottles

Please send your child into school each day with a water bottle; these can be refilled at our water fountains at break and lunch as required. Studies show that hydration is a key factor in supporting learning and concentration levels. This also will help towards our Eco agenda and reduce plastic waste. Please do not send glass water bottles to school.



Lunch Accounts

(All new starters) - Hopefully you have received your registration alert from ParentMail to make payments to your child's lunch account in order for them to purchase lunch and snacks at school. If you have not received your registration details, please contact etaoffice@bestacademies.org.uk

Bikes & Scooters

Students are welcome to bike or scoot to school and park in the bike sheds or their designated year group area. Please can you ensure your child has their own personal lock to secure their bike or scooter during the school day. If for any reason they have an issue with their lock please remind them to visit the school reception.

Driving on Site

If you do drive onto the school site please help us to keep our school community and families safe by driving slowly and with extreme caution. There is a large volume of



traffic at the beginning and end of the school day and we have noticed an increase in the speed some vehicles travel. Our speed limit on site is 5MPH. Please continue to use the D at the top of the drive to drop off and collect at the beginning and the end of the day only. This ensures the disruption to the flow of traffic is kept to a minimum and reduces the number of vehicles on our school site. Thank you for your cooperation.



Cycling to School

We are delighted so many of our children cycle to Etonbury, just a few reminders to keep everyone safe on the journeys to and from school. Please remind your child to use the cycle path and crossing along the main road, please also remember your helmet and lock to keep your bike locked up safely for the day. Cyclists should also dismount at the top of the drive and walk their bike onto the school site. Thank you.

Term Dates - [2023 / 2024](#)



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

Recruitment @ Etonbury

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

Bedfordshire Schools Trust STEM and MFL internship for University students

BEST are offering a three week paid internship for maths, physics, chemistry and MFL university students - to find out more please [click here](#).



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Thanks to the amazing hard work of the English team in developing a varied and challenging curriculum, students at ETA can be confident they are studying broad and engaging topics during their time with us.

Led by Mrs Brookes, an English Teacher with over 15 years' experience, the English Department consists of a team of passionate professionals who always expect the best from our students.

This year has been very exciting, as we have not only welcomed new staff, but also our first cohort of sixth form students. It is lovely to see how students in Year 12 are able to build on their knowledge from KS3 and GCSE study as they move to face the challenges of the A-Level curriculum. While the A-Level English Literature course is taught by Mrs Brookes and Mrs Adcock, an English Teacher with 9 years' experience, Mrs Harbour-Cooper is using her previous experience in law to teach the very popular Criminology course.

We would especially like to welcome the newest member of the English team, Mrs Smith. As an English teacher with over 10 years' experience, we are very excited to have her joining ETA as a teacher of KS3 and KS4.

Not only has the department had an exciting start to the year academically, but we have also focused on building an



extra-curricular offering for our students. Run by Miss Burt and Ms Dilley, Creative Writing Club runs every Wednesday lunch time and is already very well attended. We can't wait to see what these students can produce, and are very excited to see some students entering competitions which could result in them having work published.

As part of Etonbury's commitment to building a love of literacy across the school, all students will soon have free access to the eplatform audiobook subscription. During the Spring term, students will be introduced to this (one year group at a time) during their reading lessons / English lessons in school. Once students have been taught how to access audiobooks, they will be given a username and password. This platform will allow students to borrow audiobooks from an extensive library and listen to them via the website, or by downloading the app.

Once your child has been given their details, they can access the website and sign in here:

<https://etonbury.eplatform.co/>

Downloading the app: eplatform

Google: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.eplatform.android.googleplay&pli=1>

Apple:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/eplatform-by-wheelers/id912668852>

If you have any initial questions, students in Years 5-6 should speak to Mrs Norman, and students in Years 7-12 should speak to their English teacher.



Clubs start Monday 15th January, please sign up for clubs via ePraise. For lessons this term (Jan-April), all students will take part in hockey which require shin pads and rugby which requires football boots. The shin pads and football boots are compulsory items for health and safety reasons. For both Rugby and Hockey, we advise a gumshield.

Please contact Miss Hilton via email on shilton@bestacademies.org.uk with any concerns or queries.

Please remember to always share out of school achievements with shilton@bestacademies.org.uk, we love to celebrate student success in school and on our PE social media.

We would be HUGELY grateful for any donations of any PE Kit (Etonbury tops, shorts, skorts, jogging bottoms), Football Boots, Trainers and Shinpads. Please send these in with your child or drop to main reception.

