19 January 2024

Principal Message

Last Friday 12th January we welcomed the Regional Director for Schools (East of England) - Johnathan Duff to Etonbury Academy. It was a perfect opportunity to showcase our wonderful school, staff and students, our achievements and the opening of the new Sixth Form. Mr Duff was highly complementary of the confidence shown by the students he and his team met, sharing how articulate, confident and the clarity in the way they spoke about their time at Etonbury.

Regular consultations between Teachers and Parents/Carers are crucial in celebrating success, in monitoring progress and agreeing targets and actions for improvement. This week parent consultations took place virtually across two evenings for Year 11 students. This provided the opportunity for quality discussions regarding mock exam results and mapping out work, interventions and revision over this last full term of study for the year group. Nearly every student attended these evenings and thank you for engaging with us at this important time in your child's education.

Students from Year 5,6,7,8 who attend our Young Voices club performed at the O2 Arena this Thursday evening. Since the start of the academic year they have learnt a programme of songs and moves ready to sing and perform with over 7,000 other children, along with musicians and guest artists. It was a wonderful experience for the students to sing at such an iconic music venue.

This week, Year 9s have been experiencing the GCSE options by having taster lessons in all subjects across the school including some subjects they may not have experienced before. We have a vast array of GCSE options available for our students at the school and they have experienced subjects including; Media, Health and Social Care, Photography, Business Studies, Photography, Sociology, Psychology and BTEC Sport. This is an excellent opportunity for them to find out a bit more about the GCSE courses and make the right choices when they come to finalise their options. Thank you to all the teachers who have put so much work into making this possible. Year 9 parents/carers will be invited to an Options Evening after half term to find out more about their GCSE journey.

Have a restful weekend.

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.*

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.

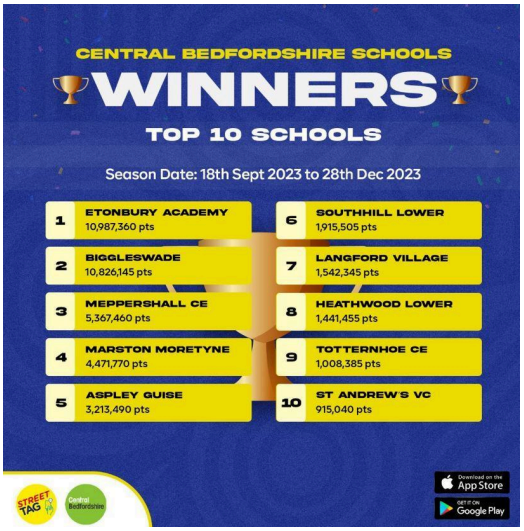
Asthma Reminder

As the cold weather persists, please could pupils with asthma remember to bring in their inhalers. We encourage pupils to carry their own inhalers so that, in the event of an asthma attack, they have immediate access to their medication.

If your child has asthma and you wish them to have access to our emergency inhaler (for situations where their pump is not working or available) please complete this consent form with details of the inhaler they have been prescribed and circle Yes to giving consent for emergency medication. You may have already given this consent and if you want to check please do email amorgan@bestacademies.org.uk

Street Tag

We are delighted to reveal ETA are the champions of this season's Street Tag Schools Leaderboard in Central Bedfordshire. Congratulations to our ETA pupils and families, who emerged victorious with an impressive 10,987,360 points. Keep Tagging!



Term Dates - 2023 / 2024

Please click HERE to view the lunch menu.

Recruitment @ Etonbury

We currently have a number of vacancies at school:

Teaching

- Head of MFL
- Science Teacher - KS5 Chemistry Lead

Support

- Medical Officer
- Teaching Assistants
- Exam Invigilators

Please visit https://www.etonbury.org.uk/vacancies to register your interest or apply for a post via My New Term.

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The mathematics department are a team of specialist mathematicians who have been together at Etonbury for 5 years and they share almost 90 years of teaching experience between 5 colleagues.

In 2023, we were delighted when the GCSE Mathematics results showed that we achieved the best results across the whole of Central Bedfordshire. Many of this fantastic cohort of students are now the first group of A Level Mathematics/A Level Further Mathematics students. To be able to offer Further Mathematics in the first year of there being a sixth form is quite unusual and testament to the hard work and ethos of our students.

We ascribe much of the success to our strong ethos of promoting independent learning, resilience and ensuring that students practise key skills and develop their fluency and understanding of how to solve problems by breaking them down into small steps, making clear links to the world around us, in workplaces, for leisure and in nature.

Mr Vanner has been leading departments in a number of schools in Beds, Bucks, Northamptonshire and Luton since before the millennium.

