



9 February 2024

### Principal Message

This week, we received a delightful surprise in the post from The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. During his visit to Etonbury Academy last Friday, while spending time with the Juniors, one of our students, Levi showed great curiosity about the Sheriff's dress hat. Traditionally, the hat is not worn but held in hand. Levi had the chance to try on the hat, which surprisingly fit perfectly, much to the High Sheriff's amazement! Mr. Beard, the High Sheriff, expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Young for her hospitality and to Levi for his interest. Levi was even rewarded with a special £1 note for his enthusiasm. Click [here](#) to view his letter.



It was wonderful to have many parents of Years 5-9 attend the 'meet your mentor' sessions, where they had the chance to view students' work and engage in face-to-face interactions. These events are highly valued as they complement our efforts to enhance your child's learning experience. The Academic Mentor Evening presents an opportunity for us to provide you with initial and progress data regarding your child or children for the year. This enables us to offer feedback on the first term, share student work, discuss key subjects, and meet with you in person. Additionally, the children have completed a reflection booklet focusing on goals and reviewing their performance from the initial term.

Last week our Year 11 GCSE WJEC Hospitality & Catering completed their practical exams. They have been busy producing some exceptional dishes for their Hospitality & Catering practical Exam. Students have demonstrated many high-level skills in their dishes, many have skinned fish, sectioned chickens, created their own pasta and pastry and added exquisite finishing touches to their dishes. Student conduct throughout has been professional and their attitude to learning and creating the most outstanding outcomes has been, without exception, fantastic. Our Food and Nutrition room looked like our very own version of MasterChef, Mrs Cook was absolutely delighted with what her students achieved.



SLT learning walks. have taken place this week throughout the school, carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team. A research tool that allows us to reflect on what pupils are learning, current strategies, student engagement, interaction and content. Impressions were overwhelmingly positive from the observations and high levels of pupil engagement in their learning was observed.

Also, this week we received news of our first funded scholarship in the drama industry for a week at MK theatre for Louis in Year 10. This will form part of his voluntary work in National Drama Matters Network and talent scouting as part of National School awards to put forward students in their applications. This will be a hands-on work experience programme offering young people the chance to try out lots of different areas of the industry from light and sound to theatrical SFX make-up, theatre production. It is funded by the Arts Council England funding and is an incredible opportunity to work with industry professionals. Congratulations Louis!

Have a lovely 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.

To view our staff list and contact details please [click here](#).



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

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

### **Vacancies**

Please visit <https://www.etonbury.org.uk/vacancies> to register your interest or apply for a post via My New Term. Currently we are looking to recruit Teaching Assistant and Exam Invigilators.



### **Red Nose Day**

This year Red Nose Day is Fri 15 March. Students may come to school in non-uniform on this day, please ensure this is appropriate for the school day. We are asking for a £1 voluntary donation, please make payment via ParentMail. We have a target this year of £1000.



### **Year 12 Silent Auction requests**

Year 12 are busy fundraising for their trip to the USA later this year. We are organising a silent auction where the highest secret bidder receives the item. For example, English Heritage have already kindly donated a family day ticket to Wrest Park. Other examples could be a dog walk, wine, flowers or cut and blow dry.



If you would like to donate anything yourselves or you know of any local businesses who would like to promote their services through a donation, please can you contact me on [wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk)

### **Protecting Children Online**

Bedfordshire Police has produced a parent and carer leaflet to support internet safety. The leaflet is designed to inform parents and carers of the current threats posed to children online and how to seek help and advice. [Click here](#) to view.



At Etonbury, we strive to meet the needs of all pupils within our school. All staff are aware of SEND within the school and receive high quality information through regular inclusion bulletins and training. We aim to quickly identify pupils, who are making limited progress, despite high quality teaching, and provide targeted interventions and support to meet their needs. We ensure that parents are fully aware of the SEND process and informed of their child's learning at three regular points throughout the year. We are a fully inclusive school and work alongside the Local Authority,

Health Professionals and community organisations to find the most appropriate and effective support for pupils within our care.

Our SEND Team is led by our SENDCO Miss Phillips, she has 8 years of teaching experience working with students aged 9 – 18 years. She has been running whole school interventions for 5 years and specialises in teaching English and alternative curriculum provision. She has completed her NPQSL and National Award for SEN qualifications. Working alongside Miss Phillips is the school Inclusion Assistant, Mrs Clark, who is in charge of running our Den facility. She has significant experience of working with students with SEND. She delivers alternative curriculum provision and is trained to run specialist interventions. Within the SEND department we also have a SEND administrator Mrs Chillman. She supports administrative duties in relation to SEND and has over 20 years of experience in the field. Mrs Kirwan-Boyle also supports SEND administrative duties during the mornings alongside her role as a teaching assistant.