ETONBURY PE HALF TERM 3				FIXTURES
EXTRA CURRICULAR		Lunch	Afterschool Clubs	Fixtures (Invite Only)
	Mon	Year 5/6 Football- Mr Hair	GCSE PE Intervention- MPU BTEC SPORT Intervention- LJS	Afterschool Fixtures: Year 5 Football- JBA/LHA
	Tues	Year 7/8 Gymnastics Club- TRO KS3/4 Table Tennis- LJS Year 7-11 Dance- AK	Year 5/6 Girls Football- SHI/JBA	Year 9/10 Netball- SHI/EPR
	Weds	Year 7-11 MultiSports (invite only) - Gym- KCR	Year 5/6 Badminton Club- EPR Year 9/10 Football- LJS/NBV Year 5/6 Competition Team (invites will be sent out)- AKI	Year 5 Netball - SHI/EPR
	Thurs	Year 7/8 Mixed Dodgeball Club Gym- KCR	Year 5 Boys Football- JBA Year 9-11 Badminton- MPU	
	Fri	Year 7-11 Boxercise- ASP		

[click here](#) to view visuals of our PE kit. Follow us on X - [EtonburyPE](#). & Facebook [Etonbury PE](#)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH @ ETA



Please ensure your child has signed up to the Google Classroom for DofE, if you have any queries please email ehilsden@bestacademies.org.uk.

We will start the fun bit soon, here are some key dates for your diary.

DofE Sessions:

January 23rd - Setting up DofE accounts
February 6th - Trangias (weather permitting)
February 27th - First Aid
March 12th - Map reading and orientation
March 19th - Putting up tents (weather permitting)
March 26th - Packing your kit and route planning

I have received a few enquiries asking about expedition dates. We have provisional dates below:

- Practise expedition (Bronze and Silver): 09/05/24 - 11/05/24
- Bronze expedition: 07/06/24 - 08/06/24
- Silver expedition: 27/06/24 - 29/06/24

Many of our participants have already started taking part in their activities. We have lots of baking skills being improved, volunteering in charity shops, helping at park runs, and playing for local teams. It makes us so proud seeing how they all get involved and would love to see any photos of them taking part in their activities, please do email any through if you have any.

Many Thanks,
Elissa & The DofE Team

ETA JUNIORS



I am delighted to begin the new school term as Head of Etonbury Juniors. With the departure of Mrs Whittle, we have undergone a restructuring of the leadership team within Juniors, I am delighted to be the Head of Juniors, as communicated in you in the autumn term. Additionally, we are also extremely pleased to announce that both Mrs Beckwith and Mrs Crockford were successful in their applications as Heads of Year. Mrs Beckwith is now Head of Year 5, and Mrs Crockford is Head of Year 6. They look forward to working with you and your child as they progress through our primary phase here at Etonbury and have included a short message in their year group sections below to introduce themselves -



Last of all, we have been extremely impressed with how well the students have settled back into school life and their daily routines. A few reminders from us, please continue to bring in your equipment every day (the suggested equipment list will go back onto Google Classroom). English and maths homework is set on Friday every week and is due the following Wednesday. Clubs will also continue to run from next week so please keep an eye out for these on Epraise. Please remember that your child's class teacher is your first point of contact.

Mr Sale - bsale@bestacademies.org.uk

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](#)

YEAR 5

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 5. I'm Mrs Beckwith and I have been teaching for over twenty years. I will use this wealth of experience to lead our Year 5s and help them thrive in their time here. Although, I have been at Etonbury for less than two years I love the friendly and supportive atmosphere we have here.



During the next few weeks, I will be visiting classes and getting further acquainted with individual pupils. Fortunately, I already know some Year 5 classes through my teaching responsibilities and I look forward to meeting the rest.

Our year 5 pupils have started the term with a new Art Teacher Miss Nicole, who is normally based in Secondary as an Art and Photography Technician. She is really excited to be working with the year 5 students and is very impressed with the creativity and work being produced in her first week teaching them. For their first week with Miss Nicole the yr. 5's have been (bees) creating posters on 'Why bees Matter'.

On a personal level, I am an avid lover of animals and a life-long supporter of Tottenham.

Mrs Beckwith - dbeckwith@bestacademies.org.uk

YEAR 6

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 6, I am Mrs Crockford. I have taught at Etonbury for approximately six years in ETA Juniors. I am confident that we have a supportive team dedicated to both the academic achievements and well-being of the children in our care. I have had an avid interest in Musical Theatre for many years and am a firm advocate of The Arts for Juniors. If you have any queries I can help with, please email me and I will be happy to assist.



Mrs N Crockford - ncrockford@bestacademies.org.uk

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 7th January 2024

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.

YEAR 7

Ms B Wood Head of Year 7

Girls on Board

In year 7 we have introduced Girls on Board. Girls on Board is a highly acclaimed approach which helps girls, parents and teachers understand the complexities and dynamics of girl's friendships. They work closely with a number of schools, the programme has been carefully designed to empower girls to solve their own friendship issues by raising levels of empathy for each other, and deepening their understanding of how they view and react to each other's perspectives. The programme has had a very positive impact in other schools and I am sure we will all benefit from a greater understanding of how girls both perceive and manage their relationships with each other.