Mrs Sarup, our current 2nd in department has previously run departments in Bedfordshire schools in and around Bedford, at all Key Stages.

Mr Beckwith is a vastly experienced teacher, who has held management positions for mathematics in previous schools and is currently enjoying his roles as a Key Stage manager for Years 9 and 10, as well as being a teacher governor.

Mr Scott started his career at Etonbury six years ago, when ETA had its first ever cohort of GCSE students and is now leading the A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics courses, with our first cohort of sixth form students.

Mr Sutcliffe started his career at Etonbury five years ago and is the Head of Year 11. He is known for being relentless in his pursuit of helping his year group achieve their very best as they work towards their GCSE examinations. He somehow finds the time to also run the highly successful GCSE Further Mathematics course on Wednesdays after school, where Year 10 and Year 11 work towards achieving

an additional qualification that provides enrichment and depth to their GCSE knowledge, also preparing students for A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics.

As the school grows, we look forward to a new colleague joining us after Easter, Ms Potter.

We work together to ensure that all ETA students get the best deal possible. Our current Year 11 have the opportunity to attend revision sessions on Tuesday evenings. On 16th January 2024, this means that they have received over 600 hours of additional support since September.

Good communication has been critical to our ongoing success and the Maths team send home via email a detailed analysis of each assessment that students complete, so that each term, parents know strengths and areas for development, with links to the revision materials. Last year, over 6000 emails were sent home to parents and carers.

PE DEPARTMENT

A shout out to Mr Thomson and Mrs Crossman who are currently training for the London Half marathon in April, Miss Hilton will be posting a link to their fundraising pages on the PE Facebook and X (twitter) pages.

With the cold weather, please encourage students to bring any colour underlayer/long sleeve top, gloves and a woolly hat for PE lessons.

Shorts must be Etonbury Shorts (not branded), Jogging Bottoms must be plain Navy or Black and Leggings must be Etonbury Leggings. We now have a new design, these have just the badge on the hip and no letters down the leg.

ALL students need football boots for rugby and shin pads for hockey, these are **compulsory** for safety reasons. Gum shields are advised.

ETONBURY PE HALF TERM 3

EXTRA CURRICULAR

	Lunch	Afterschool Clubs	Fixtures (Invite Only) FIXTURES *INVITES WILL BE SENT FOR FIXTURES
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		

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

Clubs and fixtures started this week, we had a fabulous turn out for our year 5/6 girls football club!

Reminder: No facial piercings are permitted on school site. Any students who come to school with a facial piercing will be expected to cover this up with a plaster or wear a clear retainer. Plain coloured gold or silver ear-studs (not hoops) are permitted. No more than two per ear lobe.

click here to view visuals of our PE kit.
Follow us on X - EtonburyPE. Facebook Etonbury PE

Mr Sale - bsale@bestacademies.org.uk Head of Juniors

Junior Valentines Disco

The Etonbury Academy Sixth Form is organising a Valentine's Disco for years 5 and 6 on Tuesday 13th February at 6:00pm to 7:30pm. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the Valentine's Disco Permission Form and purchase a ticket for £3.50 through parent mail.

Please click here to read the letter.

Poster designed by Ben Year 12 student.

Parent Evening

We have our Junior parents evenings for year 5 & 6 coming up on Tuesday 20th Jan and Thursday 8th Feb. You will be able to come into school, look through your child's books and meet with their teacher. The booking system will open on 22th January at 6pm. Information on how to book will be sent out during the day on Monday.

General Reminders

- Please check timetables via ePraise
- Remember to send your child in with their PE kits on the days this is on their timetable.
- Please ensure your child has their water bottle
- Don't forget to follow ETA Juniors on X - Etonbury Juniors

YEAR 5

Year 5 Fixtures: Parent Information

Please review the following information carefully:

- If your child is invited to participate in a fixture, you will receive a Google form via email to provide consent.
- Students must change into their kit in the PE changing rooms during the lunch break (12:30) sharp – the changing rooms will be locked at 12:40 due to secondary PE lessons. If locked, students will need to use the junior toilets to change
- We will gather at Student Services (located near the medical room - comfy seats)
- Transportation to fixtures will be via mini bus, and parents are not expected to provide transportation
- For away games, we will leave Student Services at 3:15pm and for home games, we will meet at Student Services at 3:30pm. Primary students will be supervised in the Titan classroom until 3:30pm.

YEAR 6

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 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

YEAR 10

BTEC Performing Arts

It is advisable that students buy this book as part of their course to support them with independent study. It can be ordered using the link below.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pearson-REVISE-Award-Performing-Revision/dp/1292436131

YEAR 11

Mr D Sutcliffe - Head of Year 11.