We have an excellent team of both Primary and Secondary teaching assistants. All of our teaching assistants value their professional development and are currently undertaking qualifications, including; degrees, ELSA, Speech and Language ELKLAN qualifications and other ongoing SEND training. Many of them have significant experience of working with students with SEND.

For more information about SEN at Etonbury Academy please visit the dedicated page on our school website. Here you will find our provision map and SEND Information Report for parents as well as other useful links.

[Special Educational Needs & Disability - Etonbury Academy](#)

The SEND Team can be reached on [ETA-SEN@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ETA-SEN@bestacademies.org.uk)

Please try to send all SEN related emails to this central email address so that your queries can be responded to as quickly as possible.

**PE DEPARTMENT**



It's been another busy week for our PE team. ETA's Year 10 football team emerged victorious at the end of last week, after a thrilling match against the well-organised Stratton team. It was a fantastic battle, with Lucas securing the winning goal and Harry being named the MVP. Super performance boys!

We are also extremely proud of the year 9 Netball team, who secured a victory in a local derby this week! The team has shown remarkable progress this season. MVPs: Jess & Olivia!

Our Year 10 boys' football team delivered a strong performance against Wixams, showcasing many positives and kicking off the league well. Star Players were Jack and Lucas!

Another impressive display by the Year 5 Boys of @ETA Juniors in their match against Holywell & PixBrook. They scored goals through Miles, Oliver, and Noah. Standout performers were Harrison, Oliver, and Noah.



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

As a department we love to celebrate students sporting successes outside of school, please do share these with me via email, [shilton@bestademies.org.uk](mailto:shilton@bestademies.org.uk)

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.

Please contact Miss Hilton via email; [shilton@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:shilton@bestacademies.org.uk) with any concerns or queries.

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](mailto:bsale@bestacademies.org.uk) Head of Juniors

### Junior School Valentine's Disco - Reminder next Tues 14 Feb

The Valentine's Disco will take place in the School Hall. Upon arrival Children should enter through the main doors into C Block, adjacent to the School Hall, and be collected at 7:30pm from this entrance point. Please encourage your child to wear comfortable attire and to leave their phone at home.



## Junior School Arrival Time

Please ensure that your Year 5 / 6 child/children arrive at school between 8:15am and 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.

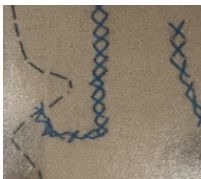
## General Reminders

- 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](#)



## Key stage 2 Art & Textiles

Year 5 and 6 students have made an excellent start to their new art and textiles projects. The Year 5's have been learning the grid technique and mark making techniques to create realistic bee drawings. This week the year 6's in their textiles lessons have started to learn how to thread the needle and create basic hand stitching techniques. [Click here](#) to view some of their fabulous work.

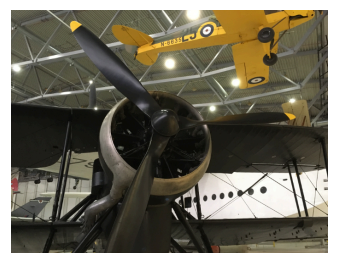


## YEAR 6

Most recently Year 6 had a visit to The Imperial War Museum, Duxford to support our 'We Will Never Surrender' topic. It is Britain's largest aviation museum and is established as the biggest European centre of aviation history. As well as seeing many planes from WWII, the children also got to go on-board a number of more modern aircraft, including a prototype of Concorde. The Operations room was a highlight for many children, which they had seen on a 'Horrible Histories' video clip in their history lessons.

There they got to experience the atmosphere inside this critical room at Duxford with an audio-visual recreation of the day that the Battle of Britain reached its climax on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1940. The 'Historic Duxford' building was also a fascination, with many 'hands on' displays. We were lucky that a Spitfire was going through its paces, in preparation for the next air show and many of the children got to see it flying and practicing stunts in the air.

Overall the site is just over a mile long, so lots of walking was involved in the day, but we were very lucky with the weather. The children arrived back at school and collected their 'gift bag' from the day, before heading home.



## SECONDARY SCHOOL (YEARS 7 TO 11)



**NHS**  
Essex Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust


### TEENAGE VACCINES CATCH UP CLINIC

Our Immunisation team have just visited your child's school to offer them their routine childhood vaccinations.

If your child missed this session and they still require their vaccine we are running catch up clinics across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes for **DTP, Meningitis ACWY and HPV vaccines**.

These clinics are aimed at children in Years 9-11 only.

It's easy to catch up.  
Book your appointment **NOW** on **0300 790 0594** or for more information on missed vaccinations.