If you would like more information about the approach please do not hesitate to consult our earlier communication booklet about the programme or head to the website <https://www.girlsonboard.co.uk/>

YEAR 9

Mrs K Hume - Head of Year 9

Year 9 Options

We are now at that time of year where we begin to think about Key Stage Four Options. Over the next couple of weeks your child will be completing taster lessons in the available option subjects, some of which will be new to them. During this period please do discuss with them their thoughts on the taster lessons and interests moving forward. I will then issue the Key Stage Four Prospectus prior to half term and send out an invitation to our Options evening, which takes place on Thursday the 29th of February.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate getting in touch with Mr Baga rbaga@bestacademies.org.uk.

- Taster lessons begin **Monday 15th January** (2 week period)
- The KS4 Prospectus will go home to parents/carers on **Friday 16th February**
- **Options evening is on Thursday 29th February (6-8pm)**
- Options form deadline for return is **Friday 8th March**

Vaccinations

The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) will be attending school on- **2nd February 2024** to offer year 9 pupils the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP) and Meningitis ACWY vaccinations.

Please find below a secure link to complete the consent form [click here](#) to view the letter with vaccine information. Forms must be completed and submitted by- **30th January 2024**

DTP/ MEN ACWY E-Consent Link 2024 -Central Beds

Iceland Trip Year 9

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

YEAR 10

Mrs S Bailey - Head of Year 10.

New Additions to the Year 10 Tutor Team

We are thrilled to welcome Ms Stephanie Mandret and Ms Chantal Bobbett to our year 10 tutor team. Effective immediately, Ms Mandret will be the tutor for 10CM, while Ms Bobbett will be taking over 10OB as their tutor.

Iceland Trip Year 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

YEAR 11

Mr D Sutcliffe - Head of Year 11.

Mathematics

Students have been set an online task at the Mathswatch website, to complete as part of their ongoing revision. Students should complete either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier task. The deadline for completion is Friday 9th February 2024 and results will be emailed home after this deadline.

Mathematics Revision Sessions

We are pleased to be able to offer a limited further number of places at our Tuesday afternoon revision sessions. These run from 1530 to 1630 each week.

There are places available in each of three classes:

Higher tier (Grade 7 and above)	Mr Vanner
Higher/Foundation tier (Grades 5 & 5)	Mr Scott
Foundation tier (Grades 4 & 5)	Mrs Sarup

If your son/daughter does not already attend these but you would like them to join this free provision, please would you email Mr Vanner (lvanner@bestacademies.org.uk) or Mr Sutcliffe (dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk).

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](#)

Year 11 Parents Evening

On 17th & 18th January we will be holding our year 11 subject consultation evenings. These will give year 11 parents a chance to meet virtually with their child's subject teachers. You will receive the results of the recent mock exams and teachers' latest predictions. The evenings will run from 16:30 - 18:30 on both nights.

SIXTH FORM



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 contact the Sixth Form team by phone or email:

lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk

Extended Project Qualifications - EPQ key milestones :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 13 th Oct 24 | Initial ideas submitted |
| • 20 th Oct 24 | Working ideas confirmed |
| • 22 nd Dec 24 | All research completed |
| • 12 th Jan 25 | Start report |
| • 9 th Feb 25 | Submit completed report |
| • 15 th March 25 | Give presentations |
| • 23 rd March 25 | Evaluate presentations |
| • 19 th April 25 | Submit all evidence for assessment |

Year 12 Exam Timetable for January 2024 - [click here](#) to view.

CLUB INFORMATION



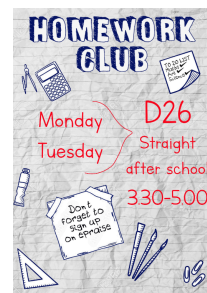
- **LAMDA Dates** - January: 15th, 22nd, 29th. February: 5th, 12th, 26th. March: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
- **P.E.** Please click [here](#) to view this half terms timetable..
- **Extra-curricular Complete Clubs List** -will be published next week
- **Homework timetable** - [click here to view](#).

School of Rock - Rehearsals for School of Rock will be every Thursday after school till **5pm** in the main school hall. Children should have already signed up via ePraise , please note the time change this term - **collection is now 5pm**. All students must bring their script, pencil and water bottle to every rehearsal.. Thank you. Mrs Brahmachari-Limb

jbrahmachari-limb@bestacademies.org.uk

Homework club

Looking for a place for your child to complete their homework after school? We have just the thing for you! Our after-school homework club runs every Monday and Tuesday. Sign up via ePraise.



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.
- Luton All Women's Centre - Parenting webinar [click here](#).
- Central Bedfordshire Supporting Mental Health - [click here](#) to view

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Weds 17 & Thurs 18 Jan	Year 11 Virtual Parent Consultations
Thurs 18 Jan	Young Voices
Tues 23 Jan	Year 12 GSK Trip
Thurs 1 Feb	Year 6 Duxford Trip
Fri 2 Feb	Year 9 DTP Vaccine
Mon 5 Feb	Year 11 Science Trip
Tues 13 Feb	Junior Disco

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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