Mathematics

We have provided each student with a copy of the 6-week Mathswatch video revision schedule, to assist with preparation for the final set of mock exams that start on Monday 4th March. Please put this sentence in each week up until Friday 1st March.

In addition, each Friday, we are providing a past paper, with question level analysis sheet for students to start during the lesson as part of a “walking talking mock” with their teacher and posting the paper plus a video walkthrough from YouTube on the Google classroom. Students will bring home their paper each week and can use this to support their independent learning.

Finally, there are still a very limited number of places available for the Tuesday afternoon revision sessions. Please do get in touch with me (lvanner@bestacademies.org.uk) if you would like your son or daughter to join them.

Higher Revisions Schedule - click here

Foundation Revision Schedule - click herew

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).

BTEC Performing Arts

It is advisable that students buy this book as part of their course to support them with independent study. It can be ordered using the link below.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pearson-REVISE-Award-Performing-Revision/dp/1292436131

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

Mrs C Dowden - Head of Sixth Form.

The Sutton Trust Programme

During form time this week students were made aware of the opportunity to make an application to The Sutton Trust, who offer the chance to experience what an apprenticeship or university experience entails. The Sutton Trust supports young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers. In partnership with universities and employers, they run engaging programmes that give students practical advice and leave them feeling inspired and more confident about their future. The programmes are completely free to attend.

All costs - including travel, accommodation, food and activities – are paid for by the Trust and their partners. **The closing date for applications is Thursday 7th March 2024.**

Interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge?

Do you have good school grades but are not sure if Oxford, or university, is right for you? The free UNIQ programme might be just what you need. **https://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/**

UNIQ is a free programme for state-educated students from all over the UK who are in their first year of further education. It is an access programme, which means they prioritise UK state school students with good grades from backgrounds that are under-represented at Oxford and other highly selective universities. The criteria used to select students relate to academic potential and information on students' educational and socio-economic background. Applications for UNIQ 2024 are open! **The deadline for applying is Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

Junior School Valentine's Disco

The Etonbury Academy Sixth Form is organising a Valentine's Disco for years 5 and 6 on Tuesday 13th February at 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Further information can be found in the Juniors section of the bulletin.

Hertfordshire Careers Hub

Apprenticeship and T Level - online careers fair for parents and carers. **Wednesday 24th January at 05:30 PM / Zoom.**

Hertfordshire Careers Hub and HOP will host in partnership with Amazing Apprenticeships, Watford Chamber of Commerce and the Beds & Herts Provider Network, The Apprenticeship and T Levels Virtual Careers Fair. The event aims to empower parents and carers with the knowledge and confidence they need to help children make informed career decisions.

Sixth Form Shout Out's

- Mrs J Limb - Josh Winter for his consistent work on his Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) - well done, and keep up the good work.

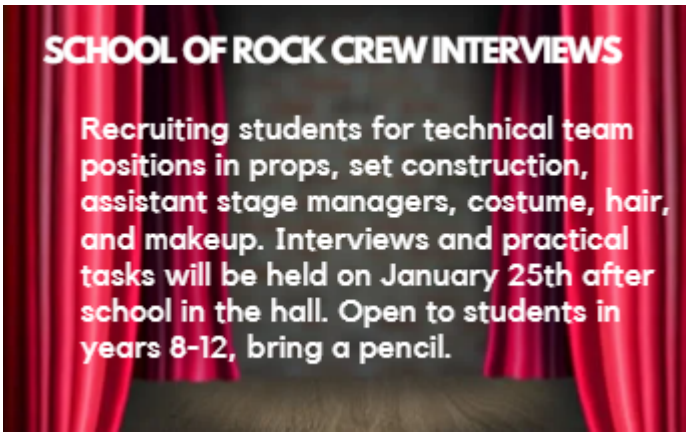
- Miss S Smith - Lucy Olkes and Evie Bridle have both successfully developed their understanding of abstract expressionism and the painting style of the art movement, left and previous page.

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

CLUB INFORMATION

- **LAMDA Dates** - January: 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** - please click here to view.
- **Homework timetable** - click here to view.



School of Rock - Rehearsals for School of Rock are every Thursday after school till **5pm i**n 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

Are you studying at ETA in Years 8-12? Would you like to join our back stage technical team for our latest production 'The School of Rock? jbrahmachari-limb@bestacademies.org.uk

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

What's Happening?

Tues 23 Jan	Year 12 GSK Trip
Thurs 25 Jan	Year 10 Wadham Project
Mon 29 Jan	Year 12 Art Trip
Tues 30 Jan	Juniors Meet the Tutor Evening
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
Weds 14 Feb	Year 12 Geography Trip
Thurs 29 Feb	Year 9 Options Evening

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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