#DOYOURBITBEDFORDSHIRE

### 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 for 2024.

### Vaccine Clinics

If your child is not up to date with any of their vaccines please contact the NHS immunisation team.

## YEAR 9

Mrs K Hume - Head of Year 9

### Year 9 Options

We would like to provide you with an update regarding Year 9 Options. Tasters have now concluded and given your child(ren) an insight into subjects available at Key Stage Four. The KS4 Prospectus will be sent home digitally on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February and provide information on course content, exam boards and who to contact for any questions. When school resumes after half term, the Year 9 Options evening takes place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 6pm. The evening will start with a short talk in the main hall, before you are invited to speak to subject leaders and teachers in the school gym. Option blocks will be shared during this evening and a Google Form will go live, allowing Option forms to be completed.

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

- 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**



**History Battlefield trip 2024 Update**

Please can all parent /guardians check that their child has a valid UK passport, with at least three months remaining from the date of our return journey, which will be 4th July. If you need to apply for a new passport, this time of year is normally less busy in the passport office and passports are normally issued a few weeks after a successful application.

Can I also remind you that your child will need to have a valid UK GHIC (UK Global Health Insurance) card. This allows for free emergency medical care as we are now no longer in the European Union. If you have an older EHIC card, if it is still in date, then these are still valid. There is no cost for these cards and an adult with a national Insurance number can apply for one on behalf of their dependents. Please click on this link to apply

<https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/cra/start>

We will be sending out a google form after half term asking for information such as passport numbers and emergency contact and medical details.

Please email me on [wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:wyoung@bestacademies.org.uk) if you have any questions

Mr D Sutcliffe - Head of Year 11.

The Year 11 Prom has now been provisionally booked for 28<sup>th</sup> of June at Letchworth Hall Hotel. Food will be provided and this will be included in the ticket price. More details will follow over the next couple of week as we finalise the booking and start to sell tickets via ParentMail.

Apologies that the Prom is now occurring the week before the dates initially advertised to students this is due to the venues availability. If you have any further questions please do email me at: [dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk)



### **Mock Exam Update**

Year 11 mocks will be running between **Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.

These exams will be focussing on the core subjects: Maths, English and Science - [click here](#) for a timetable.



All students will now have received an electronic personalised timetable and a printed copy of this will be handed out to them in due course which will indicate room and seat allocations.

### **Summer GCSE Examinations Contingency Days 2024**

There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2024 exam timetable - the afternoon of 6 June and 13 June 2024 and the morning and afternoon of 26 June 2024.

We appreciate your child might finish their exams earlier than this, but ask that they are available on all three dates even if they do not have an exam.

The awarding bodies have collectively decided on these contingency days, and are allocated in case of an event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the UK.

### **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](mailto:lvanner@bestacademies.org.uk)) or Mr Sutcliffe ([dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:dsutcliffe@bestacademies.org.uk)).

Higher Revisions Schedule - [click here](#)

Foundation Revision Schedule - [click here](#)

### **Weekly Maths Challenge from Mr Vanner**

Did you find the sum of the 3 marked angles last week ? Here is the solution - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZt7oOb6bFk&t=20s>

This weeks challenge is to find the length of the spiral for this hollow cardboard tube. The radius is  $r$  and vertical height  $h$ .



### **GCSE History revision - keep your streak!**

To help with revision, please use this 100 day streak challenge. Just enter the code at [joinmyquiz.com](https://www.joinmyquiz.com). Parents/guardians, see if you can compete against your child too; who can get the most correct the quickest. Try and maintain your streak! Click [here](#) for the code sheet Good luck - Ms Young



### **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](#) 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.

## 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](mailto:lschumann@bestacademies.org.uk)

## CLUB INFORMATION



- **LAMDA Dates** - February: 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.** 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](#).
- **Homework Club** runs every Monday and Tuesday after school with Miss Nicole.

### School of Rock

Rehearsals for School of Rock are 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 [ibrahmachari-limb@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ibrahmachari-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.
- Mid Beds Football @ The Pendleton - [click here](#)
- Autism Empowerment Webinar - [click here](#) for more details
- SNAP PCF for parents about the Graduated Approach - [click here](#) for more details.

Tues 13 Feb	Junior Disco
Weds 14 Feb	Year 12 Geography Trip / Year 9 Careers Fair
Fri 16 Feb	Break for Half Term
<b>Mon 26 Feb</b>	<b>Students &amp; Staff Return to School</b>
Thurs 29 Feb	Year 9 Options Evening
Fri 1 March	Year 12 Careers Trip
Tues 5 March	Year 12 Auschwitz Trip
Thurs 7 March	UCAS & Year 12 Parents Consultations
Fri 8 March	Year 12 Cambridge Trip
Fri 15 March	Red Nose Day

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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